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PASTOR'S CORNER

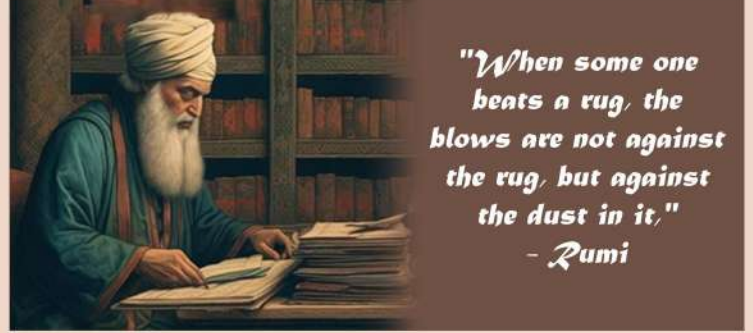
RUMI'S METAPHOR – HARDSHIPS ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSFORMATION



Rumi's poem, "When some one beats a rug, the blows are not against the rug, but against the dust in it," offers a poignant metaphor for

understanding life's hardships and the process of purification and growth. At first glance, the image of a rug being beaten may conjure up a sense of harshness, as if life is a series of cruel blows meant to tear us apart. But Rumi invites us to view it differently: the purpose of each blow isn't to damage the rug, but to remove what tarnishes it. This allegory encourages us to reframe the way we interpret challenges, difficulties, or even personal attacks. Just like the rug, we collect dust along our journey—dust in the form of resentment, fear, egotistical desires, or toxic relationships. These are elements that cling to us, obscuring our true nature and potential. The blows of life, then, serve to shake off this dust, purifying us so that we can better reveal our authentic selves.

The rug is not an inanimate object but is symbolically akin to a living, organic entity, carrying the wisdom of experience within its fibers. It is beaten not to be damaged, but to be cleansed and revitalized. The hardships that shake us, therefore, can be seen as opportunities for revitalization. These experiences force us to confront what we've allowed to accumulate and what no longer serves us. By letting go of these metaphorical dust particles, we come out on the other side of our challenges lighter, more agile, and true to our essence.



Rumi's rug metaphor also gives us a sense of reality. It's not about what happens to us, but how we respond to what happens to us. The rug does not fight back or resist the beating; instead, it allows the process of purification to happen. Similarly, when we meet life's challenges with a degree of surrender, recognizing them as opportunities to shed what doesn't serve us, we actively participate in our own transformation.

In our darkest moments, we often forget that suffering has a purpose. We think the blows are against us, not against our impurities. Rumi's metaphor serves as a grounding reminder that life's challenges aren't meant to break us but to clear the path for us to shine brighter, to resonate at a higher frequency, and to exist more authentically. It encourages us to be more resilient, to welcome life's beatings not as cruel tests but as opportunities for profound transformation.


+ Lumen, CSC

Pope's Prayer Intention for October 2023



FOR THE SYNOD

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.



28 October

LINK Wishes Our Beloved Bp. Lumen Monteiro, CSC On his

43rd Anniversary

Ad Multos Anos

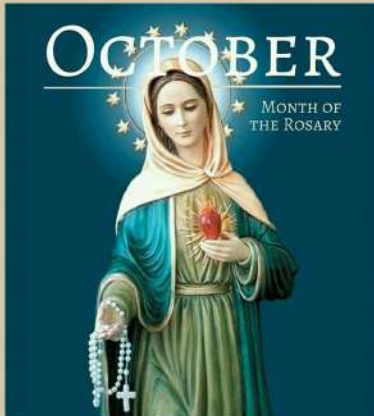
Gearing up for Battle

Here in Tripura, when one thinks of October, it is the pujas that first come to mind. They are celebrated with much fanfare and fervor here. In one way or another, they affect everyone, even those of other religions because the puja holidays, to some extent, determine how and when other programs are scheduled.

And yet, October is not only about the pujas. For us Catholics, it is an important month for a couple of other reasons. It is the month of the Rosary; it is the month of the Missions. Although specific days have been assigned for the celebration of these important feasts, the entire month is considered related to these - the Rosary and the Missions. Hence, a word or two about the Rosary.

At a time, such as this, when the Church is under threat of various sorts in different parts of the world, including our own country India, it would be a mistake to forget lessons of history. We would do well to remind ourselves and the faithful how the Rosary won the Battle of Lepanto and saved Christendom in 1571. How ill-prepared,

vulnerable, and weak-willed was the troop that at the insistence of Pope Pius V, Philip II of Spain cobbled together under his half-brother Don Juan of Austria!



Editorial



And yet, the mighty, fiercely motivated Turks with 'more ships and men' were finally routed.

The reasons are not hard to find. Upon the mast of one of our ships was a true copy of the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe specially made and sent by the Archbishop of Mexico. An excerpt from the account given by Christopher Check, President of the Institute of Catholic Culture throws more light.

"[Don Juan] then issued to every man in his fleet a weapon more powerful than anything in the Turkish arsenal: a rosary. On the eve of the battle, the men of the Holy League prepared their souls by falling to their knees on the decks of their galleys and praying the Rosary. Back in Rome, and up and down the Italian peninsula, at the behest of Pius V, the churches were filled with the faithful telling their beads. In heaven, the Blessed Mother, Her Immaculate Heart aflame, was listening."

The Rosary continues to win battles for us even today; spiritual battles, personal battles. We are told there is a renewed interest in the recitation of the rosary all across the world. October is our opportunity to catch up.

Let the clamor, commotion, and tumult of the October events not drown out our feeble but earnest entreaty, "pray for us now and at the hour of our death."

J. Pulinthanath, SDB

Fr. Lourdu Anandam Appointed as the New Bishop of Sivaganga

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Lourdu Anandam (65), of the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Madurai, as the third Bishop of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu. Fr Lourdu Anandam was born on 15 August 1958 in Thiruvaramangam, TN. After studying Philosophy at Arul Anandar College in Madurai and Theology at St. Paul's Seminary in Tiruchirappalli, he obtained a Doctorate in systematic Theology from the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg (Germany). He was ordained a Priest on 6 April 1986 for the Archdiocese of Madurai.



Prayers & Wishes
to guide his flock entrusted to his care

MISSION SUNDAY 2023 (22nd October, 2023)

Our Holy Father's message for the World Mission Day 2023 invites us to reflect on the importance of mission, drawing lessons from the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The theme for this year's celebration is HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE (cf. Lk 24:13-35).

Pope Francis is calling us once again to renew our zeal for evangelization in today's world, by meditating on (i) hearts burned within, (ii) eyes were opened, and (iii) feet set out: In missionary activity, the word of God illumines and transforms hearts; Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit of the mission; and our feet set out on the way, with the joy of telling others about the Risen Christ.

The annual celebration of Mission Sunday on 23rd October 2023, reminds us that the task of proclamation is not something that is reserved for a few select individuals. It is for all of us! So also our financial assistance and offering play a very important role in the life and ministry of the young and new churches. We earnestly look forward to your generous contribution towards the Solidarity Fund, as is required for Proclamation.

Rev. Dr. Ambrose Pitchaimuthu
National Director



PONTIFICAL MISSION ORGANIZATIONS

PB. 4216, #10, 3rd Cross, Ulsoor Road, Bangalore - 560 042, Karnataka.
080 4146 8634 pmorgbindia@gmail.com www.pmoindia.org

Depacherra Parish

COUPLES RENEWAL PROGRAM



The Family Commission organized a heartwarming display of devotion and commitment. 36 couples participated in the Couples Renewal Program at Depacherra. Guided by the theme "Be devoted to one another in love; honor one another above yourselves" (Rom.12:10), this program aimed to rejuvenate and strengthen the marital bonds of the participating couples. The Program was a comprehensive event designed to foster love, respect, and mutual understanding among couples.

The program commenced with a series of enlightening talks delivered by experienced married Couples, Catechist and Family Commission Secretary. These sessions focused on various aspects of married life, including effective communication, conflict resolution, and the importance of faith in marriage. In the afternoon session couples filled out questionnaires individually and discussed their responses with their partners. The questions were designed to encourage introspection and facilitate open and honest conversations. Couples were encouraged to identify their strengths and areas needing growth. One of the most remarkable aspects of this program was the enthusiastic and active participation of all 36 couples. The Couples Renewal Program was a resounding success, exemplifying the power of love, honor, and mutual respect in strengthening marital bonds.

Fr. Amalraj
Family Commission Secretary

Kumarghat Parish

FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

September 3 was a multi-faceted Sunday for the Parishioners of Kumarghat. There were four celebrations, all rolled in one.



Though, primarily it was called 'Father's Day', the other up-coming feasts such as - the feast of St. Mother Teresa on 5th September; Teacher's Day-5th September; Holy Cross Feast on 15th September; and the installation of Youth leaders of the parish for the current year. All these were marked with joy and enthusiasm.

Before the Eucharist, an enlightening Talk was given by Fr George SJ, who highlighted the duties and privileges of a father in the family. It was wonderful to see 85 fathers and grandfathers, several school teachers, and parish youth, listening attentively to the Talk and actively participating in the Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Frs. George, Lancy, and Lourdu. Before the close of the Holy Mass, the 12 Youth Leaders took their oath of office. As a conclusion of this four-fold celebration, snacks and soft drinks were served to all who attended this special Sunday Mass.

Sr. Santan Nago, FS

MOTHER MARY'S BIRTHDAY & GIRL CHILD DAY



St. Paul's Parish marked two important celebrations on 8 September in a modest and meaningful way. In the evening all the children of the two hostels, boys and girls, the Sisters of the two communities of the parish and some parishioners gathered at the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Following the prayer of the Angelus, one of the girls of the hostel gave an inspiring overview of the day. Thereafter we processed to the church for the liturgical celebration. An adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was observed and garlands of roses

were presented to the heavenly Mother, as the Rosary was recited. During the Eucharist, Fr Lourdu, CSC, gave a fitting homily, highlighting the birth of Mary, our Mother, and the girl-children in families and in society. The evening was concluded by wishing all the girls of the campus and parishioners, with songs and flowers. Snacks were served to all who participated in the celebration.

Sr. Santan Nago, FS

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Parish

SINGING COMPETITION



To unveil the harmonious voices and vivify the certitude of the children and the adults, a singing Competition was organized by the Youth of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in the beautifully decorated St. Joseph's Hall on 7th of September, the eve of the birthday of Mother Mary. Contest highlights for participation were appealingly specified. Youth President Mr. Sebastian introduced the Judges Mr. Dominic Jamatia and Ms. Tomina. The event was graced by Fr. Bosco Lathees, Parish Priest, Fr. George Assistant Parish Priest, Parish Secretary and the Parish Pastoral Council. The singers participated to demonstrate their singing skills with energy and excitement. The Youth members along with the judges came up with the results with three winners for solo performance and three for group performance. The participants showcased a sense of self-esteem and self-assurance as a result of the competition. It was undoubtedly a memorable experience as it was encouraging to bring out the hidden talents of our people to praise the Lord.

Br. Jojappa

Ambassa Parish

GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION

Ambassa (Tripura) September 8, 2023: Holy Spirit Catholic Church celebrated the Girl Child Day on the Nativity of Mother Mary. As we hear lots of heinous crimes taking place on girls such as rapes, trafficking and abuse, the occasion to celebrate is very apt.



More than 300 parishioners were present to mark the occasion. It was also the foundation day of the SVD Congregation. Prior to this grand celebration there was a nine days Novena to Mother Mary to commemorate her birthday. On the final day many faithful gathered with plenty of flowers to honor Mother Mary. The Mass was offered by Fr. Lourdu CSC and Homily was preached by Fr. Cyprian SVD. In his homily Fr. Pinto stressed on the importance of Girl Child, how to respect them in our families, schools and elsewhere. At the end of the Mass Fr. Ivan the parish priest thanked everyone who participated in the Mass, especially guests Priests, Brothers and Sisters from other Parishes. Mr. Kamal Debbarma, the assistant parish council secretary, arranged a big cake for the girl children. The members of the mothers association bought cupcakes for everyone.

Fr. Ivan D'Silva

Tuikarmaw Parish

PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATED



The Feast of St. Mary's Parish Tuikarmaw was celebrated on 10th September. Fr. Jaibu Mathew SVD was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist and Fr. Cyprian Pinto preached the Homily. Around 525 faithful from all mondolils joined the joyful celebration. After the Holy Eucharist we had the Eucharistic Procession. It was followed by a festive meal. On the eve of our Parish Feast, we had a cultural night where all the mondolilrocked the stage with dances, Bible skits and songs. In preparation for the Parish Feast nine days Novena with Holy Mass

was held from 1st - 9th September. Each day of the Novena had a special theme related to Mother Mary's Life. We also had three days Renewal Retreat and strengthening the faith of the families of the entire parish in preparation for the Parish Feast. First day for all, second day for the Youth and third day for the Women. Fr Leenus VC and Sr. Soona, CMC conducted the Retreat. Other Resource Persons were Sr. Susheela SSpS, Fr. Lawrence Darlong and Fr. Amal Raj. The Retreat, Renewal, Novenas, Eucharistic Procession and the Feast day celebration were well participated and appreciated by all.

Mr. Jagdish Uchoi

INTER-RELIGIOUS PRAYER MEETING AT KRISHNANAGAR



Janmastami is one of the major festivals of Hindus. It is celebrated across the country by fasting, singing, praying together, night vigil and sharing special food. People visit the temples to offer special prayers. This year the birth of Lord Krishna was celebrated on 7th September. On that occasion IARF organized an inter-religious prayer meeting at Krishnanagar. Representatives from Hindu, Muslim, Bahai, Buddhist, and Christianity were present. Each religious representative was allotted time to express their views on Janmastami. Fr. Nabin Lakra, SVD, of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue, represented the Catholic Diocese. He greeted the people on the birth of Lord Krishna and gave his reflection based on 'Laudato si'. One of the birth tales of Lord Krishna indicates that his birth was to end the tyranny of mother earth. Hence his birth calls us to protect and preserve Mother Earth by combating the predator. Janmastami is highly concerned about care for earth, air, water, plants, and animals, environment, animate

and inanimate beings. Fr. Nabin concluded his thoughts with a short prayer and blessing. Swamiji Maharaja gave his discourse on the teachings of Lord Krishna, such as sacrificial love, responsibility, union with God, togetherness, teacher-student relationship, etc. To be a devotee one needs to possess certain qualities such as, sacrifice, detachment, compassion, non-violence, joy, divinity, mortification, etc. With a blessing and good wishes the Swamiji concluded the session.

Fr. Nabin Lakra, SVD

DEANERY LEVEL SCC SHARING



Ambassa (Tripura) September 08, 2023: Ambassa & Kumarghat Deaneries came together for a half day Small Christian Community sharing in Ambassa. Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD the host parish priest of Ambassa welcomed everyone for the session. Though few parishes in the beginning could not be present because of highway block due to heavy rain, later they joined. The Session started with the Bible procession, Bible

enthronement and Bible sharing. There were 57 participants from different parishes. Parish-wise report was read and it was said that SCC participation in these two deaneries was good. Fr. Ivan the coordinator for the SCC for the deaneries gave an input session on the importance of SCC. He also invited everyone to have an evaluation of SCC in all our sub-stations and parishes. He said, "SCC is connected to family and the worshiping community. If there is no prayer in the family, certainly people don't participate in the SCC and as a result there will be poor participation in the parish and sub-stations. Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC the Diocesan Coordinator spoke to the participants and encouraged them to participate in SCC wholeheartedly.

Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

18th October, 2023



Dn. Augustin Domnic Savio Derick

News Briefs from the Diocese

Distribution of Saplings

JUST with the support of Manos Unidas distributed Areca nut and Litchi saplings to the SHG members from Gaganganagar R.D Block of Dhalai District in the month of August 2023. The saplings have been distributed to encourage the communities to get involved in sustainable agriculture and help to create better sustainable future. The trees will not only provide livelihood to the farmers but also help improve the environment. About 1,500 Areca nut saplings and 500 Litchi saplings were distributed to 40 SHG members. At the time of distribution, the Coordinator of the Project advised the communities and appealed the SHG members to come forward and plant these, as most of them have abundant land.



Orientation on Scientific Method of Bee-keeping

Orientation on importance of natural pollinators and predators (birds, beneficial insects) and scientific method of Bee-Keeping was organized for the Farmers by JUST in collaboration with the College of Agriculture on 8th



September at the College premises. The main objective of the program was sharing information and knowledge on pollinators and their role in the ecosystem and its benefits. The Resource Person was Dr. Budhachandra Thangjam, Department of Entomology. He explained that Beekeeping has positive ecological consequences. Bees play an important role in the pollination of many flowering plants, thus increasing the yield of certain crops such as sunflower and various fruits. Honey is a delicious and highly nutritious food. He also shared that Beekeeping supplements income and employment generation and nutritional intake of rural population. Though the honeybees are best known for the honey they produce, their economic role in nature is to pollinate hundreds and thousands of flowering plants and assure setting of seed or fruit. The Resource Person said that since these months are off seasons, they will organize more trainings in the month of February and they will distribute Bee boxes and Bee clans to those who are interested.

Mr. Robert Lushai

Meritorious Teacher's Award received from the Mayor of Agartala, Shri Dipak Majumdar. Congratulations Sr. Sini, MSMHC



Bishop's Program for October 2023

- 01 : Episcopal Ordination, Jowai
- 03 : Clergy Meet, Agartala
JUST General Body Meet, Damdamia
- 07 : Joynagar Chapel Blessing under Mandwi Parish
- 08 : Confirmations, Tuikarmaw Parish
- 13-15 : Episcopal Ordination, Itanagar
- 18 : Dn. Derrick's Sacerdotal Ordination, Puducherry
- 21 : Anniversary, Lefunga motha under Bodhjungnagar Parish
Spes Unica Opening @ Holy Cross Agartala
- 22 : Parish Day, Baijalbari Parish
- 23 : Spes Unica Conclusion @ Holy Cross Agartala
- 25 : Symposium for Church Leaders, Agartala
- 26 : Confirmations, Ganda Twisa Parish
- 27-30 : Golden Jubilee, Kohima Diocese

Our Distinguished Guests

- Fr. Jeevan, SVD Regional Superior from Guwahati
- Bishop Mar Pauly of Irijnalakuda, Kerala
- Msgr. Joseph, VG of Irijnalakuda
- Fr. Cyprian Pinto, SVD from Bangladesh
- Fr. Kiran from Sagar Diocese, MP
- Fr. Hormis John, CSC's Brothers & Sister from Kerala