

Pastor's Message



November remembers all Souls & all Children

All Souls' Day, observed on November 2nd, is a significant occasion in Catholicism. This day is dedicated to honoring, remembering,

and praying for the souls of the deceased. It serves as a poignant reminder of the transient nature of life and the importance of spiritual connections that persist beyond death. Families gather to pray for their loved ones, seeking solace in the belief that their prayers can help the souls in purgatory move closer to eternal rest. Rest in Peace dear departed.

Children's Day is a commemorative date celebrated annually in honor of children, whose date of observance varies by country. In India Children's Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the rights, education, and welfare of children. In 1925, International Children's Day was first proclaimed in Geneva during the World Conference on Child Welfare. In India it is celebrated on 14 November on the birthday of the first prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru, who was popularly known as "Chacha Nehru". He strongly believed that children are the foundation of a society and they should be provided with a nurturing environment to produce the talented leaders & flag bearers of future India.

Children's Day is a celebration that highlights the importance of promoting child well-being and advocating for their rights. It's a day to reflect on the state of children around the world, acknowledging both the progress made and the challenges that still need to be addressed.

As we celebrate Children's Day, I am happy to note that the Catholic Church in Tripura has played a significant role in the education sector, by providing education to thousands of students and promoting social and economic development in the State. But there are still several challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that every child in Tripura has access to quality education. Despite the challenges faced by the Church, its educational institutions continue to provide high-quality education to students in Tripura. This Children's Day we are happy to renew our commitment to the cause of education.

In addition to festivities, Children's Day serves as a reminder of the challenges many children face worldwide, including poverty, violence, and lack of access to education. It is a call to action for governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize children's rights and welfare. By fostering a culture that values and invests in children, we can ensure that they not only enjoy their childhood but also grow into empowered adults capable of contributing positively to society, an essential step toward creating a brighter future for all.

+ Lumen, CSC

EDITORIAL

Matters of the Heart



There is no way we could have missed the release of 'Delixit Nos' - the new Encyclical of Pope Francis. Since 24th October, the day it was released, it has been discussed and dissected in almost all major media houses and platforms.

It might seem slightly comical that we are discussing here in Tripura, a just-released Papal Encyclical with the faithful, some of who have yet to learn the basic prayers and catechism. Yet, once we have gone through the five chapters of that document, we realize the truth is quite the opposite. The Encyclical 'Delixit Nos' is very basic in many ways. For one, it is about the heart. About individuals who seem to have forgotten their hearts and what they are capable of. About nations that refuse to listen to their heart, and about a world that seems to have lost its heart.

By bringing 'the heart' to the fore, Francis turns our attention to what, according to him, is the greatest malaise of our times - an excessive focus on rationality, technology, "unhealthy individualism," market dynamics, cell phones, and social media. These have distracted us from the importance of the heart.

That the Pontiff is spot on in this regard is borne out by our own experiences in the narrow confines of our little worlds. Addiction to cell phones, obsession with social media, over-dependence on gadgets and substances, lack of non-digital pastimes, waning relationships, weakening family ties - all point to a heart that's critically ill. It's an obsession that overrides the urban-rural divide.

Even in a place like Tripura, which may look far-flung and remote to people elsewhere, we see individuals and families struggling to cope with the 'fragmentation' and 'meaningless' that Francis says characterize our world "that seems to have lost its heart."

In our efforts to rediscover the importance of the heart, we must look to Christ's heart as the principle, unifying reality in a fragmented world, says the Pope. "The world can change, beginning with the heart. In this era of AI, the Sacred Heart shows the path forward." No wonder, the document is subtitled 'Letter on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ'.

The authority that Encyclicals come with must make us Catholics take serious note for it can help us face the challenges of our changing world.

J. Pulinthanath, SDB

Depacherra Parish

Youth Sunday



Depacherra, 5th October 2024 – Christ the King Parish witnessed a transformative day of spiritual renewal as 90 young parishioners gathered for a one-day youth retreat under the theme "Abide in the Love of God." The event was led by Fr. Telespore CMF, who guided the participants through a deeply enriching program aimed at rekindling their faith and strengthening their relationship with God. The retreat began with an uplifting session of praise and worship, setting a reflective and joyful tone for the day. Fr. Telespore delivered an inspiring talk that centered on the importance of abiding in God's love, urging the youth to live out their faith with conviction and trust in God's constant presence. A powerful moment of the retreat was the time of adoration, during which participants were invited to go for confession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was a key part of the day, as many youths took this opportunity to receive God's mercy and forgiveness, leading to a renewed sense of peace and spiritual rejuvenation. The retreat culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, where the young participants gathered to offer thanks and praise to God, sealing the day's experiences with the grace of the sacraments. The retreat was a meaningful experience for the youth of Christ the King Parish, as they left feeling spiritually uplifted and empowered to continue abiding in the love of God in their daily lives.

Fr. Amalraj

Ambassa Parish

Deanery level Youth Convention



Ambassa (Tripura) October 14, 2024: Ambassa Deanery level Youth Convention was arranged from 11th October to 13th and there were more than 200 youth who participated. The gathering started with the Rosary and followed by an ice breaking session. Later Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD welcomed all the youth and wished them well for better participation. Office bearers were called on the stage along

with presidents and secretaries of all the parishes. They were introduced and felicitated. Many resource persons were called for the input sessions. Fr. Ivan spoke on Media Education and gave them questions to discuss in the smaller groups. Sr. Valeena SRA from Chailenta parish gave an input session on Vocation through the PowerPoint presentation. Fr. Arun Minj, SVD spoke on 'building a sustainable career' with concrete examples. Dr. Asok Debbarma lectured on 'the effects of drugs on mental health and biblical guidance for avoiding substance abuse'. Fr. Lawrence Darlong the DYD spoke on the topic Church and role of the Youth. In between the classes some action songs were taught to break the monotony. All the entertainment programs were conducted in the evenings like solo singing competition, elocution competition, group Gospel song competition, dance competition and Bible quiz competition. The prizes were distributed on the final day. The final session was on the action plan. The Youth spend some time discussing the future course of action parish-wise. All felt that it was a very good gathering and they learned many things from the classes and from one another.

Marriage Preparation Course



Holy Spirit Catholic Church Ambassa conducted 3-days of Marriage Preparation Course from October 14th to 16th.

There were 49 participants from different villages. On the first day Mr. Sankunga Darlong instructed on 'purpose of marriage: Love and procreation' and dealt with the vast topic of 'The Christian attitude towards Sex and the Morality of Marriage'. He also spoke on 'Marriage and the problem of drinking'. Dr. Asok Debbarma took the session on 'understanding menstruation, danger of early pregnancy and healthy child'. He also elaborately spoke on 'Abortion and its evil effects'.

On the second day Fr. Ivan D Silva, the PP spoke on 'What is Christian Marriage and the Sacrament of Marriage'. With a PPT presentation he highlighted on 'Essential Properties of Marriage: Unity and Indissolubility'. He further spoke on the importance of 'Family and Spiritual life'.

On the third day Mr. Indrajit Sangma took the class on 'Importance of SCC (BEC) and Participative Church'. With the help of posters, he explained the role of family in the local church. Mr. Prabath Marak explained 'Family and upbringing of children'. With his practical experience he described 'what is Christian family and the importance of prayer in the family'.

At the end Fr. Ivan spoke on 'Pastoral Communication, Dialogue in family, and use of mobile'.

The 3-days session concluded with the thanksgiving Eucharist and giving certificates to all the participants.

Fr. Ivan D' Silva, SVD

Kumarghat Parish

First Holy Communion



On October 6th, the parish council organized the first Holy Communion for 46 candidates. All these candidates were well prepared by Sr. Tarcisius M.C., Sr. Geralda MC, Sr. Margret FS, and Catechist Mr. Subia D/Barma. These people went to different villages, took classes for them, and prepared them well for the Sacrament of Confession and Holy Communion. It was a grace-filled moment when the children dressed in white received the first Holy Communion. Parish Council Secretary Mr. Roitua Darlong thanked all the parents for sending their children to this sacred ceremony. He also thanked all those who prepared and assisted them. Fr. Lancy CSC offered Holy Mass and asked the candidates to attend the Mass every Sunday as and when possible.

Bible Camp 2024



This year too, during the October holidays, (10th to 12th) the Parish organized a 3-day Bible camp for parish children. 192 children attended the Camp from 16 villages. They were divided into three groups. 1st one Bengali language Jr. Group. In-charges were Srs. Geralda MC, Tarcisius MC, and Margret FS. 2nd group Bengali language Senior. In-charges were Mr. Roitua D/L, Mr. Lawrence D/L, Ms. Kumpui Reang, and Ms. Trisa Halam. The 3rd is an English group headed by Srs. Bertila FS and Anita FS and the theme was "Love, Read and Share the Bible". Each of the groups was allocated different places for their animation. The Bible camp had many activities, Bible action songs, stories, and parables that were enacted. Candles lit the Rosary, adoration, confession, and Holy Eucharist were the high lights. At the end of the camp Fr. Lancy CSC, the Parish Priest thanked the animators for their great service and all the participants for their active participation. It was a great and enjoyable event.

Sr. Bertila FS

Moharpara Parish

Bible Convention

Ambassa (Tripura) October 14, 2024: Ambassa Deanery level Youth Convention was arranged from 11th October to 13th and there were more than 200 youth who participated. The gathering started with the Rosary and followed by an ice breaking session.



key note speaker by the Parish Priest Fr. Arbok CSC, followed by Rosary and Mariam procession and Bible Quiz. The next day began with praise and worship and Holy Mass. The morning session was dedicated to the Word of God by Mr. C B George who gave a powerful talk. This was followed by the healing service where many people experienced spiritual deliverance. In the afternoon, speaker Mr. Anthony inspired us to pray to Jesus through Mother Mary. Mr. C B George and Anthony's Teams from Kerela along with two Catechists helped the participants to organize in groups for SCC activities. In the evening there was Gospel singing competition and Bible skit. The final day focused on the renewal of faith and missionary zeal. The morning praise and worship and session show the energetic participants, and preparation of the spiritual renewal with confession and Holy Mass which was offered by Fr. Alfred CSC, followed by prayer of deliverance. The three days Bible Convention was a great success, deeply impacting the spiritual life of the attendees, strengthening their faith and fostering a deeper connection with the word of God.

Dn. Newton Basumatari CSC

Gachirampara Parish

Parish Feast



The Parish feast honouring St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated at Gachirampara on 6th October at 10 am. Our beloved Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, celebrated the solemn Mass. In his homily he highlighted the Christian marriage and importance of marriage sacrament based on the readings of the day. After the Mass Fr. Arun Fernandes OFM Cap thanked the Bishop for his presence in spite of his ill health. He also thanked the parishioners for their support and participation in the holy Eucharist. Fr. Felix Pinto and Fr. Preetham Lobo were present for the celebration. Fr. Michael Dass compered the programme. Those who won the prizes in the online Bible quiz were felicitated by the Bishop. The programme ended with the festal meal.

Fr. Arun Fernandes, OFM Cap.

SFX Cathedral Parish

Bible Camp for Children



On October 11th and 12th, 2024, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Parish, with the help of the MC Sisters, organized a two-day Bible Camp for over 50 children aged 7-14. Themed "Walking with Jesus," the camp included Bible story sessions, a quiz, crafts, and a skit on Jesus' life. On the 11th, children participated in a one-hour Eucharistic Adoration, learning to pray. The camp concluded on the 12th with a Holy Mass, where participants received religious mementos. The event fostered spiritual growth, encouraging children to deepen their connection with the Word of God and strengthen their faith journey.

Fr. George. S.

Bodhjungnagar Parish

Annual Youth Fellowship Meet



As per the usual-practice of the Parish, St. Andre Youth Group celebrated its Annual Youth Fellowship Meet in October 2024.

The Parish Youth President, Stephen Debbarma, with his Team, organized a 3-day gathering of the Parish Youth. The entire program took place in Yacharai (one of the sub-centres) from October 11 to 13. Over 150 Youth participated in the lively and colorful event. The Parish Priest kick-started the function on the first day with the lighting of the Lamp and his Inaugural Address.

The 3-day long Youth Fellowship Meet was filled with Input Sessions, cultural programs, varied competitions, quizzes, and the like. 13th October saw the culmination of the Youth program.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Mass and a sumptuous fellowship meal marked the day. Fr. Iswar CSC presided over the solemn Mass, which was attended by the entire Youth of the Parish and the faithful of the local-Motha. Our Fathers from St. Andre Minor Seminary, Sisters from SABS & CSC Convents were of much help to us.

Parish Chronicler

Congrats!

SRA New Superior General & Team



Sr. Zeena D' Souza SRA
New Superior General

SRA New General Councilors



Sr. Annie D'Souza



Sr. Adrienn
Domonkosova



Sr. Shruthi
Puthukkattuparambil



Sr. Regis
Kizhkkavattam

LINK *Congratulates*
SRA New Superior General & Team

Congratulations
Sr. Pushpa Gomes CSC & Team



LINK congratulates Sister Pushpa Teresa Gomes CSC on her election as Area Coordinator of Asia. We also congratulate CSC Sisters Shagorica Maria Gomes, Minoti Rozario and Mitali Mree, who were elected to the area leadership team, and Sisters Catherine Konica Sarkar and Shibanlin Nongsiej who were appointed to the Team.

NESNIM 2024

Building 'SMARTeens' for a Stronger Tomorrow



NESNIM 2024
(NORTH EASTERN STUDENTS' NATIONAL INTEGRATION MOVEMENT)
09th - 11th October, 2024

Agartala, Oct 9, 2024: North Eastern Students' National Integration Movement (NESNIM), the flagship initiative of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation (HCEF), of the Province of Northeast India was inaugurated at Holy Cross School, Agartala, bringing together 600 students and 100 animators from 29 Schools across Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura. Shri Animesh Debbarma, Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Tripura, inaugurated the event in the presence of Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, of the Diocese of Agartala, and Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior of NE Province. This year's theme, "SMARTeens" (Smart, Mindful, Adventurous, Resilient Teens), emphasized mental wellness, and leadership, among the students. NESNIM fosters holistic growth, inspired by the educational philosophy of Blessed Basile Moreau.

The event ran until October 11 with diverse Sessions aimed at building a stronger future for today's youth. NESNIM concluded with the SMARTeens taking an oath to live the principles that they had learned.

Fr. George Jacob, CSC

Diocesan Women Commission attends National Conference



The CCBI Commission for Women convened the VI National Conference for Women, themed "Empowered Women for Empowering Society," which took place from September 22-25, 2024, at the Regional Pastoral Centre, Utkal Jyoti, Jharsuguda, Odisha. A total of 453 participants from 132 dioceses attended, including Sr. Veronica Fernandes, Ms. Rita Uchoi, and Ms. Jaba Debbarma from the Agartala Diocese. The Conference was inaugurated by Archbishop John Barwa SVD of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, with Bishop Kishore Kumar Kujur of Rourkela Diocese presided alongside other clergy. Under the leadership of National Secretary Sr. Lidwin Fernandes and the Executive Committee, the Women of Rourkela and Sambalpur Dioceses provided a grand traditional welcome.

Key discussions and workshops focused on enhancing women's involvement in leadership and decision-making within the Church, led by Fr. Chetan Machado and Fr. Sebastian Francis who facilitated discussions on implementing the Pastoral Plan and Gender Policy. Additionally, prominent social activist Ms. Pallabi Ghosh addressed the crucial role of grassroots efforts in combating human trafficking. Overall, the program highlighted the effective involvement of Women and its successes in empowering the broader community within the Church.

Sr. Veronica, FS

Women Commission attend Retreat and Pilgrimage



The Secretary Sr. Lidwin Fernandes of the National Women's Commission arranged a Retreat and pilgrimage for Women in Moringoor, Kerala, from October 13th to 18th. Over 700 Women from various dioceses participated, and 14 Women from Agartala diocese joined the Retreat. The spiritual empowerment of the Women was evident. They also had the opportunity to visit churches such as St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Chavara, St. Thomas, Golden Church and St. Mary's Church. The Women expressed their happiness at the opportunity and the deepening of their spiritual connection with God through this experience.

Sr. Veronica, FS

JUST distributed 442 Shelter Kits for flood affected families in Gondatwisa



Since August 18 this year, Tripura has been experiencing continuous heavy rainfall, causing severe flooding and landslides across several districts, resulting in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. In response, JUST submitted an assessment report to Donatekart, requesting support for 442 shelter kits to aid the most vulnerable people in 11 villages within the Dhalai and Gomati Districts. We are pleased to note that this is the second time Donatekart has extended its support to flood-affected communities in Tripura through JUST. Upon receiving the materials, JUST distributed the shelter kits in 11 villages within the Gondatwisa. The shelter kits are donated by Amazon and include the following items: 4 bathing soaps, 2 cloth wash bars, 2 packs of sanitary pads (14 pieces each), 1 nylon mosquito net, 1 recycled plastic ground sheet, 1 recycled plastic tarpaulin sheet, 4 dental kits, 1 bucket, and 1 rope.

JUST constructed two market sheds



JUST constructed 2 roadside vegetable market sheds on the Ambassa to Gandacherra road under Ganganagar R.D Block in Dhalai District. The market sheds will not only help the vegetable vendors to sell their organic jhum vegetables but will also provide them protection from the summer heat and the rains. The local vegetable vendors of that area had approached the government department for an open market shed but nothing has been done. Seeing the deplorable condition of the local community JUST came up with the idea of constructing 2 roadside open market sheds. The construction work began in August and completed this month. Now the vegetable vendors are making full use of the market shed and selling their vegetables with dignity and smile.

Mr. Robert Lushai

Our Distinguished Guests

- Fr. Thaddeus Hembrom, CSC, Principal, ND Mymensingh
- Frs. Peter Thumma Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Madras
- Fr. Charles Kumar, Parish Priest from Chennai
- Fr. Sojan Augustine, CSC, from Scarborough, Canada
- Fr. Joseph Mappilaparambil CMF Provincial from Shillong
- Mr. Jose Anthony from Dubai
- Sr. Zeena D' Souza, SRA Superior General from Austria
- SRA Srs. Annie D'Souza, Eva Maria Kremshuber, Vincentia Mammotttil, & Nanditha Pereira (former Superior General)
- Bro. Yesu Prabhakaran SG, V. Provincial from Hyderabad.
- Bro. Thomas C.A., SG, Provincial Treasurer from Hyderabad.

Bishop's Program for November 2024

- 03: New PP Installation, Ganda Twisa
- 05: Clergy Meet, Agartala
- Consulters Meet, Agartala
- 09: Meet FSM Superior General and Provincial
- 10: Eucharistic Procession @ Khumpwi Academy, Khumulwng
- 12: Auxilium Agartala, School Annual Day
- 13: Meet SSpS General Councilor & Provincial Superior
- 17: Parish Day & Confirmations, Baijalbari Parish
- 24: Feast of Christ the King, Depacherra Parish
- 28: Blessing of Marillac Home, Jampuijala.