



Let Giving become an Attitude



On September 5, 1997, Mother Teresa passed away at the age of 87. Jacques Chirac, then French Prime Minister said, "Tonight there is less love, less compassion, less light in the world." Her popularity was seen at her death and on her funeral day. She was given a state funeral and many dignitaries of the world were present to pay their respects. The Hindustan Times of September 14, 1997 reported, "The world was literally at her feet as the august assemblage of Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ambassadors of at least 42 countries were present." Late Pope John Paul II said, "Mother has lit a flame of love which must now be carried forward. Do not stop where she left off." Mother Teresa was a 'giving person'. She used to say, "It's not about how much you do, but how

much love you put into what you do that counts". Let us emulate Mother Teresa and be 'giving persons'.

On 5th September India celebrates Teachers Day. A Teacher is a 'giving person'. The real attitude of giving is sharing what you have. When we look at nature we see it is abundant in giving. Rivers do not drink their own water, nor do trees eat their own fruits. Even the rain clouds don't eat the grains reared by them. They enjoy in giving back. For us human beings to develop the habit of giving like the rivers, sun or earth brings out the quality of generosity in us. Teachers are givers! They act as guides for life, show the path towards success, and enrich the personality of their students by imparting knowledge.



Pastor's Corner

Greatness is not what we have, but what we give. Cultivating generosity and kindness enables us to graduate from the "taking" mindset to the "giving" one. Giving does not mean just giving money or material things. Erich Fromm says that we should give to others all that is alive in us our interest, understanding, knowledge and humor everything in us that is good. Mother Teresa would say, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving" that matters. In doing so we enhance the sense of aliveness in others while enhancing our own. To our Teachers who are "givers" I extend sincere wishes and blessings. HAPPY TEACHERS DAY. +Lumen, CSC

LINK condoles the death of:

Sr. Suman, BS, on 26th July at Agartala. She was the Superior of the community at Kathalcherra. She worked in this Diocese for a number of years, especially with Women's Groups.

Fr. Savarinathan, CSC, on 5th August, at the age of 50. Fr. Savarinathan had worked for most of his priestly life in the Diocese of Agartala.

Fr. Kizhakechennadu Joseph (KJ) on 25th August at the age of 68 years. The deceased priest was a pioneer of the SDBs working in Tripura. He was the first PP of Bishramganj Parish and had started many new centers in the Diocese.

We pray that the good Lord will reward them with heavenly bliss.

We wish all our Readers a **HAPPY TEACHERS DAY**



"What was the word again?"

Editorial



An online journal called 'Scientific Reports' carried the findings of a study that sought to quantify the birth rate and death rate of 'words'. The study held about seven years ago analyzed the dynamic properties of 107 words recorded in English, Spanish and Hebrew over the period 1800-2008. Some of their findings make us think about the goings-on in our own backyard.

The study says that languages have a tendency to add new words and drop old words. New ideas and discoveries bring into existence new words. However, in today's digital age, the process of adding new words has slowed down despite the fact that new things surface today at a faster pace than before. In other words

modern languages, with the exception of English, are shrinking because the number of words dying is considerably more than the number of words getting added to them. One of the reasons, the study points out, might be that electronic spellcheckers inhibit introduction of new words.

Lack of vocabulary is an issue that continues to dog Kokborok, and us, who are working on a translation of the Bible. At times even simple concepts don't seem to have a precise word. Did proper and precise Kokborok words ever exist for ordinary words like, say, 'grace', 'governance', 'discipline', 'feeling', 'charity', 'service', 'soul', 'freedom', 'choice', 'especially', 'profit', etc? Or they never did? If they did exist but gradually disappeared, it must have



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happened a long time ago. One also fails to see why such oft-required words should disappear due to disuse!

Almost all the Kokborok text we use for liturgy, prayer and worship are translated material. Lack of vocabulary is most often the speed breaking element in translation. Despite spending much time on considering possible options, the translator seldom comes up with a solution that's satisfactory enough. The loss of a word, they say, means loss of a concept. That's worrying because imagine introducing one into the extremely rich, complex and finely nuanced world of Christian faith sans the concept of 'grace', 'charity', 'penance', 'atonement', 'redemption' or a clear enough notion of 'soul'! How impoverished and superficial would that worldview be, from the Christian standpoint!

At the same time there are many aspects to Kokborok that show its innate resilience and promise. This is why the speakers of the language must delve deep into its potential and engender terms that bring to life these central concepts in all their grandeur and glory. Until that happens, they would do well to exercise restraint in their pursuit of 'pure Kokborok'. It is the time to show that a measure of flexibility and a readiness to borrow are the hallmarks of their enterprise, at least in matters of faith.

J. Pulinthanath, SDB

KHUMULWNG PARISH Parish Feast of St. Alphonsa



The parishioners of St. Alphonsa Parish Khumulwng, celebrated the Parish feast on 27th & 28th of July beginning with the Parish *Sabha*. Fr.

Valentine Dungdung SVD, the parish priest, welcomed the guests and the gathering. The prayer, singing, lighting of the lamp and cutting of the feast day cake gave a meaningful start for the program. Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD, the chief guest, gave a talk on "Importance and the need of SCC". This was followed by the presentation of Reports by different *mothas*. This Session was chaired by Fr. Valentine, Mr. Mangal Debbarma, parish secretary and Mr. Kamal Debbarma. The first day ended with a fellowship meal. On 28th August all the faithful gathered together at the premises of the Parish Church and had a colorful procession towards the Montfort School Hall. The feast day Mass was presided over by Fr. Arul CSC, along with other priests from different centers. There was also a short cultural program. Honorable Minister Mr. Mevar Kumar Jamatia was the Chief Guest, who spoke about the contribution made by the missionaries and the need to have more missionaries in Tripura. We were privileged to have Fr. Jeevan SVD, the director of JUST as a Guest of Honor. The presence of other Priests, Brothers and Sisters was very encouraging. There were dances and singing by different *mothas*, seminarians and hostel children, which made the program very joyful. The celebration ended with the sumptuous meal.

Seminary Day

Celebrations are occasions of rejoicing and thanksgiving. There was an occasion for such a celebration on 10th of August at Jeevadhara Diocesan Minor Seminary, the Seminary Day. The day began with the holy Mass presided over by Fr. Amalraj and concelebrated by Frs. Bosco, Lawrence, Valentine SVD and Stany SVD. During the homily Fr. Bosco exhorted everyone to have unwavering faith in Jesus and deep love to serve others. The short cultural program began with the welcoming words by Fr. Valentine SVD, the Rector of the Seminary and lighting of the lamp. Fr. Lawrence Darlong, the first indigenous diocesan priest for the Diocese of Agartala addressed all



the Seminarians and their parents regarding "the need of a diocesan priest and being a good seminarian". His words were very much supporting and encouraging. To add more colour to the celebration there were dances and singing. Finally the day ended with a fellowship meal with the parents.

Fr. Stany Pereira, SVD

DEPACHERRA PARISH St. Mary Vianney and Green Sunday celebrated



The feast of St. John Mary Vianney was celebrated in Depacherra Parish. St. John Mary Vianney is the patron of the diocesan priests who led an austere life and holiness is the hallmark of his priestly life. The celebration began on 3rd August with a cultural program. The local *mothas* and School students felicitated Bishop Lumen, Frs. Bhuban, Lawrence, Balan and Amalraj with flower bouquet and gifts. Bishop Lumen in his message invited all to pray for the priests that they may imitate the good qualities of St. John Mary Vianney by being holy and committed in serving God and His people.

On 4th August Green Sunday was observed. On this occasion Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, Mr. Burbo Mohan Tripura MLA, and Mr. Subrata Das SDFO, were present and gave short speeches. The faithful of the

parish prepared the liturgy of the Holy Mass. In his Message Bishop Lumen said "God has created this beautiful world for all of us but we destroy our mother earth by our selfishness and greed. We must be responsible and take care of our earth." After the holy Mass more than 500 saplings were planted and distributed to all the families of the parish.

Fr. Bhuvan Sarkar

AMBASSA PARISH

Green Sunday observed

Ambassa; 04 August, 2019: In collaboration



with the Dhalai District Forest office and Oisho Bani Society (NGO), Parishioners of Ambassa observed the Green Sunday by planting 500 saplings in different villages. The Parish Priest of Ambassa, Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD, requested the Forest officers to provide the saplings which were distributed to 10 villages to observe Green Sunday. In the Parish proper Parishioners, Students, District Forest Officers and Staff commemorated the Green Sunday. Range Officer Mr. Gautam Debbarma praised the Church leaders for observing the plantation day and bringing awareness among the people to safeguard the environment. The Parish Priest Fr. Ivan D'Silva spoke on 'destruction of the eco system by being selfish towards nature'. After the short awareness function all the people, young and old, students and teachers, officers and subordinates, dug a pit and planted the saplings. The responsibility continues, the planted saplings need to be taken care of!

News Bureau, Ambassa

MOHARPARA PARISH

Marriage Preparation Course

Immaculate Conception Parish Moharpara

organized two days Marriage Preparation Course on 13th and 14th of August. 25 couples



whose marriages are yet to be rectified took part in the program. The sessions helped them to understand the sacredness of marriage and their commitment as husbands and wives. The couples were made to reflect and see the goodness of marriage and its outcome. The participants were given opportunity to share their feelings and thoughts through group discussions and presentations. The program was successful due to the kind help and generosity of Fr. Bosco, Mr. Ashim Uchoi, Catechists and the *mondoli* Presidents and Secretaries.

Fr. Arbok, CSC

CATHEDRAL PARISH

Farewell and Installation

On 18th August 2019, the Cathedral Parish community witnessed the Installation of the new Parish Priest Fr. Robert Mathias CSC, and the Sendoff to Fr. Sahaya Lourdu Raj



CSC. Fr. Hormis John CSC, the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese did the Installation of the new Parish Priest. The Provincial Superior Fr. Simon CSC, and many Priests, Sisters and Parishioners were present to pray for their new pastor and wish him well as he took up the responsibility of the Parish. This was also an occasion for the parish community to thank and wish goodbye to their outgoing pastor Fr. Lourdu CSC, who bid farewell to the Parish after more than two years of service. Speeches, songs and felicitations were given to the outgoing

pastor, wishing him God's blessings and good health.

Catholic Marriage Assistance Program

On 23rd July at Cathedral we had the Catholic Marriage Assistance Program conducted for eligible Catholic singles of marriageable age to help build their marriage. It was an initiative executed with the enthusiastic support of Fr. Bosco Lathes, (Family Commission of the Diocese). Fr. Bosco gave an Input Session on the Sacrament of Marriage and explained to them about 'why' and 'how' the couples need to prepare themselves before entering into the marital bond. Mostly due to shyness the participants were less in number; yet the initiative was appreciated by those participants who were present and their parents. Fr. Bosco assured them that he will continue this effort and coordinate with the Parishes in our Diocese and help build Catholic Couples.

Fr. SahayaLourdu Raj CSC

KUMARGHAT PARISH

Charismatic Renewal

August 17 and 18 were grace filled days for St. Paul's Parish Kumarghat, as Bro.



Vicky led the faithful into two days of Reflection, Recollection and Renewal. Indeed the people were happy and many expressed their happiness over the Retreat. On 17th August, Saturday, around 300 people participated in the Retreat but on the following day, Sunday, the church overflowed with the faithful which was estimated to be over 600 from all the *mondolis*. Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC, the Parish Priest, thanked the Preacher, the faithful, the Sisters and the Priests who actively participated in the renewal event as part of the Golden Jubilee preparations.

Diocese News Nuggets

Jesuits Mission in Tripura

The first ever celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola in Tripura Jesuit Mission was organized with great pomp and jubilation at the temporary Jesuit residence in Jamtali village near Kailashahar. The mesmerizing presence and the exhilarating and applauding felicitations offered by Bishop Lumen, mixed with a spontaneous overflow of his musical and creative caliber enhanced the impressive festal celebrations. The presence of over 50 Priests and Sisters of the North Zone of our Diocese with heartfelt and sincere expressions of love, brotherhood and



collaboration, rendered the evening's celebrations a glorious one. The villagers, irrespective of churches poured in to participate in this memorable festal event in their village.

The Prayer Service, saturated with Ignatian

thoughts and polyphonic hymns was conducted by the youth of the village. Earlier, the Bishop and the august audience were received by the children of the Remedial Education classes, the tiny tots of the Nursery school and the teachers, who organized a thrilling program with a variety entertainment. We are deeply grateful to our beloved Bishop and all those who participated and many other friends who wished us on the occasion.

Fr. Syriac Panjikanan, SJ

Training of Federation Leaders on Resource Mobilization and Linkages

JUST organized a training on Resource Mobilization and Linkages at JUST hall Agartala. The resource person was Mr. Jivan Debbarma DPM NERLP from Shipaijala District. 30 SHG members attended the training. The resource person shared about MFIs, and concept of SHGs and also shared about the inter group loaning and federation loaning which is also a kind of a small micro finance institute. Federation and group loans are the economical support for the SHG



members to take up their IGA activities. He said if you carry this process forward and maintain well groups don't need to depend on bank loan or MFI loan. He explained with several examples on how IGA can be sustained.

JUST provides Livelihood Support to SHGs. Training

As a part of supporting livelihood enterprises of SHG's women, 30 women from Ganganagar R.D. Block were provided Rs. 3500/- each through their respective group by JUST with the support of ROTTENBURG for purchasing of animals for livelihood enterprise. All the women had purchased piglet accordingly. After receiving the assistance they thanked JUST for the support and said that they will make full use of this benefit and expand their livelihood.

Mr. Cyril Darlong

Mother expects Kerala nun's canonization to miraculously cure son



Jessy Joppy expects to see the miracle of her 5-year-old son walking on Oct. 13, the day when Pope Francis is to declare an Indian nun, Blessed Mariam Thresia, a saint. The boy, Ebin Joppy, has been unable to sit or walk since birth and medical treatments have failed to correct his condition. However, the intercession of the nun will work a miracle on the day of canonization, his mother believes. The mortal remains of the nun are entombed in the pilgrim center, attracting hundreds to

seek the blessing and intercession of the nun, who lived and worked in nearby villages. The process of her canonization began in 1971. In 1999 the first step was completed when she was called a venerable, or servant of God. She was beatified in 2000. She is the fourth Indian nun and third from Kerala to be canonized. Besides St. Teresa of Kolkata, two Kerala nuns St. Alphonsa and St. Euphrasia have been canonized in recent years. The programs at the Vatican include a night vigil on the eve of the ceremony, the canonization ceremony and a thanksgiving Mass on October 14. *Source: UCAN*

The Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed earlier this year by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmed el-Tayeb, reinforces this: "Freedom is a right of every person: each individual enjoys the freedom of belief, thought, expression and action." The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom, through which He created human beings. This divine wisdom is the source from which the right to freedom of belief and the freedom to be different derives. Therefore, the fact that people are forced to adhere to a certain religion or culture must be rejected, as too the imposition of a cultural way of life that others do not accept. Justice based on mercy is the path to follow in order to achieve a dignified life to which every human being has a right. Dialogue, understanding and the widespread promotion of a culture of tolerance, acceptance of others and of living together peacefully would contribute significantly to reducing many economic, social, political and

Thanks for the un-failed Link on the 1st of the month. Appreciate you for the dedication and devotion in preparing the Link and dispatching it on the dawn of every 1st of the month.

Fr. G. P. Amalraj, Guwahati

Thank you for the Link and being very prompt each month. I always keenly wait for the Link. *Bro. Peter Veda, SG, Agartala*

Sincere thanks for LINK which comes to us so regularly. It really reflects the life of the diocese. It is the first of August and I have already read it. I feel one with you and your people.

J. Charles Descary, CSC

Thanks indeed for sending me the LINK from Agartala. I was very glad to glance through the different activities of the mission Diocese of Agartala in the past month.

Fr. Jolly, Caritas India, Delhi

Thank you Bishop for the LINK. May God bless you and reward you for your dedicated service always and every time...! *Sr. Celine FMA, Agartala*

Thank you for the August Link. As usual on time and full of insights and information.

Bro. Varghese.SG, Guwahati

Thank you Bishop for the latest updates on the events and happenings in the Diocese. *Sr. Marina BS, Siliguri*

environmental problems that weigh so heavily on a large part of humanity...The concept of citizenship is based on the equality of rights and duties, under which all enjoy justice. It is therefore crucial to establish in our societies the concept of full citizenship and reject the discriminatory use of the term minorities which engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority. Its misuse paves the way for hostility and discord; it undoes any successes and takes away the religious and civil rights of some citizens who are thus discriminated against..." *Source: Zenit*

Bishop's Program for September 2019

- 01-05: NERPC & Bishops Meet at NEDSSS Guwahati
- 05: St. Mother Teresa Feast, Agartala
- 07-08: Parish Feast, Tuikarmaw
- 09-11: Episcopal Golden Jubilee of Abp Mittathany, Imphal
- 12: Holecatt Chapel Blessing, Tuikarmaw Parish
- 14: Confirmations at Dulubari, Bagbasa Parish
- 15: 1st Communion & Girl Child Day, Kumarghat Parish
- 17: Consultors Meet, Agartala
- 18-28: *Ad Limina* and Audience with Pope Francis, Rome
- 29: Parish Feast, Kamaranga

Our Distinguished Visitors

- John Zosiama, SDB Vice Provincial from Shillong
- Fr. Jose Varickasseril, SDB, from Mawlai Shillong
- Sr. Joy, BS Provincial from Guwahati
- Sr. Sandhya, BS Vice Provincial from Guwahati
- Mr. Savio from NEDSSS Guwahati
- Mrs. Mary K, Fr. Shaiju's mother from Kerala
- Sr. Catherine Elavunkal, SABS Provincial Superior from Dimapur
- Sr. Mercitta, SABS Vice Provincial from Dimapur
- CSC Brothers from Bangladesh: Kajol Linus, Provat Placid, Joseph Sumon, Toren Joseph, Sanchoy Mathias, Rocy Justine, Romeo Paul, Antony Sumon, Roxy Joseph, Xavier Janet, Shawon Lawrence, Joy Xavier, and Protim Xavier
- Sr. Grace SD, Provincial Superior and Sr. Pauline SD from Gaziabad, UP
- Msgr. Joy Palliakkara, Vicar General of Irinjalakuda, Kerala
- Fr. Stephen McGuckin, MC from Australia
- Sr. Mary Thadavanal, MSMHC Provincial Superior from Guwahati