



RICE COAL

ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020



World Mission Sunday in the Middle of Covid 19

The famous Russian novelist Fedor Dostoyevsky was a young man when Russia was condemning peoples to prisons in Siberia. He was involved in a plot against the government. He was arrested and taken to the firing squad. However, at the last minute the emperor spared his life and condemned him to a four year prison term in Siberia.

At the prison gate he was met by the wives of exiles, one of whom placed a book in his hand and whispered to him to examine it carefully. On entering his cell he discovered it was a Bible. He flipped the pages and soon discovered a currency note of 25 rubles hidden in them. This would bring him some relief.

But Dostoyevsky discovered more than money. Since Bible was the only book he had, he discovered God and His Son Jesus. And all the books he wrote are filled with the Good News. Yes, he found Jesus unintentionally and gave Jesus and His message to all his readers.

Month of October reminds me of World Mission Sunday and our duty to proclaim Jesus Christ to all we come in contact. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls us to respond this year with joyful commitment: HERE AM I, SEND ME. (Isaiah 5:8) With the present scenario of Covid-19, our Holy Father has set the realistic scope of this year's World Mission Day celebration as follows: "We are indeed frightened, disoriented and afraid. Pain and death make us experience our human frailty, but at the same time remind us of our deep desire for lift and liberation from evil. In this context, the call to mission, the invitation to step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbour presents itself as an opportunity for sharing, service and intercessory prayer." The mission that God entrusts to each one of us leads us from fear and introspection to renewed realization that we find ourselves precisely when we give ourselves to others. Meanwhile, keeping with the tradition, the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples has confirmed that the World Mission Day 2020 will be celebrated this year at the universal level on Sunday the 18 October, 2020. Further, the statement insists on the missionary animation of the People of God as pre-eminent. Indeed, faith by its very nature is missionary, and the celebration of World Mission Day serves to keep this essential dimension of the Christian faith alive in all the faithful.

Because of the difficult times now we may have to cruise through this year, based on the assessment of the local situation and civil regulations in our state and our nation, In spite of the hard time the people and institutions have, we shall keep aflame the mission spirit among the faithful in our diocese. I am once again looking forward to your generous contribution towards the Universal Solidarity Fund, as is expected for World Mission Sunday. At this juncture, may I request your good self to pray for the inter national PMS for their financial support towards our pastoral needs and projects. The society has been very generous to us in helping in our evangelization work. Last three years the society has helped

If the promotional material such as the World Mission Sunday 2020 poster, calendar 2021, envelopes from PMS office in Bangalore reaches us in time, we shall send them to our parishes and institutions. Kindly make use of them well.

Thanking you in anticipation for all your help and looking forward to a creative response, filled with joy

+ **Salvadore Lobo**

NEWS & EVENTS

Kamarpara Mission honors Coaching Teachers

"I believe there is no other profession in the world that is more important to society than that of a teacher" - said former President of India Dr. AP J Abdul Kalam. To honor the village coaching Centre teachers (SAC) and other teachers who collaborate, St. Paul's Mission, Kamarpara organized a day of felicitation on 5th September 2020 along with the feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta who was also a teacher who imparted the wisdom of God to students.

Kamarpara Mission's SAC-village coaching centre children so joyfully acknowledged the service of twelve coaching centre teachers. They were welcomed as real heroes with flower petals showered on them and honored with garlands as per the local custom. The lockdown restrictions for Covid-19 like wearing mask, social distancing and sanitizing the area were kept up. Bro. Nirmal Mardi as master of ceremony and Miss Namita Mardi as organizer highlighted the greatness, simplicity and committed service of the teachers throughout the whole year.



Colorful cultural program was organized by the students. Sr. Marcelda MC, superior of Burdwan community garlanded the statue of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Mr. Mathias Murmu and Mr. Shyam Chakraborty during their message to students narrated the life of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and the importance of teacher's day. They also exhorted the students to follow the footsteps of their teachers who can lead you to the bright future. Sr. Jean Hembrom, MC in her message said that a real teacher is the one who takes all students to a new world with success and happiness. She also went on to narrate the life of Mother Teresa as an example for all teachers.

On behalf of the Mission, Fr. Britto gave away gifts to all teachers for their zealous service and students also presented gifts to teachers as a sign of gratitude. The students present remembered and prayed for all teachers. Thereafter a fellowship meal was shared with the Teachers which enhanced the joy of the day.

From Fr. Britto

Teachers' Day Celebration - St. Joseph's Convent High School, Chittaranjan

Teachers' Day was celebrated at St. Joseph's Convent High School, Chittaranjan on 5th September 2020 with great enthusiasm. This day is also celebrated to honor Dr Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan, the great teacher, academic philosopher and India's second President as he was born on the same day in 1888.

The day began by welcoming the teachers maintaining all the norms of social distancing as laid by the government. Teachers looked different all decked up with lovely masks, innovative attire for the occasion.

Lighting the lamp signifies the all powerful presence of God and dispels the darkness spreading the light of positivity and hope in this challenging time. The Diya was lit on the beautiful tune of 'Asatoma..... Satgamaya' by Sr Jennifer, Sr Christina, Mrs Saswati, Mrs Swatee and Mrs Manisha.

The prayer was led by Sr Jennifer, the Principal. Her thoughtful words and prayers for the staff members enfolded everyone with the warmth of her love and gratitude. Each of the staff members felt special in the midst of all the distress caused due to the pandemic and everyone felt light hearted. The heartfelt greetings of gratitude sent by Fr Ananth, on behalf of the Founder Body inspired the teachers to walk an extra mile and ignite the spirit of unity, and harmony and be the change in the ministry of education.

A pleasant surprise awaited the members of the faculty when the students organized various events for them as tokens of affection, respect and gratitude in a trendsetting unique way. The teachers were overwhelmed by the heart touching performance of their students.

During the second half of the day, the Management organized a special get together for the members of the faculty. All present enjoyed the fun filled games organized for the first time, which brought about vitality and energised the teachers in a congenial environment. Many faculty members won prizes in the fun games. The programme ended with the grace over the meal by Sr Christina followed by the sumptuous and delicious lunch.



From Sr. Jennifer CSST

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

Pope Francis reflecting on 'Presbyterorum Ordinis' quoted the Letter to the Hebrews: "Priests, who are taken from among men and ordained for men in the things that belong to God in order to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins, nevertheless live on earth with other men as brothers amid brothers," and urged in his reflection on these three phrases: taken from among men, ordained for men, and present among other men (#39)." A priest, Pope Francis said, "is a man who is born in a certain human context: there he learns the primary values, as the spirituality of the people, grows accustomed to relations." With this primary note of Pope Francis, Diocese of Asansol is blessed to have two newly ordained Priests, Dn Gyan Murmu and Dn. Shuku Soren. In a situation where the vocations to Priesthood have become a rare, the Lord inspired these two Santal aborigin young men to follow Christ.

Dn Gyan Murmu son of Molin Murmu and Josephine Hembrom hails from Mangra Parish, Bhagalpur diocese, did his studies at Morning Star College. Dn Shuku Soren Son of Dhumo Stephen soren and Lokhi Lucia Murmu hails from Ahmedpur Parish also completed his formation at Morning Star College. Two of them were ordained on 17th September 2020 by His Lordship Bishop Cyprian Monis, the Emeritus Bishop of Asansol with due delegation from Bishop Salvatore Lobo, the Apostolic Administrator of Asansol at Nirmal Hriday Church, Ahmedpur. His Lordship Salvatore Lobo reminded the ordinands that "we are not priests for ourselves, and our own sanctification is closely linked to that of our people, our anointment with theirs. You have been anointed for your people. Knowing and remembering that we are ordained for the people, the holy people of God, helps priests not to think of themselves, to be authoritative, not authoritarian; firm but not hard; joyful but not superficial: in short, pastors, not functionaries."

Priestly Ordination was well arranged by Rev Fr Wilfred Monis, keeping in mind all the government norms in this pandemic lockdown situation. The limited member participated in the ordination ceremony. We wish Rev. Fr. Gyan Murmu and Rev Fr Shuku Soren all the very best in their Priestly ministry.



From Fr. Andrew

Regional BEC Coordinators meeting

Twelve Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Coordinators and animators of the Bengal Region attended a meeting to reflect on the Regional BEC programs at Chetana on Sept. 3, 2020. During the meeting Fr. Gautam Naskar, new BEC Coordinator from Baruipur was welcomed. Sr. Christin, HC from Calcutta chaired the meeting. Fr. Sarto, Regional BEC Coordinator welcomed all the participants

They decided not to have Regional programs of inviting people from all the dioceses for training or orientation till Dec. 2020. The programs need to be organized at the diocesan level. If a few from the neighbouring diocese want to attend, they could be encouraged for mutual learning keeping the social distance, wearing masks and other regulations with regard to health.

More social media need to be used to encourage, to give hope and courage to the people. Neighbourhood communities should make special efforts to identify the sick, suffering and needy in the villages and to extend all support to them.

MC Celebration : The Missionaries of Charity Sisters at Sneha Dan, Burdwan celebrated the feast of St. Theresa of Calcutta on Sept 5. Fr. I.P. Sarto presided over the Eucharist along with the OCD priests. The inmates sang meaningful hymns.

The M. C. Sisters at Shanti Dan, Bolpur celebrated the feast of their Congregation on Aug 22, 2020. Fr. Sarto presided over the Eucharist along with Frs. Anthony Raj and Rony Vincent. The Sisters distributed gifts and ration to the poor to share their joy.

NEWS & EVENTS

Felicitation to Deacons :

MSFS Priests Frs. Michael, Sajjan and Nicholas guided the retreat of the Deacons Gyan and Sukhu at St. Francis De Sales Church, Galsi from Sept 1 to 6, 2020. On Sept 6th evening the MSFS community organized a prayer service and fellowship dinner for the future priests. SMI Community sisters and Frs. Sarto and Alexius from Chetana joined the felicitation program.

Vocation Promotion :

Sr. Sumalata, MSMHC (from Bandel) and Candidate Menaka Soren (from Nuta) visited Dessa, Ekpere, Talit and Channa villages for Vocation promotion from Sept 13 to 17, 2020. They met many girls spoke to them about the Call from God. Miss. Carmela Hansda from Talit village who completed class X recently joined them. Our prayers are assured for Carmela to persevere in her vocation.

Jamuria Rosa Mystica School :

Fr. Attrey Gomes, Provincial of the Society of Pilar, Fr. Stanley Pereira , Treasurer of the Province, Frs. Irinue Diniz, SFX and Brian Fernandes, SFX visited Jamuria on Sept 18. Bishop Salvatore Lobo presided over the Eucharistic celebration. Frs. IP Sarto, Ananth Kumar and Rahul Sequiera joined the Eucharist to pray for the Pilar Mission of Evangelization in the area. Fr. Sarto welcomed the Pilar Congregation to the diocese . Fr. Deonis Kerketta, SFX is appointed new Principal of Rosa Mystica School. Fr. Siluvai Kumar handed over the documents of the school and showed the files of the school to the new incumbent in the presence of all the priests. Bishop Lobo thanked Fr.Siluvai for his services in Jamuria and congratulated Fr.Deonis for his new mission in the Coal belt.

Parish Orientations:

Ekpere Mission had a day of Orientation for youth on Sept. 20. Fr. Sarto presided over the Eucharist along with Frs. Vincy and Mangal, OCD. Sr. Joselette, CJ, Frs. Rajesh Kujur and Christopher, OMI organized the day's program. The youth led the Bible procession, sang hymns, led the Prayer of the faithful and carried Lighted candles to the altar as sign of being light to the world.

Galsi parish had a reflective session on post Covid Church on September 24, 2020. Sr. Christin, HC facilitated the informal meeting attended by the MSFS priests and SMI Sisters.

From I.P. Sarto

A Short Biography of Fr. M. Irudaya Joseph (New Priest)

I was born on 15th July 1988 in a village called Sathiyamangalam in the state of Tamil Nadu and I belong to the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. I hail from a pious and a traditional Catholic family of Mr. A. Mathew (Late) and Mrs. M. Sagayamary Clara as the eldest child. I have one younger sister namely Romeo Oliver. I was a altar boy together with some of my friends and we used to stay in our parish church and help the parish priest. At that early age onwards I inculcated the desire to be a priest. God graciously looked upon me and called me to be a servant in his vineyard. I joined the seminary having realised the call of the Almighty God and impelled by the Spirit to love the unloved and to care for the uncared. I pursued my Bachelor Degree in Philosophical studies at St. John's Major Seminary, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh and my Bachelor Degree in Theological studies at Khrist Premalaya Regional Theologate, Ashta, Madhya Pradesh where I secured Summa Cum Laude Probatus by the tremendous intervention of the wisdom of God from the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome.

Besides I also hold Masters in English Literature. I was ordained on 7th August 2020 by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. A. Neethinathan of the diocese of Chingleput, Tamil Nadu with the motto "To bear witness to Christ's Love." I am thankful to God the Almighty for his goodness to me. I do acknowledge the graciousness of His Excellency Rt. Rev. Cyprian Monis, Bishop Emeritus who accepted me into the diocese and showing his love and guiding me to reach the Altar of the Lord.



Video Graphic Training

From August 30th evening to September 4th 2020 afternoon Video-making training was conducted at Chetana Pastoral Centre, Burdwan. The resource person was Sr. Christin Joseph, HC from Calcutta. Ten participants from four dioceses attended. Fr. IP Sarto, organizer of the training welcomed the participants and introduced the resource person. He explained the value and importance of video editing for effective pastoral ministry during this pandemic time. Bishop Salvadore Lobo came to celebrate Eucharist for the participants and spoke to them about the importance of social communication to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in the Church.

Every day began with the veneration of the Word of God, which was conducted by the participants. Sr. Christin, HC shared her skill, experience, wisdom and knowledge about video graphy that she had leant and practicing it. She added that this is effective and relevant way of influencing young people and joyful way of sharing the Gospel.

She enforced the learners to learn the basic rules of holding the camera, as correct shot matters a lot to draw attention of the spectator. Sr. Christin helped participants to prepare a video along with a hymn. She introduced to the group the tips on shooting and editing video like- production, story writing, framing a



video clip, composing the story, editing a video, adding music, post- production and choosing the editing software. The participants went around Chetana and took many video shots on Chetana building, garden, pond, etc. She trained the group to take different shorts from different angles.

Finally Sr. Christin asked the participants to prepare a video on Vocation promotion for their dioceses and Congregations. Participants took active part to collect videos and prepare a story and Video editing that is learnt from the course. At the end it was screened and feedback was given by all the participants so that production may become more effective in the future. It gave tremendous joy to all by seeing their own production. It was interesting to gain such knowledge and able to produce a video.



Thought it was something new, bit difficult, needs more time and concentration, yet it was very interesting, said Fr. Dominic Gomes, VG of Kolkata Archdiocese while expressing his gratitude towards the resource person Sr. Christin and Fr. IP Sarto for organizing the training. Sr. Joselette, CJ from Ekpere expressed that it was a new experience for her and gained much knowledge on videos. Fr. Paulus Hembrom, VG of Raiganj said video graphics help us to move with the time of working with youth. This is an opportunity to approach youth in easy way, he added.

NEWS & EVENTS

Mr. Christopher Hembrom a youth from Liluah expressed that this was the golden opportunity for him to learn with priests and Religious. More scope to be given for the youth to explore social media in Church programs, he added.

Fr. Christopher, OMI from Ekpere added that editing shots will really bring the impact in the life of young stars and help us to draw their attention towards the Church. Fr. Sarto added that this is the New Way of being the Church during this Pandemic. Because the world has introduced online programs in every field, the knowledge through mass media and this is the opportunity that we can cop up with the world and attract the young people. The training ended with a prayer and blessing given by Fr. Ruben Murmu, SCC Coordinator of Krishnagar diocese. The participants also visited Ekpere mission and Kamarpara parish for video shooting and to interact with youth. Frs. Rajesh Kujur, OMI and Birtto respectively hosted fellowship meal for the visitors.

From Fr. Alexius Tudu

BIRTHDAYS	OCTOBER 2020	ORDINATIONS
1 Fr. Lawrence		4 Fr. Anthony Raj A
3 Fr. Kulandai		4 Fr. Harsha
9 Fr. Francis Badugu		7 Fr. Wilfred Monis
14 Fr. Stephen		15 Fr. Abraham
26 Fr. Arvind Negi		15 Fr. Vincent Rony
30 Fr. Gerald Machado		15 Fr. Kulandai Samy
31 Fr. Wilson		15 Fr. Michael Hansda
		17 Fr. Stephen Toppo

Bishop Lobo's Programme - October 2020

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
02	Fri	10.30 a.m.	Bardhaman	G.B. Meeting of Chetana Ashram Trust at Chetana
03	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Presides over Foundation Day celebrations at PUS
04-09	Sun-Fri		Darjeeling	Works on the initiation of the Cause of Fr. Augustine Desgodins & Co. MEP
10	Sat	P.M.		Returns to Asansol
13	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Bardhaman	Meeting of the priests Council at Chetana
16	Fri		Bardhaman	Sacred Heart Society Meeting
18	Sun		Asansol	Mass for Mission Sunday at the Cathedral
19	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Asansol	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
21	Wed	03.00 p.m.	Jamshedpur	Meets Bp. Telesphore Bilung
22	Thu	07.00 p.m.		Returns to Asansol

Bishop Monis' Programme - October 2020

01.10.2020	Retreat begins in the evening for the Novices of F.J at Sahebhdanga
10.10.2020	Retreat ends in the morning
16.10.2020	First profession of F.J Novices, Sahebhdanga at 10 A.M
17.10.2020	Entrance to the Novitiate of F.J Postulants