

**Vatican's Representative Apostolic Nuncio  
Visits Tripura's Diocese of Agartala**



**H. E. Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli**



**Agartala, July 28, 2025**



The Catholic community of Tripura witnessed a momentous occasion as Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and the Vatican's official representative, undertook his first pastoral visit to the Diocese of Agartala on July 26 and 27. Though unofficial, the two-day visit was filled with heartfelt expressions of faith, unity, and deep spiritual engagement, marking a significant milestone in the life of Tripura's only Catholic diocese.

The Nuncio's arrival in Agartala was met with immense joy and reverence. In a vibrant display of youthful enthusiasm, representatives from various parish youth groups organized a bike rally that escorted the Vatican envoy from the airport to the Bishop's House, reflecting the community's strong bond with the Universal Church.

A warm reception was held at Holy Cross School in honor of the Apostolic Nuncio, who addressed the hostel students during his visit. He emphasized the Church's longstanding commitment to education and praised the Holy Cross Congregation for its outstanding contribution to the people of the state in the field of education. He urged the students to make full use of the opportunities offered through Catholic education, emphasizing the importance of imbibing Christian values and becoming ambassadors of those values in society and the state.

Following the school visit, the Nuncio proceeded to the Holy Cross Provincial House, where he met with senior priests of the congregation. He extended his heartfelt congratulations for their dedicated and selfless service to the Church in Tripura, acknowledging their pastoral and missionary contributions over the years.

Nuncio also visited Mother Teresa's Home, where the Nuncio met with the Sisters who care for the sick and marginalized. He deeply appreciated their compassionate service and unwavering commitment to the poor and suffering, embodying the true spirit of Christian charity.

That evening, Archbishop Girelli met with priests, religious sisters, and lay leaders during an interactive gathering at the Bishop's House. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, formally welcomed the Nuncio, while Sr Marcellina Sangma FMA, Superior of Auxilium Agartala, presented an insightful overview of the diocese's

evangelization mission, pastoral activities, and current challenges.

In his address to the gathering, the Nuncio offered tailored messages to the different segments of the Church. Speaking to the clergy, he urged them to carry out their ministry not merely as a duty but as a mission of love, referencing Pope Leo's reminder that the bond between a priest and his people is a grace. Addressing the religious, he highlighted the depth of their consecrated life, saying, "By your vows, you have lovingly bound yourselves to Him." He also praised the lay faithful, especially the catechists, for their vital role in sustaining the Church's grassroots mission.

On Sunday, July 27, the Archbishop led the Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral, coinciding with the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. In his homily, he emphasized the importance of honouring the elderly, recognizing their wisdom, dignity, and contributions to families, the Church, and society at large.

As part of his pastoral itinerary, Archbishop Girelli also visited Don Bosco Parish Church in Nandan Nagar, where he was warmly welcomed by the parish community. The visit concluded with a lunch at Auxilium Convent, featuring cultural presentations and joyful felicitations from boarding students, Salesian Cooperators, and Catholic Laity of Tripura (CLT) leaders.

Before his departure, the Nuncio expressed his deep gratitude for the hospitality, love, and spiritual richness he experienced throughout the visit. He was accompanied by his secretary, Fr Stephen Fernandes.

Though brief, the visit served as a powerful reaffirmation of the Diocese of Agartala's spiritual vitality and its close connection with the Holy See, offering new encouragement to the local faithful and further strengthening the bonds of communion between the Catholic Church in Tripura and the universal Church.

*Courtesy: tripurainfo.com*



# Welcome!

## Pictorial News



**Welcome at the Airport**



**Welcome at the Bishop's House, Agartala**



**Welcome to Holy Cross School**





Nuncio Meets with Senior Priests at Andre Home



MC Sisters Inmates Welcome the Nuncio





SFX Cathedral Parish welcomes the Vatican Ambassador

Reception and Felicitation to H. E. the Apostolic Nuncio at the Cathedral







Don Bosco Parish Nandannagar



Auxilium School and Convent,  
Nandannagar