

Pastor's Corner



The world and especially its music-savvy youth in the digital era have mourned the death of Apple co-founder, Steve Jobs, who revolutionized the world of technology. The 56-year-old technology wizard died of pancreatic cancer on October 5 at Palo Alto, California in the United States. "His invention the iPod, the iPhone and the iPad are among the prized possessions today. Rarely will we get to see a genius like him," says journalist Alpana Kaul. Condoling Jobs death, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said "he was truly an innovative man and taught us new ways to connect and communicate."

The Silicon Valley icon started Apple Computer with friend Steve Wozniak in his adoptive parent's garage in 1976 and touched dizzy heights in digital technology. Prior to entering the world of technology in a big way, Jobs came to India in early 70s in search of enlightenment or 'nirvana' but returned dejected seeing the poverty and squalor. His biography says he found India

To lead with humility

"intense and disturbing". The country may not have delighted him but through his inventions he had developed many a fan among the Indians.

Eric Porteous of Life Teen says: "I never really knew much about Steve Jobs. I've never really been into technology and all the nuances that come with it, so all I really knew about him was what others told me. Then in late August an announcement came that shocked many: "Steve Jobs resigns as CEO of Apple." Intrigued by this, I read a few articles, including his resignation letter, and learned one important lesson from Steve Jobs: **humility**.

Now, some of you may be shocked by this, and others may not be, but when this man who had revolutionized the world stepped down from his seat of power, do you know what he cared about most? Apple. When the whole world made it about him, he made it about something greater:



his love and his passion. In his resignation letter Steve Jobs says, "I hereby resign as CEO of Apple. I would like to serve, if the Board sees fit, as chairman of the Board, director and Apple employee." Notice those words, "I would like to serve if the board sees fit." He goes on to say later, "I believe Apple's brightest and most innovative days are ahead of it." This man, who was like a god to many, cared more about the future of the company than what happened to him."

A question for all of us who minister in the role of leadership; is our ministry about us or about something greater? Do we get caught up in our pride, or do we lead with humility? So, rest in peace Steve Jobs. You gave us MacBooks, iPods, iPhones, iPads and more. You gave us Apple Care plans to protect our purchases. But the most important lesson you taught us was that the best "care plan" is to **lead with humility**.

+Lumen, CSC

Editorial



Efforts are on throughout English-speaking Catholic world to get familiar with the new text of the Mass, which comes into effect later this month. The biggest overhaul in liturgy since Vatican II has resulted in a set of worship documents, which, according to proponents, are 'richer in its poetry, more relevant in its references to God and fuller in its allusions to the Bible and church needs'. The Church also feels confident they will bring about 'fully conscious and active participation' of the lay people in the Mass, the central act of Catholic worship.

The change has implications for us too, users of languages like Kokborok that got their translated Mass prayers from the English missal. The Nov 27 changeover, therefore, makes it imperative that we incorporate the changes into the Kokborok liturgy.

What do these changes mean to ordinary Christians inhabiting the villages of Tripura? Chances are that on 27th November, hundreds

In Quest of 'Sacred' Kokborok

of worshippers in Tripura's numerous village chapels will not even notice there has been some 'difference' in the Mass they just attended. Even those that notice differences might find it hard to pinpoint them.

The changes seem easy enough to handle and even get accustomed to, given the fact that the community as a whole is in the 'getting-used-to' stage with regard to attending Mass and might as well get used to the new liturgy.

There is, however, a more challenging area: use of 'sacred vernacular'. The Vatican seem to insist on using a 'sacred vernacular' in liturgy - one which people recognize as devotional language. It is tantamount to evolving a sacred Kokborok - one which people can recognize as 'devotional Kokborok'.

Now, given the present-day Kokborok

scenario, that can sound to be an exceedingly ambitious program. In fact, normal, conversational Kokborok often runs into problems for lack of commonly agreed and understandable vocabulary. There is a great

deal of consternation among sections about the incursion made by Bangla into Kokborok. Some prefer Roman script for Kokborok; some others prefer Bangla. There are people who feel that Kokborok ought to steer clear of both Bangla and Roman script but retreat into the "fabled" Koloma script. And so on, the list goes on.

One only hopes the pursuit of devotional Kokborok takes wings although it's a great deal to ask of a language which in the course of time, seem to have lost much vocabulary, abstractions and many other essential aspects.

The revised text of liturgy offers Kokborok and its speakers untold challenges.

J. Pulinthanath, sdb



Mission Congress at Ambassa: A Post Script

(To be the Salt of the Earth and Light of the Word)

The Mission Congress at Ambassa from Oct.6-9 was unprecedented. It was beyond all our expectations. The faithful gathered in large numbers from different Parishes of the Diocese. The organizers had to redraw their plans and recast the estimates. Indeed it was a new Pentecost for the faithful who took part in the Congress!



We sang and prayed in one voice thanking and praising the Lord with the accompaniment of the melodious music. We listened to the Resource Persons, missionaries and committed laity. There were cultural dances and competitions showcasing the culture and faith. Strengthened by the Congress we bore witness acclaiming Jesus our Saviour and Master through a colourful procession in the Town.

Thanks be to God and to all those who made it possible. We go forth recharged in faith to be the Light of the world and Salt of the earth.

Fr. Cyprian, SVD

Seminar at NVSC-Pune for Bishops of India

The National Vocation Service Centre (NVSC), Pune, a National Institute for the training of formators, administered by C.B.C.I., organized a four-day Seminar for Bishops of India from 17th to 21st October 2011. The central theme of the Seminar was: "PRIESTS FOR OUR TIMES- THE ROLE OF THE BISHOPS". The main purpose of the Seminar is to create awareness among the Bishops regarding the importance and urgency of a paradigm shift in the formation of candidates to priesthood and the ongoing formation of pastoral clergy in India. A galaxy of Resource Persons presented papers on topics that emphasized the need for integrity and psychological maturity to cope with the stresses of modern times. The Seminar included a Panel Discussion on the theme: "What Type of Priests India Needs Today?"

I was among the 32 Bishops who attended and thank to Fr. Joe Mathias, S.J. Director-NVSC and Team for the Seminar.

+Lumen, CSC

Mission Congress at Ambassa

Landmark 'Congress' redefines Laity's Role in the Church

Agartala, 11 Oct 2011: The Catholic Church in Tripura is all set to see greater involvement of laity in the Church's mission. Calling the just-concluded 'Mission Congress' on Laity's role in Evangelization, a 'landmark' in the 15-year old history of the Diocese, Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD, the Bishop of Agartala, clarified that true lay vocation consisted 'not in running the Church but in bringing Christ to the world.'

Centered on the Biblical invitation to be 'the salt of the earth and light of the world', the Congress focused on lay people's role in the evangelizing

mission of the Church. Held at St. Arnold's Ambassa in Dhalai District, the four-day event (6-9 October 2011) brought together 2500 people from the 16 parishes of Tripura and provided them, in the words of Bishop Monteiro, "unprecedented impetus and encouragement".



The centre of the colorful procession was the canopy that sheltered the 'Blessed Sacrament', which Catholics believe is the real Body of Christ.

In the concluding Mass, Bishop Monteiro reminded the lay people of their duty to bring the 'light' of Christ, through selfless love, forgiveness and peace, into the dark arenas of life where poverty, hatred, and selfishness still hold sway.

Fr. Robin Gomes sdb, from Kolkata led the band of eminent Speakers and Resource Persons, all of who were assigned various topics to speak on. The

teaching sessions were centered on the words of Christ, 'You are the salt of the Earth and Light of the world.' Some of the Speakers were Mr. Daniel Jamatia MLA, Mr. Eugene Gonsalves, the National Vice-President of All India Catholic Union, and Dr. Vincent Darlong from UNO Delhi. Besides instruction, the 'Congress' also spent much time in prayer, devotional singing and listening to God's Word. The congress also provided the participants, particularly the youth, who made up more than half the gathering, ample opportunities to showcase their talents in singing and acting.

Mr. Paul Darlong, Chief Organizer of the Congress sees the enthusiastic turnout as a sign of faith. "Whereas

we had expected only about 1200 people, on the first day itself, the registered number of participants crossed the 2500 mark. It is a sign of our people's eagerness to know more about Christ." The purpose of the Congress, in Mr. Darlong's words was to "thank the Lord, and to renew our faith".

Ambassa not having hosted such large events earlier, there was anxiety about logistics and other facilities. The local organizers took it as a challenge and admirably rose to the occasion. "Despite many constraints, we tried hard to provide an ambience of prayer," said Fr. Jaibu Mathew SVD, Parish Priest of Ambassa and principal host of the Congress. "And seeing hundreds of faces lost in communion with God, we knew we had succeeded."

Fr. Thomas Pereira, the Convener of the Congress called it 'a historic event'. It was the first time that an event of such magnitude was being organized by the lay people themselves. He said that it augurs well for the Church in Tripura. "The train service, which is relatively new in Tripura, contributed a great deal to the large numbers turning up for the event," Fr. Pereira said.

*J. Pulinthanath sdb
Spokesperson, Diocese of Agartala*



What they wrote about the Diocesan Mission Congress held at Ambassa

Thank you for the Report and pictures of the Diocesan Mission Congress. Congratulations! These events bring life among the people, otherwise it is daily routine and the usual problems. You people are doing really great work, planting the Church in your part of the world. **Abp. Evarist, Karachi**

Congrats on your celebration of the Mission Congress. God bless your ministry in that eastern end of our country. I am in the western end. **Abp. Stany Fernandes, Gandhinagar**

Hearty Congratulations!! The programmes must have enriched the Faith and Unity of the Catholic population of the Diocese. **Fr Vincent Furtado OFM Cap. Bangalore**
Congratulations for the great event of the Mission Congress. Thank you for the report. I had already read a report from Catholic India. Though it is not easy to organize such big events it does contribute much to the faith formation of the people and their identity as Catholics. I know that so many people worked earnestly for the event. Congratulations and appreciation to all of them. **Roy Thalackan, CSC, Rome**

Congrats, looks like a great gathering!! Praying with and for you! **Sean, CSC, USA**
Congrats for the success of the Mission Congress you have just held. **Tony Fernandes, sfx, Kolkata**

Thank you for sharing the "good news" - very inspiring and encouraging, indeed. **Appachan, Dubai**

Thank you bishop for sending me the news about the Diocesan Mission Congress. **Tomy Paley, ORIENS, Shillong**

Thank you for the beautiful photographs and the report of the Congress. The Lord has blessed all the hard work put in by bringing so many of the faithful together to sing and glorify his name. **Sr. Fay AC, Kolkata**

Thanks for sending us the report of the Mission Congress held at Ambassa. Hearty Congratulations to you and your co-workers for organizing such a big event participated by so many lay leaders. **Fr. Jose Chirackal, Rector, ORIENS, Shillong**

Congratulation for your daring work. You took the risk of giving witness of what we believe. It is interesting that the laity played the vital role in the Congress. Even though we are afraid of the laity I think that is the way it should be. And all praise go to them. That means your formation work is very strong with the laity. You took the risk in the midst of political turmoil which I appreciate very much. The laity should stand on their own and fight for justice with strong faith and religious values. **Parimal, CSC, Dhaka**
Congratulations !!! Thanks for sharing all

Walking with the Lord Then and Now

In the month of August 1974, I was told to replace Fr. Thomas Thengumpally, CSC, for three months as he had to go to Bangalore for some renewal course. That is how I came to Kumarghat from Mariamnagar in those days. There was one Fr. John Joseph CST and Bro.

Cyprian CSC to welcome me there. At that time, Kumarghat Parish extended from Churaibadi to Ambassa and Kailasahar to Gondacherra. I made my maiden trip to Ambassa at that time with catechist late

Lukas Master. From Ambassa we took the same road to Bagmara and Kochucherra through Lalchhori. In those days Lalchhori had not yet figured in the missionary map and therefore after covering some more Garo villages like Komlacherra and Kekogma through Kulai bazaar (there was one family near Kulai bazaar), I ended my missionary trip for the time being.

After the great commotion of 1980 June communal disturbances, I was appointed to take care of the Parish of Kumarghat. That year in the month of December, as I got down from the truck at Ambassa bazaar, I was greeted by an old rickshaw puller whose name was Mahendra Sangma (popularly known as Sotilla's father). He told me that that night I had to halt in his house at Lalchhori. Late in the evening he came with some onion and dal and late Mahendra Sangma served me his simple banquet in his simple hut. In the morning I was greeted by late Sonabahadur and his family members and Fr. Uttom Malsom's mother and her family members. A small community of believers began to take shape in those very humble circumstances. For the

these information. **Devasia, Tezpur**

Hearty Congratulations for the success....Thank you for the report and photos of our Diocesan Mission Congress. The Lord has been good to us and has blessed our diocese; the event is really special for its emphasis on the laity's role in evangelization, I fervently pray that the faithful carry out their mission in their own little ways to spread the Good News of

next five years, I had taken the same route and Lalchhori always happened to be the first stopover for my missionary journey.

On 9th October 2011 (some 36 years later), at the conclusion of the Mission Congress, thousands walked on the same road sweating out profusely. As I

walked with the Lord together with the singing and praying crowd, these memories flashed my mind and deep down in my heart, I was thanking the Lord for making me a humble instrument in sowing the seed in the same place where

thousands could gather and sing the praises of the Lord. It is so gratifying to know that our labor is not wasted, but rather it has been amply rewarded. It is true that many of those faithful who gathered there may not be able to answer all the questions with regard to their faith or to mutter all the prayers by heart; but a good many of them manifested their faith through their endurance and some of them did go away in the middle of the Congress, as they could not endure that itself was a manifestation of their faith or lack of it. I express my heartfelt thanks to all those who worked hard day and night to make the Mission Congress at Ambassa a great success. At this moment the words of St. Paul seem to be very appropriate for me. He said, "After all, who is Apollos? And who is Paul? We are simply God's servants, by whom you were led to believe. Each one of us does the work which the Lord gave him to do: I sowed the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow. The one who sows and the one who waters really do not matter. It is God who matters, because God makes the plant grow" (1 Cor: 3: 5-7)

Fr. Hormis John, CSC

Christ "through selfless love, forgiveness and peace, into the dark arenas of life where poverty, hatred, and selfishness still hold sway." **Lawrence Darlong**

It was a nice glimpse of the mission congress that I got from the pictures; may God bless our zeal for evangelizing our people. **George Rod sdb, Rome**



A Charismatic Retreat was organized on 30th September at Gachirampara parish. It was led by Fr. Joshy and his Team. People in good number flocked to the Church to experience the touch of God in their lives. Many of our parishioners benefited from this Retreat and many received inner healing. This Retreat was an enriching experience and it energized the faithful of our Parish.



Parish Feast

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Gachirampara, celebrated their patronal feast on 2nd of October



Visitors at Bishop's House

- ♦AC Srs. Agnelita and Marie Fay from Kolkata
- ♦Fr. Joe Almeida, SDB, Provincial from Guwahati
- ♦CSC Frs. Arul, K.O. and Clement from Shillong
- ♦SABS Provincial Team from Dimapur:
- ♦Srs. Annie, Philomy, Rosely & Catherine
- ♦Fr. Robin Gomes, SDB from Kolkata
- ♦Mr. A.J. Anthony, Immanuel & Ms. Vandana, Jesus Youth National Animators
- ♦Srs. Rosin & Bibiana, SABS from Burunga
- ♦Bro. Rene Delrome, SG Superior General from Rome
- ♦Bro. B. A. Kurian, SG Provincial from Guwahati
- ♦Sr. Martina, SJA General Councilor from France
- ♦Sr. Pauline, SJA Provincial from Orissa
- ♦Fr. Ronald Coutinho from Mangalore Diocese
- ♦Sr. Philomena, FMA from Kenya

Bishop's Program for November 2011

- 02: All Souls Day, Mariamnagar Cemetery
- 03: Meeting SSpS Asst. General
- 05: SSpS Girls Hostel Blessing, Gandacherra
- 06: Nalicherra Chapel Blessing, Ambassa Parish
- 08: Malbassa Chapel Blessing, Depacherra Parish
- 10-13: Evangelization Seminar, Shillong
- 16-18: Pastoral Visit, Bishramganj Parish
- 19-21: Bandra Parish Program, Mumbai
- 26-27: Sinaikami Chapel Blessing, Mandwi Parish

with religiosity and fervor. On this day we had we had a solemn Eucharist presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC. During his homily Bishop Lumen exhorted the faithful to follow the life of their patron. Neighboring Priests and Sisters joined the celebration. A short and sweet cultural program was the highlight of the celebration. The celebration ended with a fellowship meal. The day and the event were memorable. *Fr. Godwin, OFM, Cap*

News bits from all over

Chief Minister inaugurates ILS Hospitals

Chief Minister Manik Sarkar inaugurated Tripura's first multi specialty ILS hospital run by Kolkata-based GPT Healthcare Private Limited at Capital Complex on October 2. The seven-storied and 200 bed hospital would also cater to the needs



of the patients from neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan besides the entire eastern and northeastern India," GHPL managing director Dr Om Tanta told reporters. A total of 26 ICU (intensive care units) and ICCU (intensive coronary care units) and eight state-of-the-art ultra modern operation theatres, the hospital has also set up a big dedicated captive Oxygen generation plant, considering the crisis of oxygen in the mountainous region during emergency needs, Dr Tanta said.

Latest modern medical technologies, equipments and machineries have been imported from the US's GE Healthcare and commissioned in the hospital, first of its kind in the entire northeastern region, said Dr Tanta.

Source: tripurainfo.com

Cardinal Gracias new FABC Secretary General

The Cardinal was elected to the post in the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference Central Committee meeting on October 21 in Bangkok. The Cardinal, who is also the President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, has been appointed with effect from January 1, 2012. He succeeds Archbishop Orlando B. Quevedo from Philippines. The Secretary General's term is for 3 years, which is renewable.

Source: *press release/ FABC*

October, the month of Mary was celebrated in St. Andre parish, Budhjungnagar . in the morning of Saturday, 15th

October a grotto dedicated to Our lady of Lourdes was blessed by Rt. Rev. Bp Lumen CSC in the presence of Fr. Emmanuel CSC, the provincial superior of Holy Cross, many religious and the parishioners. Bishop Lumen in his address to the faithful gathered for the occasion highlighted the role of Mother Mary in our faith journey as well as invited the women to pray to Mary and inculcate in their children devotion to Mother Mary. The day was also celebrated as Mother's Day. Parish priest, Fr. K.J Abraham organized one day seminar for all mothers of the parish on topics such as health care, role of mothers in the education of children, and faith formation and practice in families.



Bro. Chandrakant, CSC

Depacherra Parish

Youth Day Celebrations

On October 12, 2011, the Youth of our Parish were invited to actively participate in the Parish Youth Day (PYD). We began the day by celebration of the Eucharist, which was animated by the Youth. After Mass, we assembled in the Parish Hall for the programme animated by Rev. Frs. Paul Puduserry, CSC and Cyprian Pinto, SVD. The programme commenced with the most powerful prayer Jesus taught us - The "OUR FATHER". The entire programme was well presented with a power point presentation in the form of prayers, songs, etc. During the first session, the Resource Persons spoke about "Journeying with the youth". They emphasized that Youth is a crucial stage of life and one needs to understand and handle them carefully at every step. In the second session the Resource Persons told the youth about discovering inner potential, being faithful to principles of life and being rooted in the Catholic faith. Our post lunch session included indoor games and film. It was quite interesting, enjoyable and all of us participated enthusiastically. We concluded the day with a short prayer.

Mr. Nirmal Uchoi