



## Pastor's Corner

### Jubilee Joy Doubled with Nuncio's Presence

Agartala Diocese celebrated the Twin Jubilees of the Holy Cross Congregational presence in NE India and Mariamnagar first Parish. The celebrations on October



25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> witnessed the presence of H. E. the Papal Ambassador to India on his maiden visit. The Bishop, the Holy Cross

community and Laity gave H.E. a rousing reception at the Airport and later at the Town Hall. The concelebrated Mass with other Bishops, priests and religious was a real blessing. Over 2,000 people from various Parishes in NE attended.

### Asking forgiveness...Seeking direction

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate in the US, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

*"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good", but that is exactly what we have done.*

*We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.*

*We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.*

*We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.*

*We have killed our unborn and called it choice.*

*We have shot anti-abortionists and called it justifiable.*

*We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.*

*We have abused power and called it politics.*

*We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition."*

*We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.*

*We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.*

*Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"*

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. But in 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

It's time to ask forgiveness, seek direction, and make a difference. God bless. +Lumen, CSC



## Editorial

### Renewed by Grace

A week ago we celebrated the 150 years of mission legacy of the Holy Cross congregation in Northeast India and 75 years of the first Holy Cross community in Tripura. 150 years is a long period of time by human standards, and trying to imagine how life must have been a century and half before is perhaps a near impossible job. Confronted with the dizzying pace of change we struggle to catch up with today, we can safely assume life was different, very different then.



What makes a historical milestone like this truly celebration-worthy and significant is perhaps not merely the span of time gone past, but what it is made up of. It is made up of stories of valiant men who crusaded a cause they believed in, and for its sake bravely took on the challenges of unfamiliar terrains and unheard of cultures.

When such passion and zeal encountered the ever-amazing cultures and peoples of Northeast India, even more fascinating realities were born - realities that have thenceforth transformed people, their lifestyle and the society itself. The jubilee is our way of recognizing and registering these in the annals of history.

A jubilee such as this can also engender in us a romantic nostalgia for idealized older worlds and simpler states of being. But a Religious Order like the Holy Cross is far too entrenched in the lives and destinies of ordinary people and their present day agonies to retreat into the solace that an idealized past seems to offer. In that sense, this Jubilee is more about the present and the future than about the past. It is about renewing enthusiasm and resolve, about marching ahead and continuing the 'legacy'.

Tripura, in particular, has been fortunate to have the Holy Cross missionaries. Being the very first people to bring the 'Good News' to this ancient land, there is a peculiar and blessed bond between this beautiful land and the Holy Cross congregation. Having benefitted directly or indirectly from that connect, the Jubilee is an opportunity for everyone in Tripura to join the Congregation in their hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God. **J. Pulinthanath, sdb**

## St. Francis Assisi Parish Gachirampara Parish Feast

Gachirampara Parish celebrated its patron Saint Francis of Assisi Feast on 12th October. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev.



Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC. The day was very grand and beautiful through the meaningful Liturgy, melodious singing and glittering cultural items from hostel students as well as from different *mondolis*. Our joy was doubled with the gracious presence of Fathers and Sisters from Agartala and various parishes and communities. We ask St. Francis of Assisi to pray for us.

*Fr. Prasanna Kumar ofm cap.*

## Global News Tidbits

### Pope Francis' Final Address to the Synod Fathers

"With a heart full of appreciation and gratitude I want to thank, along with you, the Lord who has accompanied and guided us in the past days, with the light of the Holy Spirit",

said Pope Francis. He has ensured that the world will be fully aware of results of this synod on the family and has warned the world's top Church officials against various temptations, including being too rigid, as well as too soft. Speaking to the nearly 200 prelates gathered at the Synod of Bishops on the family's final session Saturday afternoon, the Holy Father cautioned Synod Fathers against "a temptation to hostile inflexibility". He also cautioned them to not fall into "destructive tendency" of being do-gooders, saying "that in the name of a deceptive mercy binds the wounds without first curing them and treating them." The Pope's final discourse, at the conclusion of these two weeks full of debate, not only wrapped up this synod, but seemed to lay the groundwork for the second phase of the synod on the family, set to take place a year from now. (Zenitnews.org)



## Youth Gathering

At Holy Spirit Church Ambassa more than 50 youth gathered on 8<sup>th</sup> October from 20 sub-stations of the Parish to discuss on the importance of Youth Power. When the Tripura Hindus were celebrating their Puja festival with vivid *pandals* and people were thronging to see the decorated statues with their new dresses, Ambassa Parish organized a Youth Seminar during the festival holidays. The Youth assembled from 9.00am to 4.00pm to form a new Youth Committee in the Parish and to commit themselves for a higher cause. Dr. Ashok Debbarma, Mr. Nathunglian Halam, and Mr. Indrojit Sangma were the Resource Persons to speak on varied subjects-- importance of the family, youth power and prayer. New Office Bearers from different villages were elected to take up the new challenges ahead. An Action Plan was drawn with many activities to be implemented. They have decided to come together once in three months to discuss and evaluate their mission.



*Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD*

## Blessing of Bagmara Chapel

October 6<sup>th</sup> was destined to be a red letter days for Bagmara faithful... on that day they witnessed the blessing of their Chapel 'Our Lady of Fatima' built by their hands. A large number of Catholics from different parts of the Diocese thronged the venue to partake in and double the joy of Bagmara people. Carrying the statues of Mother Mary and Jesus, the people marched to the new church in procession, singing jubilant hymns and reciting the Rosary.



Fr. Thomas Thengumpally CSC, inaugurated the new Chapel and Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC blessed it. The solemn holy Eucharist was presided over by the Local Ordinary. Many priests and religious Sisters attended. With one heart everyone prayed for the continual showers of

God's blessings upon Bagmara community. The cultural programme after Mass enthralled the audience with its richness in quality, quantity and variety. All the guests as well as the people who made the dream of a new church a reality were felicitated by the parishioners. Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD, the Parish Priest thanked the gathering for their presence and prayers. The Bagmara people's hard work, hospitality, organization and meticulous construction of the Chapel within a short span of 8 months drew profuse appreciation from all. A sumptuous banquet marked a fitting end to the day's celebration. *Fr. Mifflin SVD*

## Small Christian Community Seminar

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Ambassa organized a day long SCC Seminar on September 21. Around 50 parish leaders participated in the programme. The Parishioners were eagerly waiting to hear some Input on 'A new way of being a Christian' and Fr. Lancy D' Souza, CSC the Secretary of the SCC Commission agreed to give a one day session for the leaders of the Parish. Though the SCC units already existed they lacked the real zeal and enthusiasm to function. People had the idea of SCC as only Bible sharing and nothing beyond that. The Input convinced our parishioners to come together and form more SCC units and participate in the Church activities with more fervor. The Resource Person influenced them through his practical classes.



*Fr. Ivan, SVD*

## Bagbasa Holy Cross Parish

### On Going Charismatic Inner Healing Retreats

The Charismatic Inner Healing Retreat was conducted from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September at Holy Cross Parish Bagbasa by Fr. C. R. Paul CSC. It was a wonderful experience for the 25 people who attended the inner healing for three days and 150 people on the concluding day. Many people got physical healing which they publically gave witness. Of the nine people who were reported healed, three of the them got cured of kidney stone, one for eye pain, one from tumor in the stomach, two of them from back pain and one could walk.



Every first Friday from 9.00am to 1pm there is Fasting & Inner Healing Service. On 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November there is Inner Healing Retreat at St. Paul's Parish Kumarghat, on the theme 'Confess You Will Be Healed. December 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Inner Healing Retreat at Bagbasa on the theme "By His Wounds you have been Healed" (1Pet 2:24) All are welcome. Contact Fr. C. R. Paul on the following Nos. 8974441247/9436175227





### Our Readers Write

It is always a great feeling to receive the LINK. I quickly went through the content of its September issue and was so happy to read a lot of evangelization works done in the Diocese of Agartala. **Fr. Jolly, Caritas India, Delhi**

It is with great interest that I read the LINK every time it is published. Please know of my prayers for the Church in the Diocese of Argartala. So much good seems to be happening there! God bless all in the Diocese as you continue to live the gospel message and share God's love. **Rev. Tom O'Hara, CSC, USA**

As always excellent work on LINK. **Rev. John Britto, CSC, USA**

Thanks for LINK... always so newsy! Your "Pastor's Corner" gives me a good lesson. **Bro. Conrad, CSC, Canada**

Thanks for the Link and the news item. **Fr. Prasanna, OFM Cap. Gachirampara**

I received your kind email with "the LINK". Thank you very much for your kind concern to us. **+Andrew Marak, Tura**

Thank you so much for the Link October 2014. **Sr. Rihun, FMA, Agartala**

Thank you very much for the greetings and Link. Congratulations. **Sr. Mary C D, MSMHC**

## St. Joseph School Gokulnagar

The dream of having an exhibition in our St. Joseph School Gokulnagar became a reality on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. It was an opportunity given to all our students to bring out their God given gifts and talents. With prior preparations, much planning and the generosity, willingness and co-operation of the Staff, Parents, Sisters, Well-wishers and the good weather the program was a big success. Sr. Casilda, AC, the Headmistress and Fr. Roby, CSC, the Principal of our School took great trouble, working hand in hand, to make this day a happy and memorable one.



The program began with the arrival of our Guests and special dignitaries and invitees. Sr. Casilda with an Opening Prayer inaugurated the program followed by lighting of the Diyas, prayer dance, and distribution of prizes for the winners. Smt. Dulan Sarkar, Hon'ble Chairperson of Bishalgarh Panchayat Samiti cut the ribbon. All appreciated the wonderful hand work of our students with the help of staff and parents. **Sr. Ruth, AC**

## DFNEI Biennial Convention at Itanagar

I had the opportunity to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> DFNEI Biennial Convention 2014 that was held at Itanagar from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The Resource Person Fr. Joel Pais, the Vicar General of Baroda Diocese & Regional Secretary of Family Commission in Western Region enlightened all the participants on the theme "Diocesan Priests and Family Apostolate". All the NE Regional Archbishops and Bishops and 175 priests from different Dioceses took part in this mega event of the Region. Rev. Fr. K.D. Joy, President DFNEI welcomed the Chief Guest Shri. Pani Taram, MLA, and other dignitaries. In the Keynote address



Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, Chairman, Regional Family Commission stressed on the importance of the values of good family life and exhorted all to give a pastoral priority to family visit in the Parish. The Convention was well organized by the priests of the Itanagar Diocese. The mega event was more colourful with a dinner and cultural evening hosted by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Fr. Bhuban Sarkar**

## Holy Cross School Donates to J&K

The Principal of Holy Cross School Agartala, accompanied by two teachers and two students, presented a cheque of Rs. 100,000/- to Caritas India via its Chairman, in response to the Appeal to help the flood victims of Jammu & Kashmir. In J&K the waters have receded and the place is drying up. But it leaves behind a blanket of mud, slush and slime, which will take many days to revive the State back. Amidst such a difficult scenario, relief operations have begun on a large scale by many humanitarian organizations in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Caritas India is one of the humanitarian organizations that has been in the forefront from



the beginning of this calamity, taking on every opportunity to pave its path into the most affected areas that are yet untouched and marooned.



## Visakhapatnam devastated says Jesuit Team

A six-member Jesuit Team that arrived in Visakhapatnam said they found the cyclone-hit city in shambles and devastated. "The city is completely devastated. Almost every tree is uprooted and roads are all blocked for kilometers," Fr Shailendra Boora, told Matters India as soon as they reached Visakhapatnam. Andhra Pradesh coast was battered by Cyclone Hudhud on October 12 with winds peaking at nearly 200 kilometers per hour. The cyclone hit Visakhapatnam or Vizag as it is known, the hardest. It is home to 2 million people and a large naval base.

## 245 babies born on cyclone day in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: As many as 245 babies were born in Odisha Districts the day these were hit by the cyclonic storm 'Hudhud', authorities said. The babies were born Oct 12 at different hospitals in the eight southern Districts of the State where the cyclonic storm made its impact, reported business-standard.com. The hospital Staff at several hospitals have now suggested the newborns be named after the cyclone.

## JUST distributes Educational Materials to CWDs

On 10 September JUST distributed study materials at Maiganga village under Talamura R. D Block. The program



was organized in collaboration with the Government Department for the Children with Disability as to provide them with proper education. Guardian of PWDs and CWDs community and Government

Officials and Vice Chairman of Maiganga Gram Panchayat were present for the program. The Persons with Disability and their children were happy to receive the study materials.

## Awareness on Irrigation facility



In the month of September JUST organized an Awareness Program on Irrigation facilities for the Farmers Clubs under Hezamara R. D. Block. The programs were conducted for 32 project villages under FARM Northeast project of JUST assisted by Caritas India. 403

farmers took part in the training program. The resource person Vincent Debarma spoke on low budget drip irrigation system that can be prepared at home by the farmers. He then explained on the whole process of preparing and using it. He also explained about rain water harvesting, how it can be prepared and its usefulness.

*Mr. Deepan Gurung*

## BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 2014

- 01-02: Parish Pastoral Visit, Gandacherra
- 04: Media Seminar & Recollection, Agartala
- 07: First Holy Communion, Ambassa
- 08: Eucharistic Procession, Agartala
- 09: Parish Pastoral Visit, Moharpara
- 12: Catechists Program, Champaknagar
- 14: Children's Day, Holy Cross Agartala
- 15-16: Amarpur Parish establishment, Gamakubadi
- 21-22: NEDSSS Silver Jubilee
- 23: Christ the King Parish Feast, Depacherra
- 27-28: Caritas Germany Partners Meet, Kolkata
- 30: Parish Program, Bodhjunnagar

## Nobel Prize Winners

This Year's Nobel Peace Prize went to 17-year-old Pakistani Malala



Yousafzai and India's Kailash Satyarthi for their work promoting children's rights. The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the prize saying that peaceful

global development can only come about if children and the young are respected. Malala is the youngest person to be awarded the globally prestigious annual prize. Malala Yousafzai -- who survived being shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012 -- was recognized for fighting for the right of girls to education, showing by example that children can contribute to improving their own situations.

It also said that the prize recognized the work by Satyarthi to head various forms of protests and demonstrations, all peaceful, focusing on the grave exploitation of children for financial gain. "In conflict-ridden areas in particular, the violation of children leads to the continuation of violence from generation to generation," the Committee said.

## Our Distinguished Visitors

- Fr. Baptist D'Souza, SVD, from Odisha
- Sr. Ventura, FS Regional from Rangia
- Sr. Ancita, SCV Superior General from Manantavady
- Srs. Primosa and Tessa, SCV from Kerala
- Mr. Cornelius and Mr. Nonen from Tura
- Srs. Linda & Celine, FMA from Nongpoh
- Fr. Justin, CSC, Vicariate Superior from Trichy
- Sr. Pauline, SJA, Mother General from France
- Srs. Maria Goretti & Lynette, SJA
- Rev. Roy Thalackan, CSC, General Asst. from Rome
- Bishop Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, from Aizawl
- Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC, from Dhaka
- Fr. James Cruze, CSC, Provincial from Bangladesh
- Fr. Tom McDermoth, CSC, from Dhaka
- Fr. Leo D'Souza, CSC, Provincial from Bangalore
- Vaz family from Pune
- V. Rev. Heinz Kuluks, SVD, Superior General, Rome
- Fr. Augustine SVD, Regional Superior from Guwahati along with Councilors Frs. Roy & Maxim
- Fr. Walter D'Sa, Principal St. Xavier's College, Goa