



RICE COAL

ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

January 2022



Journeying Together in 2022

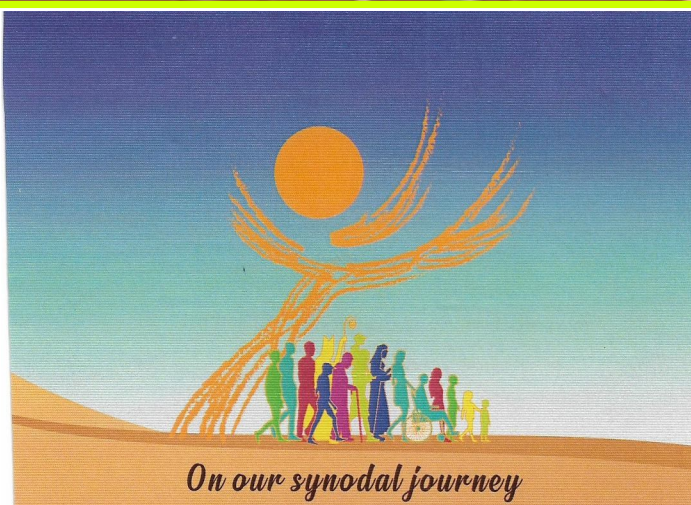
We are just beginning the New Year 2022. We need to have a dream for the year. The dream is to make our family a better family, our church a holier and better place to live in. Pope Francis has asked us to journey together in the church in preparation of the coming Synod in October 2023. We journey together with and Jesus, our Emmanuel, who is the “way” (Jn 14:6) in the church. Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection gave rise to a movement of his disciples called ‘the Way’ (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 22:4, etc.). This ‘Way’—of people with diverse spiritual gifts and charisms (1 Cor 12)—was filled with a deep sense of service and mission. They saw themselves as servants of the community.

The early Church lived the synodal way. “The whole community of the believers was one in heart and mind. No one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but rather they shared all things in common. With great power the Apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, for all of them were living in an exceptional time of Grace (AA 4:32-33). However, over the centuries certain clericalism crept in and the role of the laity receded to the background and they were made to pray, pay and obey. This Synod is a call to shun clericalism. “The whole church is called to deal with the weight of culture imbued with clericalism that she inherits from her history, and with those forms of exercising authority on which different type of abuse are grafted” (Preparatory Document no. 6).

Small Christian Communities (SCCs) as a new way of being Church fosters and promotes active participation in the Church. Strengthened by the Word of God in Bible sharing and nourished by the Eucharist, the Small Christian Communities are active in the church’s evangelizing mission. It is supposed to be pastoral priority in our diocese. However, it is actively promoted only in some parishes in our diocese. There is hesitancy on the part of many parishes to encourage and promote Small Christian Communities. Time has come now and Synodal process and journeying together should encourage us to move forward towards the formation of Small Human Communities (SHCs). Synodal process should also help us in Asansol diocese, where we live in a pluralistic society with many cultures, religions, languages denominations etc. to create and promote a culture of peace and harmony. Inter religious and ecumenical dialogue will gain more importance particularly in the polarized society. We must truly be salt of the earth and light of the world. We must be the leaven or catalyst to make our diocese a better place to live in.

Outcome of this journeying together in our diocese in this Synodal process will be, listening to the Holy Spirit and living with the Holy Spirit to build a communion through participation to carry out our mission. This communion through participation for a mission must become our mode of operation and mode of living. This should make us more transparent, more humble, more loving one another, more appreciating one another and give more time to the family we live in.

+ Salvadore Lobo



Notice:

1. The Unity Octave week begins on January 18 and ends on January 25. Kindly organize Church Unity Octave in your area with the co-operation of the local pastors.
2. The application for the renewal of the license for FCRA by the Missionaries of Charity has not been granted by the Home Ministry on the pretext of “some adverse in puts”. Missionaries of Charity have about 22,000 patients all over India. Kindly pray that the problem may be solved and the 22,000 poorest of the poor may get the continued care and service.
3. 55th World Day of Peace is celebrated in India on January 30, the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination. This year’s theme being “Dialogue Between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace.” Kindly be a messenger of peace in your way of life.

+ Salvadore Lobo

I want to share about an incident that took place in one of the villages of Baligeria Parish called Ramchandrapur, which is across the river Subernarikela. Miss. Mungli Magdalena, was helping Srs. Josephine and Stella at Chamrusai for Boarding. The Boarders about 700 were from Various villages. Mungli went home during holiday in the month of May. While she was returning back to Chamrusai, She was Caught by some Sadhus and kept her under their custody. She was asked to renounce Christian faith, which she did not do. Mungli was strong in her faith.

Meanwhile, Fr. De Cooq, SJ at Chamrusai got the message from her that she was under the custody of some Sadhus. Fr. De Cooq gathered some Boys, along with Sr. Josephine and came to St. Paul's Parish, Kamarchowki and requested me to send 15 boys to release Mungli. I also joined them, before leaving the house I informed the matter to Fr. Godfrey Fernandes who was with me. And I proceeded to Ramchandrapur area driving bicycle. Mungli was not in Ramchandrapur, we came back to the village where, Sadhus had a small Ashram and a small temple. We reached just after lunch. Mungli was sitting on the Parkom (4 legs rope-woven Cot) which is made to sit or sleep.

I quietly went to her and asked whether she was willing to come with us. She said yes, then I asked her to take all her things and come with us. She followed without any delay, as we walked out of the village, all of a sudden heavy rain started pouring. It was a blessings in disguise, due to rain the villagers could not follow us, we were completely got wet finally we reached the road and we walked down to the police station. The police did not want to take our FIR, for we went in front of the Police station without informing them. We were nearly 20 of us.

After pleading and asking pardon for our mistake, they accepted FIR. I stayed back with Sr. Josephine and Miss Mungli and we sent others back to Chamrusai. Meanwhile Fr. Godfrey Fernandes followed us, as we came out of village, he entered the village. He was caught by the Sadhus and Villagers.

Thus we had to stay back in the police station. O.C told me we would go early Morning. In the evening Fr. Godfrey was taken to a temple to worship the goddess, which he refused. He was put in a locked room. He was not allowed to come out even for nature's call, which was cruel. Since we reported to the police, they made three of us to stay till he was released.

Since it was night, they did not go to the village. Next day when police officer went to the village, they were all afraid, they were also angry with us. The O.C made them to understand the religion of Christians and Hindus. He explained to them abducting a girl and keeping her in their custody was a crime. The villagers requested not to make any case against them and they will not make any case against us. Thus O.C released Fr. Godfrey at 3.30 pm from the Sadhus. It was really God's miracle that by heavy rain, we walked freely out of the village and also without any fight with villagers we settled the matter. I thank God and praise for that day's Protection and Mercy.

+Bishop Cyprian Monis

Request for Motivation

Kamarpara Higher secondary school Teacher In-Charge and his colleagues visited St Paul Mission, Kamarpara with a request to ask church authorities to motivate students to go to school in the coming days specially class IX to XII. They visited chapel and prayed for some time. They appreciated us that words of great Legends like Tagore & Swamy Vivekananda are written on the church wall. I promised them to motivate our higher class students to go to school.

-Fr Brito



Catechism Camp

Cluny Sisters of St Joseph at Laghata conducted faith formation and moral science classes for 70 children. The children participated in the faith formation program. Sr Elizabeth, the superior made all the arrangements. Srs Margarita, Roshna, Keerthi took the classes. Fr Robert and Fr Michael encouraged them and offered Holy mass for the children. All the children and their parents appreciated the sisters for their initiative.

-Fr Robert D'Souza



Synodal meeting at Durgapur

On 19 Dec 2021, 15 parishioners gathered for an animation on Synodal process along with Fr Raja Sekhar, Fr. Sarto facilitated the session. During the session Fr Sarto asked them one basic question: ***How will you share the Gospel message to all in Durgapur?*** They all responded and agreed to do the following: Singing Carol and wishing all neighbours in the name of Christ for new year, Conduct prayer service outside the house in a Grotto of Mother Mary and pray for healing, By my joyful behaviour Helping others in the area who need assistance, Share with people about Christ and his blessings, Encourage people to come to Church to get blessing, Charitable work in the neighbourhood, Keep the Church open for all and pray for those who come. Next meeting is planned for Jan. 2, 2022.

Synodal Orientation at Chelidanga

On 5th Dec, parishioners of Chelidanga, Burnpur Asansol, Durgapur, Kulti gathered for an animation on Synodal process. Fr Nilu Murmu facilitated the orientation. As many as 75 parishioners along with the religious communities took part in the orientation. They discussed about Christ centered church and resolved to participate in the Synodal process. Fr Dolphy Matthias, the parish priest introduced the speaker and made all the arrangements for the orientation. Fr Suku concluded the orientation with prayer.

-Fr Suku Soren



Synodal Orientation for SCC animators

Small Christian Community (SCC) animators from three dioceses of West Bengal had an orientation on Synodal process Dec. 13 to 14, 2021. The orientation held at Chetana was inaugurated by Bishop Salvadore Lobo, Apostolic Administrator of Asansol diocese. He exhorted the participants to be joyful, encouraging and have concern for neighbour during Advent. Synod invites us to be close to the Word of God and to listen to one another, he said.



The sessions were facilitated by Frs. I.P. Sarto, Nilu Murmu and Sr. Deepanjali, DSA, the Diocesan Resource Team of SCCs of Asansol diocese. Meaning of Synod and Logo, purpose of Synod, the themes of Synod and the methodology was explained in details to the participants. Fr. Sarto elaborated to them how SCCs are an ideal platform to do synodal process in the parishes. He also explained the role of Synodal facilitators to all SCC animators.

Wherever SCCs exist, synodal process is easy and where there is no SCCs, the Synodal discussion is very difficult and lead to problems, said Mr. Manoj Pramanik from Baruipur diocese sharing his experiences.

Through various exercise and group work, Fr. Sarto explained how to do Synodal listening in SCC meetings. Preparation of Synthesis, formulating questions as per the people and how to prepare people were explained to the SCC animators. The participants felt that the Synodal process of Communion, Participation and Mission are the same as SCCs. All SCC animators promised to share with their families, SCCs and with the neighbours about the fruitfulness of synod in their lives by December 31st 2021.

The synod will enable youth to have new dreams, to revive SCCs and people to be more participative in Church activities, said Mrs. Manju Linda from Calcutta Archdiocese.

Synodal Orientation for Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutes.

On 4th Dec, Diocesan level synod orientation was held at Chetana for all the Parish Priests, Heads of the institutes and religious superiors. 45 members from various parishes and religious house attended the Orientation. Rev Fr Franklin Menezes from Kolkata facilitated the orientation. He explained the needs and importance of the Synodal participation in the present ecclesiastical scenario.

All the members participated actively with lively dialogue and group discussions. Fr Sarto expressed the vote of thanks to the resource person and all the participants. They took resolution to initiate the parish level Synodal process and send the synthesis to the diocese as early as possible. The orientation was ended with a prayer by Bishop Lobo.



Clergy Recollection

On 9th Dec, priests' recollection was held at Chetana. Many priests participated and prepared themselves spiritually to the Christmas celebration. Fr Marcus Hembrom SJ was the preacher for the recollection. He focused on the importance of Christ in our priestly journey. Fr Nilu Murmu introduced the preacher and Fr Thomas Marandi expressed the vote of thanks to the preacher and all the participants. On the same occasion Fr Raymond Besra, the new priest was welcomed to the presbyterium.

First Holy Communion

On 5th Dec, First holy communion sacrament was given to 18 children, Chenna Balidangha Mission. Bishop Monis was the main celebrant and told the children and their parents to live the Eucharistic grace in their daily life. Fr Jayabalan prepared the children for one week through basic faith formation classes. He also well organized the ceremony with the help of the village leaders.

-Fr Jaybalan



Christmas Celebration

On 27th Dec, all the priests, religious priests, brothers sisters and seminarians gathered at St Teresa of Little flower Church, Durgapur to celebrate the diocesan Christmas day. Bishop Monis offered the Holy Eucharist and Bishop Lobo exhort all to keep up the unity and diversity in our diocese and invited us to do the Christ centered ministries in his homily. other priests concelebrated the Holy Eucharist. Fr Rajashekar made all the arrangements for the Christmas get to gather.



Christmas celebration with the officials and other Religious Leaders

On 26th Dec, Bishop Lobo had invited the government officials and other religious Leaders for the Christmas sharing at Bishop's House. Mr Arun Prasad, IAS, the DM of Paschim Burdwan and Many other officials came to Bishop's House at our invitation and shared the joy of Christmas. Bishop Lobo expressed our gratitude to them for serving the society in various capacity. On the same occasion our diocesan Calendar and year planner 2022 was released by Bishop Lobo and handed over to all those who were present. Bishop Lobo thanked Fr Rahul for arranging the calendars and planners.



Harvest Festival

Most of our Santal belt parishes celebrated the Harvest festival in the month of December. This is the expression of the cultural life of the Santal community in diversity.

This community celebration of our Santal Christians is the power of cohesiveness that has helped them remain independently with their own cultural milieu amidst diversity of cultures for centuries. This also reminds us to be thankful to God for all the blessings received throughout the year.

-Fr Wilfred Monis



Ecumenical Prayer Service

On 20th Dec, Ecumenical prayer service was held at Asansol, Sacred Heart Cathedral, in view of the great celebration of Christmas. Bishop Lobo, Bishop Monis, Frs Sarto, Linus, Sebastian Rodrigues and twelve pastors from other denominations participated in the prayer service. Bishop Lobo gave the Christmas message and Bishop Monis began the prayer service with prayer. Fr Linus and Mr Tapas Ghose made all the arrangements for the event.

Synod meeting at Talbona and Bolpur

On 12th Dec, Synod meetings were held at Talbona and Bolpur simultaneously. At Talbona, Sr Rosita along with Fr Avinash moderated the sessions. At Bolpur, Fr Deepak along with Sr Paulina CTC moderated the sessions. Parishioners were motivated to participate in the Synodal process.

Christmas Greetings

On 24th Dec, Fr Sarto, Fr Deva and Sr Matilda MC met the DM of Purba Burdwan Mrs Priyanka Singla, IAS, conveyed the Christmas wishes to her. The DM in return conveyed her wishes and support to the churches and educational institutions in the area.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Sr Sarala MC celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Religious life on Dec 16, 2021. Bishop Salvatore presided over the Eucharistic celebration at Lakurdi MC Home. Many of her relatives from Kerala and priests and religious of Burdwan town joined her to thank God for the blessings showered upon her. Her relatives were invited to Chetana on Dec 18 for dinner to thank them for dedicating Sr. Sarala MC to work as a Missionary of Charity.

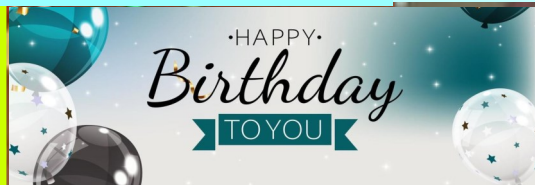
Visiting the Sick

On 2nd Dec, Fr Sarto and Frs Robert. Antonyraj, Nilu, Sr Rosa FJ visited Fr Bernard Murmu at Rampurhut and conveyed our prayers. Fr Bernard Murmu has been taking treatment for his ailments at Rampurhut. He was happy to see these fathers.



Birthday

14 -Fr Dolphy
17 -Fr Edward
19 -Fr Thomas



January

Obituary

4 – Fr Alwyn
18 – Fr Cyprian



Episcopal Ordination Anniversary

29 - + Salvadore Lobo



Ordination Anniversary

03 - Fr Linus Toppo
06 – Fr Michael Dias
17 – Fr Raja Sekhar
23 – Fr Mongal
23 – Fr Siluvai
23 – Fr Thomas

Bishop Lobo's programs for the Month of January 2022

Date	Day	Place	Subject	Date	Day	Place	Subject
01	Sat	Burnpur	New Year Mass	09	Sun	Bolpur	Mass for triduum of Infant Jesus Feast
02	Sun	Mumbai	Blessing of a Marriage	10	Mon	Kolkata	Peerless Hospital final Check up
05	Wed	Krishna-gar	Meeting of BRBC in Bishop's House	14-22	Fri- Sat	Mangalore	
06	Thu	Amghata	Mass for the staff and students of propaedeutic Seminary and G.B. meeting of Propaedeutic Seminary	24	Mon	Jog falls	Ordains our deacon Martin Rodrigues a priest
07	Fri	Barrack-pore	Mass for Morning Star Seminary followed by G.B. Meeting of Morning Star Regional Seminary	25-30	Tue-Sun	Vaishali	NISCORT Media Communication College



Bishop Salvadore Lobo and Bishop Cyprian Monis and the Curia of Asansol Diocese wish all the readers of this news letter Grace filled New Year 2022.

Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention - January 2022



For True Human Fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.