



RICE COAL



ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY—2022

Consecrated Life

On February 2, Feast Day of the Presentation of Our Lord, Church keeps the day of the Consecrated life. All the parishes are to keep a day of prayer for the consecrated people on February 6 as on week day the people are not free. I request all the parish priests and priests-in Charge to organize a day of religious an all the parishes and quasi parishes and recognize and thank the consecrated men and women in the parish. At this occasion I place before you a few of my thoughts on the consecrated life.

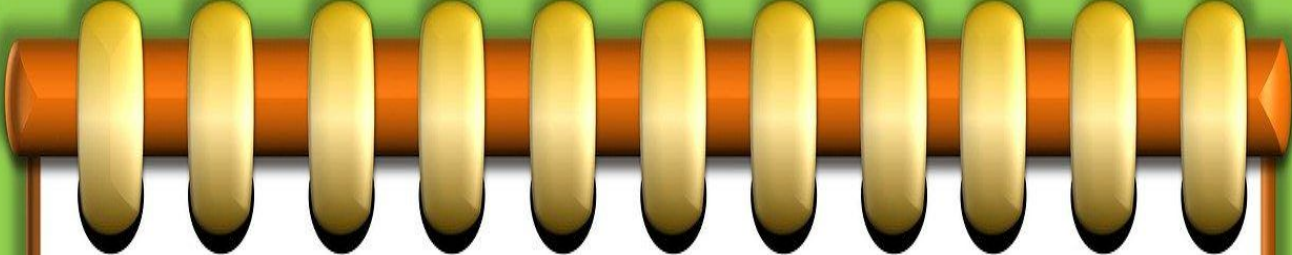
The purpose of religious life is: 1. To love Jesus. All religious have this as their primary goal. Of course question that arises is, what about others i.e. those who are not called for religious life, do they not love Jesus? They do! But there is a difference. Being religious, one puts oneself in a privileged position to love Jesus. For example, a person by marrying a man or a woman puts himself/ herself in a privileged position to love that person. Others too, can love that person, his/ her love is special. All his/her works, relationships and achievements should be in reference to that love. This should be the case of the religious too, their affinity towards Jesus. St. Mother Teresa would say, "love only Jesus, give only Jesus"

2. To be a witness of Jesus. "....You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem...and to the ends of the earth." A disciple is a witness not only in Jerusalem but where ever he or she lives. This witnessing is not bound by time and space. The words of St. Francis of Assisi are relevant here: "Preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary use words". A disciple of Jesus is required to preach the Gospel at all times. Preaching is done not much by words but as by one's life. That is witnessing. That is what religious are called to do.

3. To be of service: Loving Jesus and bearing witness should not remain a personal preoccupation. Christianity is not a religion that facilitates an individual's entry to heaven alone. It is rather a religion that stresses social responsibility. It is a religion that seeks out the lost sheep and on finding it, carries it on its shoulders to the fold (Lk 15:4-7). It is a religion that says, "....if you are about to offer gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God." (Mt 5:23-24). Christianity is a religion of love and service. Jesus showed the way by washing the feet and asking us to do likewise. In our time St. Mother Teresa has been an example of service to the poorest of the poor.

4. Life lived in total freedom, detachment and joy. Three qualities stand out in religious life: freedom, detachment and joy. A person becomes a religious in total freedom, there is no force or compulsion, direct or indirect, internal or external in the vocation of a religious. It is in total freedom one begins this life and lives it in the community. Detachment is another hall mark of the religious. In other sense it is total surrender to the one we love fully. A good religious lives the life without attachments to the place, persons and things. Only attachment would be to Jesus Christ. This life lived in freedom and detachment makes way to a joyful life. It is the result of quiet confidence arising from doing everything for the Lord and living a life that is totally directed to God and is fully dependent on Him. St. Ignatius Loyola uses the word 'consolation instead of joy. He defines consolation as an increase of faith, hope and charity. Pope Francis clearly says that one cannot be witness to the Good News if one is not joyful. It is quite simple for him: if you are carrying something good for others (Good News) you ought to be joyful.

+ Salvadore Lobo



VISITORS

Frs. Vincent Lobo, Hermil D'Souza and Gregory Monteiro from Midnapore deanery visited Chetana, Bolpur, Laghata and Ahmadpur Jan 11-12, 2022. Frs. Robert and Wilson hosted them fellowship meals. Fr. Hermil invited Frs. Lawrence Sah and Robert D'Souza for treatment at St. Joseph's Hospital, Midnapore. Both had treatment there from Jan 23, 2022

Fr. Dominic Gomes, Vicar General of Calcutta Archdiocese was at Bishop's House, Asansol Jan 3 to 7, 2022. He took treatment with the Herbal doctor at Maithan.

Missionaries of Charity Regional Superior, Rev. Sr. Deepam visited Burdwan, Bolpur Jan. 12 to 15. She installed Sr. Luigina, MC as new superior of Lakurdi MC Community. The diocese is grateful to Sr. Merilda, MC the former superior for her committed services to the TB patients at Lakurdi and her Catechetical helps and Pandemic relief to poor in various parishes in Burdwan area. She was given farewell on Jan 22, 2022 by the patients of Snehadan and the MC Sisters who came for retreat in Burdwan

Sr. Christin, HC visited our diocese Jan. 18- 19, 2022 and discussed about the Synodality and SCCs with the priests at Chetana.

Mr. Atul Sharma, architect visited along with Fr. Sarto January 14, 2022 Sahabdanga, Nuta, Koshigram & Dak Bangla more, Katwa to see the buildings and to suggest for maintenance works. He also saw the Ausgram building work and suggested appropriate changes.

Fr. Wilson Fernandes visited Jhumuria January 14, 2022 to discuss about the school building with Frs. Deonis Kerketta and Renaldo, SFX

Frs. Nilu Murmu and Sarto visited Kalna parish on Jan. 15, They discussed with Jesuit Priests Arul Joseph and Benny and the Sisters of Charity about the Synodality of Church. They planned to start synodal consultation from February 2022.

Synodal animation in Kamarpara :

Kamarpara St. Paul's Parish had on 9th January 2022 the synodal gathering. It was a great opportunity and gracious occasion for the people of Kamarpara Parish to learn and to understand the meaning and the purpose of synodal Church. Fr.Nilu Murmu and Mr.Marsel Mardi from Burdwan parish were invited to explain the importance of the synod in Santali. The animators of the Parish, Mr. Mathias Murmu, Mr. Sonatan Mardi, Mrs. Sephali Hasdak, Ms. Partima, Ms. Teresa Hasdak and Mrs. Anita Murmu extended their helping hands to conduct the program. The parishioners were divided into 9 small groups to discuss. All of them gave their hearts and minds to give answers to the questions. With the Synod, people have to make decisions for the growth and betterment of the Parish and not the Priests alone, said by Fr.Nilu and Mr.Marsel. The meeting began with a prayer of the Holy Spirit and ended with a prayer led by Fr. Stephen De Britto. At the end of the program, all were given tea and puffed rice. Fr. Britto thanked the facilitators and invited them to come again for a follow-up animation.

Reported By Bro.Michael Kisku



Ordination :

Bishop Salvadore Lobo ordained **Rev. Martin Rodrigues** a Priest on January 24, 2022. The solemn Eucharist was held at Christ the King Church, Jogfalls, Karnataka. Five priests from Asansol diocese joined the Eucharist along with other priests. The Liturgy was meaningfully prepared and a function was held to greet the New priest at the parish hall



" Bishop Salvatore Lobo celebrated his beginning of the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination with thanksgiving Mass on January 30, 2022 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Asansol. Loreto Sisters also commemorated the death anniversary of their Foundress Venerable Mary Ward and organized a meaningful Liturgy on that day. Mrs. Jenny George gave a brief introduction for the Mass and Sr. Rani, IBVM proposed vote of thanks to the Bishop and the Parishioners. Fr. Linus Toppo organized a felicitation for the Bishop who thanked all for their prayers and wishes. "



Bishop Cyprian Monis confirmed 11 Children of St. Paul's Mission, Kulti on January 23, 2022 during the Eucharist. **Frs. J. Peter** and **Arockiadoss** prepared the children well for the Sacrament. The Liturgy was meaningfully prepared by the parishioners and children participated with devotion to receive the Holy spirit. Parents accompanied the children.

Synod planning meet was held at st. John's Parish, Chelidanga on Jan. 24, 2022. **Fr. Dolphy Mathias** PP moderated the session for the Parish Council members explaining the meaning of Logo and the purpose of Synod. A Synodal committee of 12 members were chosen for the parish



Chittaranjan St. Joseph's Parish celebrated the Bible Sunday Jan. 23, 2022. Fr. **Aruldass** organized Bible quiz for the parishioners. They were divided into four groups of Evangelists.

The diocese is grateful to **Mrs. Manju Kanjilal** who donated an inverter with battery for Saltora Tuition centre in Bankura district. This is a great help to the Children who come for evening study. The diocese is also thankful to **Mr. Dilip Banerjee**, Director of Sishu Tirtha School and the teachers of the school who donated 80 blankets to the children. This assistance helped the children to protect themselves during the severe cold this year. The Tuition centre students and teachers celebrated the Republic day meaningfully on Jan. 26, 2022.
From Fr. Harsha



Asansol Sacred Heart Cathedral had Ecumenical prayer service on January 27, 2022. Pastors from eight denominations came for the prayer. They prayed for Church Unity, for peaceful elections in Asansol, for the leaders of our Country and for world peace. Fr. I P Sarto conducted the prayer service. Fr. Linus Toppo made all arrangements for the service and the ecumenical meeting which followed. It was decided to have ecumenical prayer service once in every month.



Synodal Consultations :

The Synodal committee members of Asansol area had a review meeting on Jan. 20, 2022 at St. Maria Goretti School, Asansol. Sr. Deepa, DSA organised the meeting and led the Bible procession. Fr. Sarto facilitated the meeting. The members shared their personal experience of participating in the Synodal process. They felt personal peace, joy, responsibility and deep faith in participating. They were happy to see the interest of the laity to learn more about the Word of God, to share their faith experience, to participate in Church programs and interest in prayer. They also shared their vision for Asansol diocese 2030. To see the Church as united Body of Christ, more responsible laity, deeper knowledge of the Bible and to reach out to maximum number of people the Gospel message. They planned for various parish Synod animation in January and February 2022 and next meeting in the presence of Bishop Salvatore Lobo. They decided to prepare the draft synthesis of the diocese by Feb. 15, 2022. Fr. Gyan Murmu concluded the meeting with a pray



Teachers of St. Joseph's Schools in Chittaranjan displayed their talents by singing, dancing and acting on street play on the Republic day. Fr. Aruldass was the Chief guest at the function at CBSE school, while Fr. Sarto was chief guest at ICSE school. They congratulated Srs. Priyanka, Anupama, CSST, the teachers and staff for their performance.



The class IX and X Students of St. Joseph's schools - ICSE and CBSE in Chittaranjan received Covid 19 Vaccination at the school premises on Jan. 27, 2022. St. Joseph's High School, Asansol had on Jan 29 for the students.

Covid 19 Relief : Fr. Robert D'Souza distributed dry ration to 180 families on Jan 22, 2022 at Laghata. He had been regularly distributing dry ration once a month to poor needy families of the area for the last two years. Thanks to his generous donors who helped him to assist the needy during the pandemic.



Notice Board

This year the Holy Childhood Day is on February 13. Today's children are tomorrow's Catholic Church. Kindly celebrate Holy Childhood Day well.

February 11, is the World Day of the Sick. Due to the on going pandemic Covid 19, the day has assumed a greater importance. Kindly pray for all those who are sick and infirm and all those who take care of them.

Bishop Salvadore Lobo's Programme for February 2022

Date	Day	Time	Place	Program
02	Tue	06.30 a.m.	Asansol	Mass of Presentation O.L and the Consecrated Life for the religious in Asansol Town at DSA Convent G.T. Road.
		10.00 a.m.	Asansol	G.B. Meeting of St Xavier's College at the College Office
		04.00 p.m.	Asansol	Meeting of the Synodal Committee at Bishop's House
4	Fri	03.00 pm	Bolpur	Synodal meeting of Birbhum district
5	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Burdwan	Synodal committee of Purba Burdwan
11	Fri		Gosaba	Ordination of Dn. Sanjay Mondal
14	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Asansol	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
15	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Asansol	Meeting of Finance Committee
22	Tue		Delhi	
25	Fri		Delhi	NISCORT GB meeting

Birthday Wishes 7th February

02 - Fr. Anthony Raj

04 - Fr. Clarence Bhaju

12 - Fr. Mongal Tudu

Ordination Anniversary
Congratulations to

01 - Fr. Anand Raj

20 - Fr. Antony Lobo



for a synodal church

communion | participation | mission

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ASANSOL

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Remembering our priests in heaven

06 - Fr. Valerian Fernandes

19 - Fr. Richard Saldanha

