



**Pastor's Corner**

Once upon a time, there was a very strong woodcutter. He asked for a job from a timber merchant and he got it. The pay was really good and so were the work conditions. For that reason the woodcutter was determined to do his best. His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to work. The first day, the woodcutter brought down 18 trees. The boss was very much impressed and said, "Congratulations keep it up!" Very motivated by the words of the boss, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but he only could bring down 15 trees. The third day he tried even harder, but he only could bring down 10 trees. Day

**Sharpen your Axe**

after day he was bringing down less and less trees. "I must be losing my strength", the woodcutter thought to himself. He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on. When was the last time you sharpened your Axe?" the boss asked. I had no time to sharpen my Axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees. The moral of the story: Our lives are like that--we sometimes get so busy that we don't take time to sharpen the axe. In today's world, it seems that everyone is busier than



ever, but less happy than ever. Why is that? Could it be that we have forgotten how to stay sharp? There is nothing wrong with activity and hard work. But we should not get so busy that we neglect the truly important things in life, like our personal life, taking time to care for others, taking time to read, etc.

We all need time to relax, to think and meditate, to learn and grow. If we don't take time to sharpen the axe, we will become dull and lose our effectiveness.

**+Lumen, CSC**

**Editorial**



Perhaps it's the approaching elections, but we have a capital city that's all spruced up and proud. We have better roads, broader streets and firmer bridges too, here in Tripura. These things become clear if one has been traveling a bit in the region. There are pockets in the capital city that's developing at an astonishing speed. The streets of the town are no longer dotted with the ramshackle structures that once used to double up as shops. Elegant showrooms of multinational brands have now replaced many of them. There's a shopping mall and a multiplex too. It's as if on behalf-of all those distant (and at times forgotten) rural populace and their modest habitats, the capital is readying itself to garner goodwill and votes!

It's an equally astonishing thing that our minds have withstood this brick and mortar revolution. There is a profit-driven tendency to 'short-cuts' that we fail to rid ourselves of, despite all this. Because of which we end up receiving and rendering services and goods of a compromised quality even in this haven of development and prosperity. It's the Year of Faith for the Catholics the world over. For the fledgling and 'developing' Church in Tripura, it's literally a Godsend year to ensure that its growth is not cosmetic but genuine and life-touching. The numerous steps that have been taken this year to 'celebrate and deepen' faith at diocesan, parish and local

**About Change, Tripura and Faith**



levels, we hope, will bring about a change of attitude and lifestyle in all believers including ourselves. It must be reflected in everything that makes up our life from the sanctity of our hearth to the size of our Sunday church collections.

Or else, surely, one day we will sadly wake up to the futility of intensifying devotions and enlarging infrastructures without ultimately touching hearts and making them more Christ-like compassionate, disciplined and loving. Then only shall our hearts, aflutter with searching and longing, experience the best that religion has to offer -- God himself.

**J. Pulinathanath, sdb**

## Kumarghat Parish

### New Chapel at Masli Reang

The newly constructed Village church at Masil Reang under Kumarghat Parish was inauguration and blessed by Bishop Lumen Monteiro on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012, at 10 am, followed by the Holy Eucharist. The chapel is dedicated to St. Peter the Apostle. The simple function held at Masil Reang was graced with the presence of the priests, religious and several faithful of the Parish. People expressed their joy in receiving a place of worship. At the opening ceremony Fr. Thomas the Parish Priest brought to the knowledge of the people that it is through the financial assistance of Missio Munchen from Germany and the sacrifices of many generous People that helped in construction of the of the Chapel. People thanked bishop Lumen for his presence, and expressed their gratitude to Fr. Thomas Pereira for his dedicated service to make it possible for them to have a beautiful place for workshop. Let us pray that the newly blessed chapel would help the people to be united in living their faith.

*Fr. Agi Paul, CSC*

## Kathalcherra Parish

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual A'chik Catholick Chandam'be Tomm'a 2012

The Annual All Tripura Garo Youth Sabha (convention) was held at Sashi Sangma Para (Garo-2) under Kathalcherra Parish from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October. The Convention was organized by Tripura A'chik Catholic Chadambe Committee. There were about 250 youth participants present for the convention from the existing Garo Mondolies of Agartala Diocese. 'New life in Christ' (John 3:3) being the theme of the convention, the youth Sabha aimed at bringing all the Catholic Garo Youth under common identity and work towards upliftment of Catholic tradition and culture. Fr. George Rodrigus released a Garo magazine named 'Prinprand Aski on the first day of the convention. 'Fr. Simon Fernandes in his session called upon the youth to share the faith with the family, to encourage and promote

vocations to church and to be youth with a difference. Sr. Simon Teresa during in her address emphasized on the importance of Prayer and unity in the catholic families. Mr. Tonik, Biplob & Paul Sangma dwelt on the factors that bring the Garo Youth together and



called upon the members to feel positive of one's culture and traditions. A meaningful candle lit Rosary Procession was a memorable event for all the participants. On the last day of the Sabha new office bearers took oath before the assembly. The Sabha concluded with the Eucharist on the last day.

*Paul Sangma*

### Parents' Day 2012 at Kathalcherra School

Isn't it a wonder day? Yes indeed... it's our Parents Day... Dear Parents, 'we love you and today we would like to honor you and thank you' with these words Ampuia Darlong a student of



Class X began the Parents' Day 2012. With the theme 'Come let's be Different and Make a little Difference' this years Parents day was indeed remarkable. The presence of Shri. Jitendro Choudhury, Minister for RD, Industries and Commerce and Fr. C.V Jose, Secretary HEFC, Fr. George Jacob Administrator, and many conferrers from Shillong, Mizoram and Tripura added more color

## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

to the program. The event commenced with the inauguration of the New Block prepared in view of up gradation of the School. Holy Cross School at Kathalcherra which began in 1983 stands as a symbol of education to the tribal students of the locality as well as from far away. The Minister in his speech acknowledged the wonderful contribution done by the missionaries especially by Holy Cross to the rural tribal population. Though the School is situated at an interior place the children are able to exhibit their talents with confidence.

*Fr. Valerian Castelino, CSC*

### Catholic Youth Seminar in Kathalcherra

September 25<sup>th</sup> was indeed a memorable day for the Catholic Youth of Kathalcherra Parish with the youth program organized by Bethany Sisters. This program was based on building up personality



and leadership qualities; it was attended by 45 youth. The Resource Persons Bethany Srs. Edleburgh and Cleopha helped the youth to have motivation and discover their true identity with their dynamic and creative Power Point presentation, sharing, and lively entertainment. It was a fruitful and successful program. We are happy with the co-operation, support and generous response from the youth and leaders to have this program. We are most grateful to our Resource Persons for obliging our request and sharing their time, knowledge and experiences with our youth. We are very thankful to Fr. Valerian CSC, the Principal of Holy Cross High School, Kathalcherra for giving us the School Hall and all other necessary things for our use. As a result of this successful program we are hopeful and look forward to have more such kind of programs for our youth of different group like students and drop outs.

*Sr. Judith, BS*

## Diocesan Women's Commission

### Domestic Helpers get together

Agartala Diocese Women's Commission



organized the Domestic Helpers Get-together on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012 at Just Training Hall. Theme: Domestic workers' dignity

and rights. The main Resource Persons were Sr. Susheela and Ms Sheela Rani Debbarma. Sr. Susheela in her talks highlighted to the participants on the relevance of the theme. Ms Sheela Rani on saving Micro Credit.

Thereafter Sr. highlighted on the leadership and value education. Various games were conducted and the day was very enjoyable and memorable. There were 30 participants who participated in the program.

### Women Leadership in the Family

Women leadership in the family programs were conducted at Shantirani Catholic Parish in village Dupcherra on 9<sup>th</sup> September and St. Andre Catholic Church Bodhjunnager in village Borokathal on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The main

Resource Persons were Sr. Susheela SSpS, Sr. Mitaili, CSC and Fr. Ronald.

The Resource Persons gave Sessions like Tips for the good leadership in the family; Biblical women leaders, Leadership role in the family, tips for the healthy family leadership and Parents Leadership role in the family. The on 9<sup>th</sup> September and St. Andre Catholic Seminar was very good and many women came and participated in it. *Sr. Susheela Xess, SSpS*



## 8<sup>th</sup> September Girl Child Day celebrations in the Diocese

### Holy Spirit Convent Nandannagar



“A daughter is one of the most beautiful gifts that the world has to give.” *Lawrel Atherton* The Girl child day was celebrated at Holy Spirit Convent Nandannagar. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Benjamin, SVD. The evening program began with a Talk by Sr. Susheela, SSpS, on the theme Empower the Girl

Empower the World. The girl is the creator of this earth. Girls have been doing wonderful work and are talented in all the fields. Girls have to be empowered in many ways in today's world. The future of the girl child is the woman of tomorrow. After the Talk the girls had a Dance and Singing competition.

*Sr. Irene Kerketta SSpS*

### Helena Sadan Girls Hostel Ambassa

Educating a girl means educating the family. Education of a child starts from the family and the mother is the first teacher. Helena Sadan Girls Hostel students celebrated the Girl Child Day. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist in which Fr. Jeevan Kenady, SVD, was the main celebrant. In his homily he highlighted on the relevance of the theme. In the evening all the girls



came together at the Hostel Hall. Sr. Pushpa highlighted to the girls on the importance of the education and they are precious in all the fields. The Girls are talented in many ways The Girls showed their talent in a very creative way. Then Sr. Sunita conducted various games. Thereafter they put up a colorful cultural program. It was a memorable day for all the girls.

*Sr. Sunita, SSpS*

### Auxilium Convent Pathaliaghat



8<sup>th</sup> September is a very special day for us especially for us women as this day is remembered as

a day for the Girl Child. This day was celebrated in a very special way by the girls in Auxilium Hostel. On asked if they were happy to be girls they gave a positive reply.

Some of the reasons for their happiness are the following:

- God created me to be a girl and He has chosen me from all eternity to be a girl so I am happy.
- I am happy to be a girl because girl has better understanding towards others.
- I like to be a girl because just like boys I can enjoy the same power and share equal

responsibilities.

- As a girl I have the right and responsibility to look after my parents.
  - I like to be a girl because as a girl I can do great things as boys.
  - I like to be a girl because I realize that without a woman man cannot stand.
  - If I were to be born again I would be very happy to be born as a girl.
  - Because only a woman can give birth to another human being.
- The above are some of the positive answers that we received. There are also a few of them who have their own reasons why they are not happy. Some of them are:

- As a girl I am not free. There is no freedom to express, no freedom to move about alone.
- As a girl I feel so insecure especially thinking about my future.
- As a girl I have to suffer so much and under go many problems in rising up children and family. We feel the need and the responsibility as educators to guide the young people to discover their talents, gifts and potentialities as well as their rights and duties. Discovering these will lead them to accept themselves as God created them with joy and gratitude towards the creator.

*Sr. Acquila FMA*

- ✦ Fr. Maxim SVD, from Guwahati
- ✦ CSC Frs. Joseph K.O, Clement, Suresh, Bobby and Arul from Meghalaya
- ✦ CSC Frs. Harry and Jomy from Mizoram
- ✦ Sr. Christina SMI, from Krishnagar
- ✦ Frs. Subash & Newton from Krishnagar
- ✦ Fr. George Maliekal, sdb, INS Provincial from Silchar
- ✦ Fr. Cyril, sdb, INS Economer from Silchar

### Tripura CM lauds Holy Cross College

At the concluding function of the first COLLEGE FEST of the first Catholic College in Tripura, titled "HCC TEJAS 2012", the Hon. Chief Minister, Sri Manik Sarkar was the Chief Guest. He encouraged Holy Cross College by his



valuable presence, words of inspiration and officially inaugurated the Basilians, named after the

Founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Basil Antony Moreau. In his address Sri Manik Sarkar appreciated the efforts made by Holy Cross College that imparts value based education. He praised the faculty and management for encouraging multifarious talents in the students for the development of their total personality. He lauded their efforts to bring quality higher education to the State of Tripura.

TEJAS 2012 was inaugurated by Sri Balaram Shil, DIG, CRPF on Oct. 17th.. The final day Oct. 19th comprised of a colorful and informative exhibition and an enjoyable mega cultural evening. Ms Sourabhee Debbarma, Tripura's Indian Idol was the guest of honour who gave a performance of scintillating songs which mesmerized the large audience. In her address she encouraged the students to aim high and believe in themselves and achieve success in life.

(Courtesy CRIB)



**LINK Congratulates** Major Archbishop Baselios Mar Cleemis who has become the first Cardinal of the Syro-Malankara Church. Pope Benedict XVI made the announcement during his weekly general audience on Wednesday October 24.

"I consider this as a big recognition and honour for India and Kerala. This also demands greater dedication from me and the Malankara Church to serve the Church and society," Cardinal Cleemis told a Malayalam TV channel from the Vatican.

### Awareness program at Kulai

On 25<sup>th</sup> September Sr. Rose the Animator of IDEA with her assistant went to Kulai Gandacheera and conducted an Awareness program on Safe Drinking Water and Low Cost Sanitation.

There were 37 participants comprising of both men and women. Sr. Rose first introduced Ms Lolita as a Resource Person and then explained the topic of the day. There was good conversation between the villagers and the animators. They had good time to know the unknown as expressed by one of the villager.

Sr. Rose then explained about diseases caused by unclean water and improper sanitation facility. Overall the program was successful and the people thanked our animators for taking trouble to provide them with awareness and sometimes giving them free medicines.

*Sr. Rose, SSPS*

### Awareness program at Borkupara

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, Sr. Grace Mary Jyrwa conducted an Awareness Program on



Preventive Measures for malaria, diarrhea, dysentery and T.B at Borkupara, Bishramganj. There were 37

participants. The program started at about 9.00am beginning with an explanation about waterborne diseases and an explanation on how to prevent from those types of diseases. There were discussions with the people regarding the topic. The program ended at about 1.00 pm. The people were really grateful to Sr. Grace for taking time to remind them of diseases that can cause very typical situations in their lives. Overall the program was successful.

*Sr. Grace Mary Jyrwa, FMA*

### Pope Benedict greets India's Lata Mangeshkar



Pope Benedict XVI has extended his greetings to the nightingale of India Lata Mangeshkar on her birthday. "It was a very pleasant surprise.

The Pope is the most prominent and revered leader of the Catholic Church. To hear from him on my birthday was not just expected, it was a rare privilege," said Mangeshkar, feeling honored. She said that the Pope's greeting named her as 'Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar'. "Not many people address me with my father's name. That felt good. I am proud to be known as Master Deenanath Mangeshkar's daughter," she added.

Mangeshkar is the second vocalist to have ever been awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

Source: *Times of India*

### KOKBOROK COURSE POSTPONED

Intensive Course in Communicative Kokborok - basic, for priests and religious has been postponed. As per revised dates, the course will start at 9.00 am on 19th November and finish on 2nd December 2012 at Don Bosco Peace Centre, Agartala. Total course fee: 2800 For registrations, please contact - Fr. Joseph Pulinthanath Mb. 9436126649

### BISHOP'S PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 2012

- 01: Return from Caritas Meet in Delhi
- 02: All Souls Day, Depacherra Cemetery
- 03: School Silver Jubilee, Depacherra
- 04: Confirmations, Nandanagar Quasi Parish
- 06: Clergy Meeting & Recollection, Agartala
- 11: Parish Sabah, Khumlwng Parish
- 13: First Holy Communion, Ambassa Parish
- 17: Parents Day, Gokulnagar
- 18: Twirupa Chapel Blessing, Bishramganj Parish
- 22: Meet SJA Superior General
- 24-25: Parish Feast, Depacherra
- 28: CBCI-CARD Meet, Delhi