



## Pastor's Corner

### **IQ vs EQ vs SQ vs AQ**

This is post that I received from Dr. Pachipala on FB and found it very informative and useful. His advice, "do not prepare the road for your children but prepare your children for the road" should be heeded by all of us. **+Lumen, CSC**

"According to Psychologists, there are four types of Quotients:

1) Intelligence Quotient (IQ); 2) Emotional Quotient (EQ)

3) Social Quotient (SQ); 4) Adversity Quotient (AQ)

1. Intelligence Quotient (IQ): This is the measure of your level of comprehension. You need IQ to solve math, memorize things, and recall lessons.

2. Emotional Quotient (EQ): This is the measure of your ability to maintain peace with others, keep to time, be responsible, be honest, respect boundaries, and be humble, genuine and considerate.

3. Social Quotient (SQ): this is the measure of your ability to build a network of friends and maintain it over a long period of time.

Your EQ represents your Character, while your SQ represents your Charisma. Give in to habits that will improve these three Qs, especially your EQ and SQ.

Now there is a fourth one, a new paradigm:

4. The Adversity Quotient (AQ): The measure of your ability to go through a rough patch in life, and come out of it without losing your mind. When faced with troubles, AQ determines who will give up, who will abandon their family, and who will consider suicide.

Parents should expose their children to other areas of life than just Academics. Develop their IQ, as well as their EQ, SQ and AQ so that they should become multifaceted human beings. Finally remember, do not prepare the road for your children. Prepare your children for the road."

### **Solutions to Human Trafficking**

I was privileged to attend an International Conference in Rome by the Santa Marta Group which brought together decision-makers to share their experiences and initiatives, learn from each other and find solutions to human trafficking. Inviting us to this Conference Cardinal Nichols of Westminster and President of the Group said, "Our aim through this Conference is to re-



*focus and re-energise our activities in light of a worsening situation across the world, caused by the pandemic and continuing conflict and instability in many regions. Through open and honest presentations and discussions, we aim to learn from and support each other in our future work, which we will share with Pope Francis at the close of the Conference."* In his address to the participants the Holy Father thanked the Santa Marta Group for its ongoing commitment in seeking to eradicate this criminal activity "that violates the dignity and rights of men, women and children and leaves long-lasting effects upon individual victims and the broader society... Although the task is indeed daunting, I encourage you to persevere in your efforts to uphold the God-given dignity of every person and to defend the fundamental human rights of those who are all too often forgotten and have no voice", the Pontiff said. The occasion provided me an opportunity to meet Pope Francis and also to participate in the Canonization ceremony of 10 Saints, including St. Devasahayam. **+Lumen, CSC**



## International Conference on

### EDITORIAL

Recent political goings-ons in the State have awakened us to the fact that another round of elections are in the offing. It has also engendered the usual and predictable pre-election squabbles and gossips about manifestos, alliances, and



## Unfamiliar Incursions

numbers adding up. Occasionally one also comes across social media posts that lament the lack of 'our' candidates, and 'our' ministers.

We as Christians seem to have an ambivalent attitude to active politics. Something seems to whisper within us that engaging in politics isn't for someone

who takes his Christian faith seriously. Pope Francis, however, has a different take on the matter. About seven years ago during an informal question answer session with members of some Italian Christian groups Pope Francis said Catholics must get involved in politics even if it may be "dirty," frustrating and fraught with failure. In the context of today's "throwaway" culture and endless problems facing humanity, a good Catholic must not merely 'watch from the balcony'. He must 'get right in' there! It is the duty of Christians to work for the common good in the world of politics, the pope said, adding that that does not mean forming a Catholic political party. He further clarified that the Church is not a political

party but the community of Christians who adore the Father, follow the way of the Son and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That doesn't, however, prevent individual Catholics from getting involved and "embroiled" in politics, the Pope said, because it is one of the "highest forms of charity" since it seeks the common good. Yet it isn't easy, because one must also ensure that he or she does not become corrupt or discouraged, Pope Francis said. With political permutations and commutations becoming the order of the day in our own state, we do right in considering if we as educators have paid enough attention to forming the conscience of our subjects so that they can meaningfully engage in one of the "highest forms of charity" called politics!

**J. Pulinthanath, SDB**

## Parish News Briefs

### MANDWI PARISH

#### Blessing and Inauguration of Parish Church

The 1<sup>st</sup> of May was a memorable day for Mandwi Parish: On this day the parish Church was blessed



and inaugurated. The Church was inaugurated by Fr. Paul Panachickal, SDB, senior Salesian and Golden Jubilarian of the region. The new Church was solemnly blessed by His Lordship Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, in a very impressive and prayerful ceremony when the church was packed to capacity. After the ceremony of blessing, the parish was consecrated to Mary Help of Christians through a prayer led by the Parish Priest Fr. Hubert, SDB. The Holy Eucharist was presided by His Lordship, 27 Priests 42 Religious Sisters and Brothers and over 1,000 people.

After the Mass there was a short felicitation program organized by the Parish Council. As a sign of welcome, all the Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and special invitees were given a *risha*. Towards the end of the felicitation the Parish Priest thanked His Lordship and all the local and foreign donors for their generosity and support in completing the Church. The financial support of the parishioners was well appreciated when a number of them were given mementos for their generous support. The Parish Secretary thanked the parishioners, particularly many different associations and villages, sisters, hostel girls and boys for making the Church clean and beautiful for the inauguration. The program concluded with the festive lunch.

**Bro. Dinimemon Shylla, SDB**

### KUMARGHAT PARISH

#### Fathers' Day Celebration

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, combining with the feast of St Joseph the Worker, Kumarghat Parish organized Fathers' Day to

honour the Fathers. There were over 90 fathers who participated from different *mondolis*. The celebration started at 9:00am with a Session by Fr Jyoti SJ. The Resource Person gave them inputs on the role and responsibility of

fatherhood and also highlighted the role of St Joseph as a beloved Father. Each dad should give his time and energy to build up the family. Each dad has to be a role model to his children. He has to give time to the children, eat together and pray together. He also used the slogan "Family which prays together stays together". During the holy Mass all the dads offered themselves along with offertory gifts and after the final blessing, the celebrants blessed all the fathers by laying their hands on them. A group photo was taken to mark the day. Fun filled group games were organized by Fr. Lancy, Sr. Bastian, Mr. Roitua and Mr. Thomas, after which the winners were awarded with prizes. They relished the refreshment and food served to them. The dynamic event concluded at 2:00p.m. It was a memorable event which the fathers will cherish for their lifetime. **Sr. Bernadette FS**

#### Catechism Teachers Workshop



A day's animation workshop was organized for the Catechism Teachers on 21<sup>st</sup> May at St. Paul's church,

Kumarghat. 47 volunteers from 12 villages participated in the animation program. The Parish Council felt the need to organize the same for their effective spiritual enhancement. Fr. Lancy CSC gave the first Session and explained the importance of faith formation of the children of the village and parish. He made the Teachers aware that if we do not intensify faith formation for our children, then they will not know who God is, values in life, sacredness of the sacraments and the Church. In the long run we will be responsible for not giving them the faith formation through the catechism classes. Mr. Roitua Darlong explained various ways to create interest in the children and how to teach them catechism. Sr. Bastian FS gave a Session on the Role of the Catechism Teachers and their responsibilities in the *mondolis*. Fr. Lancy PP celebrated the Holy Eucharist and blessed all the participants. Later in the afternoon we discussed and entrusted the various responsibilities to the leaders. The Catechism Teachers were asked to do a survey in the village. The Parish Priest placed an order for the Bengali Catechism Books from Krishnanagar Diocese. In the end we had short evaluation. Everyone appreciated the Workshop. Fr. Lancy thanked all the participants and the Resource Team for their great service and gave them a blessing. *Mr. Roitua Darlong*

### BODHJUNGNAGAR PARISH

#### Welcome Holy Spirit



Among the many Sacraments in the Catholic Church the Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the important sacraments. This sacrament binds us in faith. On 8<sup>th</sup> May, Good Shepherd Sunday, the Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC Bishop of Agartala Diocese conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to 133 adults from 24 *mothas* under St. Andre Parish Bodhjunnagar. On that same occasion Fr. Ishwar CSC was welcomed to the Parish as the new Assistant Priest and Principal of Saint Andre School. Kudos to Parish Priest Rev. Fr Jayaseelan CSC, the Catechists and all the people who offered their support to make the program a blissful experience. The whole program ended with a fellowship meal. *Fr. Ishwar, CSC*

### KHUMULWNG PARISH

#### Retreat cum Discipleship Training Program (DTP)



Our Parish organized a Charismatic Retreat cum Discipleship Training Program for all the faithful from May 1 to 7. There were 32 Animators from Kerala who had spent their first 3 days in the different *mothas*, stayed with them, visited them, prayed for them and encouraged them to come closer to God, and remain loyal to the church. Next 3 days all the faithful from different *mothas* numbering around 500 people gathered in the Parish church for the Retreat. Fr. Valentine SVD had meticulously arranged all the programs and made available the Sacrament of Reconciliation for every one with the assistance of Frs. Antony SVD, Davis SDB, and Babu SJ. The faithful experienced a great spiritual blessing and expressed their exuberating joy and delight. Leaders of different *mothas* felicitated their animators and shared with them their joy. Food was served for all the participants during the retreat. *Bro. M. Anvesh*

### DEPACHERRA PARISH

#### Vacation Bible School

Depacherra Parish under the innovative guidance of its Parish Priest Fr. Lawrence Darlong and the supportive



assistance of its Assistant Priest Fr. Amalraj, Catechists, Leaders, and the Youth organized Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the Catholic children and the Youth of the Parish from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May. It was a great time of learning for the 238 participants, who were further divided into 6 Groups for various competitions like games, Bible verses recitation, skit based on parables, Bible quiz, singing, dancing, etc., besides three input sessions each day. Through this program they were given an opportunity to broaden their knowledge about the Bible, Sacraments and other teachings of the

## 4 Parish News Briefs

Catholic Church. All said that they were glad and grateful on having received such an occasion to equip themselves with the knowledge of the Holy Scripture. The prizes were distributed to each winner of the various competitions. The summer VBS program ended with a fellowship picnic and all went home convinced and contented. *Bro. Subrai Jamatia*

### AMBASSA DEANERY

#### Assembly of Women in the Deanery



14 May, 2022: Ambassa Deanery decided to hold a Meeting of Women Leaders for the first time at the Deanery level. Sr. Jolly Kotaratil F.S. the Secretary of Women Commission planned this gathering and Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD the Dean of Ambassa Deanery agreed to conduct the meeting in his parish. She also contacted all the Parish Priests of the Deanery to send Women for the Meeting. There were 64 participants from different Parishes who came along with the Rev. Sisters who are active with Women's Groups in their own Parishes. At 9:00am, all the Women gathered in the Hall for the input session. Sr. Jolly welcomed them all and Ambassa Women Leaders greeted the Sisters from all the Parishes with traditional tribal attire. Fr. Ivan instructed the

Women on leadership, family prayer, Vocation, upbringing of children, etc. After that a Deanery level Committee of 4 Women was formed who would gather often and steer the Women to action. The Assembly was concluded with lunch. *Ivan D'Silva, SVD*

### GANDACHERRA PARISH

#### Vacation Bible School (VBS)

St. Arnold Parish Gandacherra, organized 'Vacation



Bible School' (V.B.S.) for 4 days intensively from 14<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. 120 children from different substations of the Parish participated and benefitted through this V.B.S. program. The main reason to organize this program was to minister to the children and to help them strengthen their faith. This purpose was supported by a creative theme of Bible study, worship, activities, competitions (Biblical Skit, Bible Quiz, Dance, and Singing), games, religious movies, etc. The meticulous planning of Fr. Prasad along with local faith-formators helped children to learn about God, Bible and the Church in a relaxed setting combining fun, age-appropriate activities and learning. At the end of the program, prizes were awarded to winners of different competitions and mementos were given to all the children. Thus, this faith program has encouraged children to strongly live a life of witness. *Bro. Derick*

## News Briefs from the Diocese

### Don Bosco School Agartala steps into the Silver Year

AGARTALA, 02 May 2022: Don Bosco School Agartala marked its entry into the Silver Jubilee Year of its existence through a small but elegant function held at the school this morning. Amidst thunderous applause by the students, Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD, the Chief Guest declared open the yearlong Silver Jubilee celebrations and wished the Principal, Staff, and the Students. To commemorate the milestone the Prelate also blessed the foundation stone of the Silver Jubilee Annex that will eventually house the lower classes. Bishop Lumen also blessed the bust of Don Bosco in the newly created 'Bosco Balcony', set up in order to commemorate the arrival of the first Salesians to North East India



exactly 100 years ago.

It was on this day, 2nd May, twenty-five years ago in 1997, that Don Bosco School Agartala was established. At the invitation of Fr. MC George, the first Principal of the School, Bishop Monteiro had blessed the School in the presence of (L) Archbishop Jala, who then was the Provincial, and the Hon'ble Minister Shri Keshab Majumdar, Fr. (L) KJ Joseph, Fr. PJ Joseph and a modest gathering of students and parents. The Bishop recalled his long association with the School right from its beginnings and expressed joy at being there again at the commencement of its Silver Jubilee year. He wished the present leadership – Fr. Christopher SDB the Rector, Fr. Sebastian SDB the Principal, Fr. Junas SDB the Vice Principal, and Fr. PJ Joseph SDB, and all staff and students a wonderful Jubilee year ahead. Present on the occasion were Sr. Marystella FMA, Superior of Auxilium, and Sr. Maya MSMHC, Superior of Ferrando Institute. *DBS News Desk*

### Montfort School Agartala

On 21st April 2022, Hon'ble Sri John Barla, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, visited our School. A well planned welcome program was organized to felicitate the Minister. Cultural dance and Yogasanas were the



most prominent features of the event. The Hon'ble Minister was pleased by the growth of this budding Institution. He told the students to be ambitious and take up leadership roles. He also appreciated Rev. Bro. Principal for the development of the School. On 7th May 2022, Shri Ram Prasad Paul, Tripura Govt. Minister of Minorities and Welfare was the Chief Guest at the Investiture Ceremony. All the appointed students were given badges by the Hon'ble Minister. Thereafter the contingents of the four Houses performed the march past followed by the oath taking ceremony. *Bro. Peter Veda SG*

**Pallottine Sisters at Twichakma bless Foundation**

Taking Jesus as the cornerstone of our mission we the Pallottine Sisters from Twichakma had the joy of laying the foundation for the Convent and Girls Hostel on 4<sup>th</sup> May. It was a memorable day in the history of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in India, (known as Pallottine Sisters). Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD blessed our foundation marking the birth of our Convent and girls Hostel Building at Twichakma. We were privileged to have our Provincial Superior, Sr. Helen Lourdasamy SAC, the Holy Cross Fathers, Holy Spirit Sisters, Holy Cross Sisters from Moharpara and Twithampui, the faithful and the students of Holy Cross School Twichakma. The children of our School welcomed the Bishop with joy and cheer. Our Bishop was happy to see the progress of the School under the leadership of Fr. Alfred CSC and watchful eyes of the Headmistress Sr. Sharmila SAC. The Bishop offered a thanksgiving Eucharist for all the blessings received by the Pallottine Sisters especially in the mission of Tripura. The celebration ended with a sumptuous meal for all. *Sr. Sinha Pereira SAC*

**Diocesan Women Commission holds Deanery Level Meetings of 5 Deaneries**

In the month of April and May five meetings were held at five



Deaneries of the Diocese by the Women Commission. Sr. Jolly FS the Diocesan Coordinator for Women Commission called for the meetings of Women leaders from Agartala, Moharpara, Depacherra, Ambassa and Kumarghat Deaneries on 21, 22 & 30 April and 14 & 15 of May respectively. There were 35 to 70 participants at various Deanery levels and the Meetings were very good. At every Meeting



the Dean of the respective Deanery addressed the Women Leaders encouraging them to take up leadership roles in the church. They also spoke about the role of Women in the Synodal church and asked them to be available for the church activities.

Sr. Sunanda SND the Northeast Regional Coordinator for Women Commission from Guwahati, was present for the first two Deanery level Meetings. She encouraged the Women Leaders saying that there is lot of strength and power in Women. If they stand together and work for the society they can achieve greater things in life. She also asked them to list out their strengths and weaknesses and found that their strength points were more. Thus she encouraged them to be successful leaders in their own areas and help other Women to come forward to assist one another in life situations.

At Khumulwng Parish of Moharpara Deanery "Earth Day" was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April symbolically planting a sapling by the Women Leaders. Sr. Sunanda SND explained about the importance of planting trees and caring for the earth.



Sr. Jolly also spoke to the Women Leaders from all the Deaneries and explained to them about the Women Commission and its activities and the need to form Deanery level Committees. Five Deaneries Committees were formed for better and effective leadership and decision making. There was a good cooperation from all the Parish Priests, Sisters and the Women Leaders from the parishes which made the Deanery level meetings and election of Committee Members successful. *Sr. Jolly Kottarathil FS*

**News Briefs from all Over**

**Pope Francis announces 21 new Cardinals from around the world**



At the conclusion of the Regina Coeli on Sunday, 29th May, Pope Francis announced that he will create 21 new Cardinals at a Consistory on 27 August.

The Holy Father said, "On Saturday, 27 August, I will hold a Consistory for the creation of new Cardinals. Let us pray that they will help me in my mission as Bishop of Rome for the good of all God's people." Two of the new Cardinals are from India: Archbishop Filipe Neri António Sebastião di Rosário Ferrão - Archbishop of Goa and Damão (India) and Archbishop Anthony Poola - Archbishop of Hyderabad (India).

(vaticannews.va)

**Bishop Thomas Anthonios is appointed as Bishop of Gurgaon**

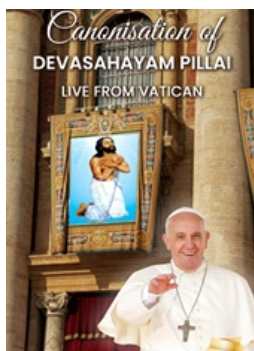
The Holy Father has appointed Thomas Mar Anthonios Valiyavilayil OIC (66) Bishop of the Eparchy of St. John Chrysostom of Gurgaon (Delhi) of the Syro-Malankara, transferring him from the Eparchy of St. Ephrem of Khadki (Pune). This provision was made public on 7 May 2022. The Syro Malankara Synod having received the prior Papal Assent, canonically elected Rev.



Dr. Antony Kakkanatt as the Bishop of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and Rev. Dr. Mathew Manakkarakavil as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Major Archeprarchy of Trivandrum. (CCBI via CNUA)

### Be Courageous like St. Devasahayam urges Cardinal Oswald Gracias

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay and the President of the CBCI, and one of the topmost Consultors of Pope Francis appealed to everyone to become courageous like St. Devasahayam. “St. Devasahayam is a beacon for all suffering people and his brave suffering is an inspiration. He is a courageous person with deep conviction and a living legend. The Canonization of India's first married layman and martyr is important not



only for India but for the millions of Christians who suffer in silence for their faith around the world,” said Cardinal Gracias. Cardinal Oswald Gracias was releasing the Book: “Saint Devasahayam: Martyrdom of Devasahayam a Grace to the Church in India”, in a small function held on 18th May 2022 at Sarvodaya, Goregaon, Mumbai. He handed over the first copy of the book to Ms. Cherylanne Menezes, advisory board member of the CCBI Youth Commission. Most Rev. Anil Couto, Secretary General, CCBI and Archbishop of Delhi, Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General, CCBI and Rev. Sr. Licia Joseph, SMI were present on the occasion. The book is published by the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI).

*Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General CCBI*

## JUST News Briefs

### Training on Good Governance

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) organized a training on 'Good Governance' with the SHGs Federation Members of JUST at Baijalbari, Borkathal, Twikarmaw, Belbari, Burburia and Durjoynar in the month of May 2022. The Resource Persons were Ms. Larisa Debbarma and Ms. Momita Reang. 105 SHG Members attended the



training in their respective federation Centre. During the training the Resource Persons shared the concept of 'Governance' and how this concept can be implemented in their decision-making process during their group meetings. They also explained the 8 major characteristics of Good Governance which are Participation, Rule of Law, Consensus, Equity and Inclusiveness, Effectiveness and Efficiency, Accountability, Transparency and Responsiveness. The Resource Persons conducted a game and group work with the SHG Members in

order to have clear concept on Good Governance and ended the training.

### Awareness Campaign on Anti-War Toys

The JUST Peace project staff conducted an awareness campaign on Anti- War Toys with the Peace club members in all the 17 Schools targeted areas in the month of May 2022. The peace staff explained, toys are popularly used for children's play across the continent and its enjoyable means of training and educate the children at home or in the society. But today, some toys that are available, unwittingly encourage factionalism and feud among children and teach them violence



and elimination of one another through imitations of dangerous weapon. The peace staff shared that ANTI- WAR TOYS is nothing but a campaign to do away with war toys as guns, tanks, rockets, bombs, etc., from being manufactured and distributed as toys among children.

*Mr. Cyril Darlong*

## Bishop's Program for June 2022

- 05: Installation of Parish Priest, Tuikarmaw
- 11: Diocesan Synod, Cathedral Agartala
- 12: Parish Feast and Confirmation, Bishramganj
- 14: Blessing of SAC Convent & Hostel, Bagbasa
- 18: Blessing of School Extension, Gandacherra
- 19: Parish Pastoral Program, Gandacherra
- 22-July 22: Mission Appeals, USA

## Our Distinguished Guests

- Sr. Helen Lourduswamy, SAC Provincial from Bangalore
- Relatives of Fr. Jaibu SVD: Fr. Prashant SVD from Indore; Jubi & Johnny from USA; Joby & Gigi from USA; Geenu from USA; and Judy from USA.
- Sr. Berchmans, SRA Provincial from Mumbai
- Sr. Lalita, SRA Provincial Councilor from Mumbai