



### When we feel like God is silent!

Has there been a time in your life where doubt, fear, and anxiety seem to loom over you like an ever-present dark cloud? Have you ever felt so alone, so down, so hurt that you couldn't seem to remember life ever being good? Have you ever wrestled with the big questions of life and faith and found yourself more confused than you started?

We all have, says this layman. Even though I'm a follower of Christ, even though I've given my heart to him, even though I'm at church every Sunday and small group on Tuesdays, even though from the outside I look like a "good Christian," I struggle. I doubt. I worry. I wonder sometimes if God is even there, if he even hears my prayers or cares at all. Sometimes, God just feels silent, distant, and uninterested in my life.

It's in those times of doubt that I find myself desperately searching for reminders of what is true. In my head, I know that the Bible says the Lord is faithful, but my heart often feels so far from him. I often feel like he isn't saying anything to me even when I'm pouring my heart out to him in prayer and

GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS THE BEST. SOMETIMES THE PROCESS IS PAINFUL AND HARD. BUT DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN GOD IS SILENT, HE'S DOING SOMETHING FOR YOU.

worship. In the times when God seems silent, I need to be reminded that he is still near to me and still at work in my life. Even in our wandering and wondering, God is faithful. Even when we question him, even when we run away from him, even when we think he has abandoned us, he is still faithful. Even when he is silent, he is still faithful to us.

Karina Allen, a writer, shared about the floods in Baton Rouge that have affected every part of her life and left her "one huge ball of nerves." It's often natural disasters that prompt us to ask the hard questions and tempt us to despair, but Allen shares a great word of truth: "It's okay with Him. He can handle my questions. He can handle my doubts. He can handle my worries and fears. Because He is God!"

Even as believers, we aren't always in mountaintop seasons of life. Sometimes, we are in the middle of valleys that seem dark or in the middle of storms that seem

relentless. Sometimes, we can't seem to hear the voice of God over the noise of this world or the static in our own hearts. It's okay with him. He is always with us, even when we can't hear him. And no matter what season of life you are in, remind yourself of the faithfulness and presence of our good God.

God bless. +Lumen, CSC



Pastor's Corner

### LINK Congratulates



Bishop Victor Lyngdoh appointed Bishop of Jowai



Bishop elect, Fr. Thomas Thennatt, S.A.C., newly appointed Bishop of Gwalior



Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ, native of Venezuela, the newly elected 31<sup>st</sup> Superior General of the Society of Jesus

### As the Year of Mercy concludes...



#### Editorial

The Year of Mercy that began last December will come to an end sometime this month all across the Catholic world. In the Diocese of Agartala it will be on 13<sup>th</sup> November - the day of the annual Eucharistic procession.

Looking back, one feels, it has been a special year in many ways. The focus on the central theme of the year - God's Mercy, helped us not only gain insights into the unfathomable riches of Christ (Eph 3:8), but provided us an opportunity to bask in the love of Jesus and experience his mercy as individuals and as members of collective entities.



Thanks to the efforts and interest of Bishop Lumen, the Parish Priests and the Coordinator of the Year of Mercy programs, Fr. Sunny, a great deal have happened throughout the diocese that made this a very special year.

For example, the Year of Mercy found priests sit longer at the confessional; and the people spend longer periods of time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. In almost all the parishes there were retreats, pilgrimages, Chaplet of Mercy, and at least a couple of special programs that focused on the theme of Mercy. In fact, everything that happened this year reflected, in one way or other, the special time we were in. No wonder, the creak of the

confessional door was heard more often than ever before during the last 12 months!

Numerous groups of faithful from all parts of the Diocese came in pilgrimage to the Church designated at Nandan Nagar, thirsting for God and His Mercy. They prayed, they sang, they worshipped the Lord, received the Sacraments and returned home with greater peace in their hearts. The zeal proved often contagious. Even onlookers, at times pitched in with whatever little they could offer, to make it a worthwhile experience for the pilgrims.

Now that the Year of Mercy is almost behind us, it's up to us to take into future the best this year had to offer: the experience of God's Mercy making us whole and on our part, we extending that mercy and forgiveness to others. **J. Pulinthanath, SDB**

## Finding God at the Door of Mercy



As the Year of Mercy is drawing to a close, we thank God for His abundant mercies. Indeed, we have been abundantly blessed in manifold ways. The faithful have once again shown their deep and sincere love for the Lord in the many groups that have come to Don Bosco Church Nandannagar for the pilgrimage.

The youthful participation of the Students from St. Xavier's School, Pathaliaghat on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct was a wonderful demonstration of the faith that is in the young generation. Nearly one hundred young people had a wonderful experience of the Mercy of God. They were solemnly welcomed at the Door of Mercy by Fr. Sunny and the Adoration, Animation, Confession and Mass were all moments of experiencing the love of God in their lives. The animation by Fr. Lawrence Darlong was inspiring. Congratulations to Fr. Lucas Murmu and the FMA sisters who accompanied them. The People of Lokhilunga of Bodhjunnagar Parish had a beautiful day on 12<sup>th</sup> October in spite of the rain. They were accompanied by the MC Sisters. Pilgrim groups from Kamranga, Amarpur and Ambassa gathered together on 15<sup>th</sup> October to be able to have a beautiful experience by entering the Door of Mercy and having the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The Parishes and their leaders deserve our congratulations.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October, the pilgrims from Tuikarmaw Parish reached the Door of Mercy and with the Confession, Mass and Prayer experienced the love of God in their lives. Kathalcherra Parish organized a day of prayer on 22<sup>nd</sup> October for a group which enthusiastically participated in the Prayer and Sacraments. The Bethany Sisters arranged for it and accompanied them.

Only two weeks for the Year of Mercy to close and many more have planned to make the pilgrimage during this short time. Our activities for the Year of Mercy begin with ourselves and are completed when we become Merciful like the Father. The pilgrimage is one of the means of growing in this closeness to God. May the Lord bless our Diocese and all our people.

**Fr. Sunny, SDB**

## KUMARGHATPARISH Youth Retreat at the Parish



The Parish had a meaningful Retreat which was organized specially for the Youth from 7-9 October. This Retreat began on Friday evening with holy rosary candle light procession from the School to the Parish Grotto. The theme of this Retreat was "Fan the Flame". A short movie 'Jesus in our life' was screened later. We began day two with the Holy Eucharist. The Sessions were animated by Fr. Ivan SVD. He spoke on 'Leadership' in the light of the Gospel. Youth are the future of the church and we are more responsible because the future church is in our hands. Fr. Shaiji CSC was the speaker on the second day. He said that we are living in a world which keeps calling us to possess more and more. We are bombarded from every side with advertisements and electronics media. Because of the influence of the media, we become more and more selfish, we keep focusing on ourselves that we no longer think of God, our Creator. Therefore, we need to be more attached to the word of God and keep up the light of the gospel, he said in an encouraging way. The retreat was concluded with the Holy Eucharist. 120 people attended. The retreat was a spiritual renewal and enriching experience for the Youth. Most of them expressed that it is very much needed to draw aside from their work to undisturbed prayer and reflection.

**Regent Stephen, CSC**

## AMBASSA PARISH Marriage Preparation Course

**Ambassa:** Holy Spirit Catholic Church Ambassa organized three days of Marriage classes for 72 participants. October is the month of festivals in Tripura. All schools, colleges and offices are closed for almost 10 days. Taking this

opportunity of Puja festival holidays, Ambassa Parish organized Marriage Preparation Course from 10 to 12<sup>th</sup> October for youngsters. The Parish Council has taken a stern decision to make this course compulsory or else Marriage Sacrament would not be administered. Therefore the youth are taking this decision very seriously. Cyprian and Joachim explained the Biblical understanding of the marriage as Sacrament. Later Mr. Sangkunga Darlong dealt with Family and alcoholism. Dr. Ashok Debberma enlightened the participants with practical knowledge on Health. He also spoke on abortion as sin and hazardous to health. Mr. and



Mrs. Marak spoke about a model family, how to bring up children in a Christian family. At the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> day the course concluded with the Holy Mass and issuing of Marriage Class Certificates. All applauded the well conducted input sessions.

**News Bureau, Ambassa**

## GACHIRAMPARA PARISH Patron's Feast Day celebrated

On 9<sup>th</sup> of October we celebrated the feast of our founder St. Francis of Assisi and a Parish day. Most Rev Bishop Lumen presided over the Eucharistic celebration. The faithful from all *mondolis* participated in the Feast Day Mass and the cultural program which was tastefully presented by each *mondoli*. During his homily our Bishop invited the faithful to emulate the example set by our Father and Patron St. Francis of Assisi. He urged the faithful to proclaim the good news in deeds just as St Francis did. The joy was doubled by the gracious presence of priests and religious from neighbouring parishes. The day was made more colourful by the parishioners through their melodious choir and cultural items which were put up as a Competition. Three cash prizes were given to the



three best choirs, and at the end every choir group was given a consolation prize for their participation. The day came to an end with the fellowship meal.

*Fr. Prasanna Kumar OFM Cap*

### MOHARPARA PARISH Parish Sabha



Immaculate Conception Parish had the Parish Sabha on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October. The representative from different villages arrived at the parish centre on 10<sup>th</sup> morning. A record number of 400 hundred people gathered for the two-day Parish Sabha. The Sabha began with flag hoisting by the Parish Priest Fr. Hormis, CSC, followed by symbolic lighting of the lamp. In the morning hours we had several input sessions focusing mainly on themes related to family life. A short expose of the Pope's 'The Joy of Love' by Fr. Hormis, CSC, was followed by Mr. Amar Prem Jamatia and Saptam Jamatia on Family Life and its challenges in

Tripura today. The parishioners extended a warm welcome to Bishop Lumen on his arrival. He participated actively by keenly listening to the villagers as they presented their reports. The parishioners were delighted and inspired to have the Bishop with them all along. In the evening Fr. Robert CSC the new Provincial Superior of Holy Cross was welcomed in the parish. It was followed by Adoration and Confession for the faithful. After the supper we had cultural competition with variety entrainment programme. The following day a Talk on the importance of tithing, was followed by the election of new Parish Secretary, Mr. Utam Jamatia. The Sabha was solemnly concluded with a Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist presided by our Bishop Lumen. People shared their joy in the fellowship meal that followed the Eucharist.

*Dn. Arbok, CSC*

### KATHALCHERRA PARISH Call of the month of October

We at Kathalcherra welcomed the month of October through a Marian Procession conducted by Maria Sanga, on the first Sunday. Parishioners gathered in front of the

Grotto before the Mass. Mr. Paul Sangma highlighted the importance of Rosary in the family prayer. This day was also marked as Evangelization Day. Mr. Motilal, Piangloma and Lokoram spoke on this theme. Fr Lancy CSC, the Parish priest thanked the members of Evangelization Team for their sacrifices and enthusiasm for the Lord's work. All



the members were honored by a small token of Love.

On Mission Sunday, Fr Lancy CSC organized a Seminar for the Evangelization Team members. They were enlightened with different topics related to evangelization. The preacher should be ready for change in oneself, be self prepared, ready and willing. Those who attended were very happy, broadened their knowledge on being the church, and were grateful to Parish Priest Fr. Lancy for this initiative.

*Sr. Suman BS*

### An Outreach Programe in honor of Saint Mother Teresa



Ambassa: October 5, 2016, Oishobani Registered Society Ambassa, in collaboration with Ambassa Parish organized an outreach programme at Udaising village, under Ganganagar Block. From Agartala Missionary of Charity Sisters collected clothes from rich people from Agartala, the capital city of Tripura. Rice was distributed to these selected families. Fr. Cyprian SVD, Fr. Harry CSC, and Fr. Ivan SVD, 3 M.C Sisters

and other lay leaders had an adventurous journey deep into the woods in a village named Udaising Para. It is 8 kilometers away from Ambassa on the Gandachera Road. This programme was carried out to honor St. Mother Teresa and to spread her message of 'reaching out to poorest of the poor'. 75 very poor families from six villages were beneficiaries of this outreach program who were given a bundle of clothes, rice, steel plates and steel glasses by M.C. Sisters.

*News Bureau, Ambassa*

### Vocation Camp in the Diocese

Jeevadhara Minor Seminary Champaknagar organized a Vocation Camp from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of October with the theme, "Whom Shall I send?"... "Here I am Lord" from Is 6:8. There were 30 participants from different

### News from the Diocese



Parishes. The Vocation Camp began with the Inaugural Mass and a short Talk by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC. Many eminent persons like Fr. Tarun CSC, Fr. Pulinthanath SDB, Fr. Cyprian SVD, Fr. Bosco Lathees, Fr. Arun SVD, (Rector of JMS), Fr. Lawrence (Vocation Promoter), Mr. Subol Debbarma and Mr. Manoj Jamatia, dealt with the different topics like, Call of God, meaning of Vocation, the Priesthood-Laity's Perspective, Diocesan Priesthood, Priesthood: a Beautiful Life, etc. There were also many interactive sessions. Fr. Roshan

Kujur SVD and Deacon Stany Pereira SVD divided all the participants into four teams and conducted many sports and stage items. The Vocation Camp was finally concluded with Praise and Worship Session followed by distribution of prizes for the winning teams. We are grateful to our Bishop, all the speakers, Deacon, JMS brothers and the support staff for making this Vocation Camp a successful one.

**Dn. Stany Pereira, SVD**

**JUST Organizes Free Health Camp**

JUST Organized series of health Camps at Kolabari and Nalsirai Para under Ganganagar R.D Block in the month of September 2016. Altogether 200 patients benefitted from the health camps. JUST Ganganagar project staff led by the project Coordinator Mr



Lilmohan Reang along with Dr. Philip Reang (Medical officer from Ganganagar PHC) examined the patients and distributed free medicines to the patients. The patients were mostly women and children. Most of them had complains of fever, headache, cough and cold, stomach ache, skin disease and gastric. Most of the patients were mal-nourished.

**Wall Painting on Malaria**

To enhance the awareness of the villagers on malaria, JUST has done wall paintings on Malaria in Khowai



District at selected PHCs and Sub centers. To maintain uniformity across states, we have prepared prototypes on the following subjects: (a) Malaria and its symptoms; (b) Early diagnosis and complete treatment; (c) Malaria preventionsleeping under nets-LLIN, IRS and source reduction. Other wall paintings on malaria will also be painted in Dhalai in the coming months. The field supervisors along with the community volunteers monitor the wall painting. *Mr. Vincent Debbarma*

**News Roundup**

**Rajnath pays tribute to Mother Teresa; assures minorities**



New Delhi:India's federal Home Minister Rajnath Singh on October 19 paid glowing tributes to Mother Teresa and said that full security will be provided by the government to minorities and "all those who work towards humanity."Paying tributes to Mother Teresa at a function in New Delhi, Singh said Mother had come to India to "conquer hearts" with love.

The Home Minister was speaking at a program organized to

commemorate the canonization of Mother Teresa at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.The event was jointly organised by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, Archdiocese of Delhi, Dioceses of Faridabad and Gurgaon.Singh said Saint Mother Teresa has always been referred as "Mother" because of the love bestowed by citizens on her.He said that Alexander had come to India to conquer land but "Saint Mother Teresa came with love to conquer hearts", the release said.Rajya Sabha member Oscar Fernandes, Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Cardinal George Alencherry, several Bishops and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.*mattersindia.com*

**Bishop's Program for November 2016**

- 02: All Souls Day, Cemetery Mass at Mariamnagar
- 03: Consulters Meet, Agartala  
Clergy Meet & Reflection, Agartala
- 05: Annual Day, Auxilium Agartala
- 05-06: Kochucherra Chapel Blessing, Ambassa Parish
- 10: Launching of FARM-NE Program, Agartala
- 11: SSps Convent Foundation Blessing, Belonia
- 12: Priests Residence & Prayer Hall Blessing, Amarpur Parish
- 13: Holy Eucharistic Procession at Auxilium, Nandanagar  
Closing of the Jubilee Door of Mercy, Nandanagar
- 15: Meet Sr. Prema, MC Superior General
- 16-17: Meet Architect
- 18: CBCI-CARD Meet, Delhi
- 19-20: Silver Jubilee, Depacherra Parish
- 26-27: Parish Sabah, Bagbasa Parish

**Our Distinguished Visitors**

- ◆ Sr. Mary C. J., UFS Provincial from Dimapur
- ◆ Fr. Freddie Santhumayor, SVD from Jharsuguda, Odisha
- ◆ CSC Brothers Albert, Shankar and Francis from Bangladesh
- ◆ Sr. Ida Lobo SSps from Bangalore, Novice Director
- ◆ Fr. Patrick Gaffney, CSC, from Indiana, USA
- ◆ Fr. Thomas McDermott, CSC, from Bangladesh
- ◆ Fr. Jose Sarpathail, CSC, from Salem