



RICE COAL

ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



Power of Resurrection

It was a hot summer afternoon. Cecil DeMille, the famous film director of Hollywood, was drifting in a canoe on a lake in Maine, reading a book. He looked away from the book momentarily, down to the lake a bunch of water beetles were at play. Suddenly one of the beetles began to crawl up the side of the canoe. When it got half way up, it attached the talons of its legs to the wooden side of the canoe and died. DeMille watched for a minute; then he turned back to his book. About three hours later, DeMille looked down at the dead beetle again. What he saw amazed him. The beetle had dried up, and its back was starting to crack open. As he watched, something began to emerge from the opening: first a moist head, then wings. It was a beautiful dragonfly. DeMille sat there in awe. Then the dragonfly began to move its wings. It hovered gracefully over the water where the other beetles were at play. But they did not recognize the dragonfly they did not realize that it was the same beetle they had played with three hours earlier. DeMille took his finger nudged the dried – out shell of the beetle. It was like an empty tomb.

The way of the Cross ended with empty tomb. It gives rise to the way of the Resurrection. As the way of the Cross lead us to repentance and conversion, way of the Resurrection leads us to greater liveliness, freedom and joy. We leave our injuries behind us, and turn to the life that seeks to blossom in our wounds. This is particularly helpful given the current tendency to dig up old wounds. The current pandemic Covid19 has lead us to a higher life of Faith, Hope and Charity through the new experience of Resurrection.

The way of the resurrection is a therapeutic way: it is an initiation into life. Normally therapy deals with our hurts and works on our repression and inner wound that mark our life story. Way of the resurrection gives the same power Jesus had given to Saul on the way to Damascus and made him Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. Easter Stories are just as therapeutic as many healing stories recorded in the Gospels. During 50 days of Eastertide, we like to follow the way of the resurrection: it is a way that leads us to everlasting liveliness, freedom and Joy . During this time we walk along the way that leads us to become fully human in the incarnation. And making this way of the resurrection, we are able to get in touch, ever more closely, with God given potential that is hidden within us. When we walk on the way of the resurrection, we walk free from all that stands in way of true life. We awake from the sleep of our illusions and begin our journey towards true life.

During the 40 days of Lent we meditated on the way of the cross and contemplated on our own sinfulness. During 50 days of Eastertide we leave our injuries and sinfulness behind and turn to the life that seeks to blossom in our wounds. The way of the Resurrection is open to us not only during the Eastertide, but throughout the year. In situations where we feel the fragility of life, when depression and hopelessness overwhelm us, when disappointment and resignation spread, meditation on the way of resurrection can help us reconnect with life that overcomes death that rises from the tomb and leads us into sheer breath and freedom of the resurrection.

The way of the resurrection binds us into the power of resurrection. We experience the power of resurrection when each time we rise again after a fall. Each time we love again after having our love rejected, we share the power of the resurrection. Each time we trust again after having our trust betrayed, we share in the resurrection. Each time after a failure, we try again, we share in resurrection. Each time we hope again after our hope smashed into pieces, we share in the resurrection. Each time we pick up the pieces, wipe our tears, face the sun, and start again, we share in the power of resurrection. The message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us anymore; not pain, not sin, not rejection and not even death. The message of Easter is that Jesus has conquered all, and that we too, can conquer all including the pandemic Covid 19, if we put our faith in Him.

+Salvadore Lobo

After one year of Regency which ended on 20th of June 1972, we came back to MSC Fr. Alan De Lastic, then Rector, was chosen as Auxiliary Bishop of Calcutta. We missed a good, nice, loving Rector in Theology. In his place Fr. Alphonse D'Souza, SJ was chosen as our new Rector. He was also good man concerned and committed to his teaching and work of the Rector.

As I came back from my regency, I was given an opportunity to take care and maintain the flower garden of the seminary. In the 2nd year front side was given to Philosophers, with help of one or two professors they used look after in front of the MSC building, I was given to look after the garden behind the building.

At end of the 1st year I was elected as the beadle of the seminary, who has to keep good relationship with rector, students and workers of the seminary. As a beadle I used to assign weekly duties for brothers to keep house and surrounding clean and neat. Due to this responsibility my studies suffered a bit.

Since we were more than 100 brothers. We needed more space for games. So we raised foot-ball ground and we created more basket-ball grounds. Brothers used to support in transplanting paddy and harvesting the paddy when it ripped. I used to grow some vegetables and brothers used to help in the refectory, poultry, piggery so that we had enough work besides house work. We used to give monthly holiday to cooks, helpers in the kitchen and brothers used to take up cooking for the day – that day one pig is used to be slaughtered by us and cooked by us. Those who knew cooking, like Robert, Sunil, many others helped us. We had a really a family spirit among us. We were able to maintain that spirit till the end of our theology in MSC. (To be continued...)

+Bishop Cyprian Monis

Lenten Recollection

One day recollection for youth and children was organized at St John's church. Around 200 youth and children took part in this recollection. Priests from neighboring parishes came to assist for the sacrament of reconciliation. The youth and children thanked Fr. Dolphy Mathias and the Micah group for organizing one day Lenten recollection for the children and youth of our parish.

-Mr. Thomas Bunty



Lenten Relief



Fr Thomas Marandi at Rajnagar mission distributed 100 packets of ration to the poor families of the area as a Lenten relief, through the help of M.C. Sisters, Bolpur.

-Fr Thomas Marandi

Women's Day Celebration

On 14th March 21, Women's day was celebrated at St Theresa's church, Durgapur. It was organized by the women commission of Asansol Diocese. Fr. Peter was the Main Celebrant at the Eucharist concelebrated by Fr. Kulandhai. Fr Sarto and Sr Christin HC gave a special message to all during the felicitation program. Special thanks to Fr. Rajasekar and his team for arranging the needful.

-Fr Peter



Health care of the Priests

On 5th March 2021, there was an official meeting held with the officials of Health World Hospital at Durgapur. Bishop Lobo and other Priests were present in the meeting. They have agreed to treat the priests of our diocese with discounted medical charges.

-Fr I P Sarto

Lenten Recollection at Andal

On 21st March 2021, One day recollection was organized for the faithful of Andal parish. The recollection was guided by Fr. J. Peter and the Mika group of Chelidanga. It was really a wonderful experience during the season of Lent. Frs. Deonis and Rinaldo of Pilar Fathers from Jamuria had come to hear the confessions of the faithful. Thanks to Fathers, all the parishioners, Sisters of DSA and especially those who helped in various ways for the successful retreat. May God bless you all abundantly.

-Fr Xavier Pandian



Priests' Recollection



On 24th and 25th Mar 2021, the priests of our diocese gathered at Chetana for the recollection. Fr Augustine D'Souza SJ guided the recollection based on the 'passion narration according to St John'. He shared the importance of understanding the passion of Christ to exercise our priestly ministry. About 30 Priests were present. Recollection concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided by Bishop Cyprian Monis and other priests concelebrated the holy Eucharist.

Young Clergy Gathering

On 24th March 2021, young clergy of our diocese gathered at Chetana. 6 young priests were present. Fr Sebastian Rodrigues, accompanied their gathering through the life experiences as priests. All the Priests shared their joys and difficulties experienced in their pastoral ministries in the gathering.

Regents recollection

On 6th March 2021, Regent brothers of our diocese made their recollection at Chetana. Sr Christin HC preached the recollection for our brothers. Fr Sarto and Fr Alex offered mass for the brothers.

Women's Day Celebration



Women are Symbol of Power, God's Finest and Beautiful Creation Without whom no Creation is Possible. To honour and empower the rural women on 8th March the International Women's day was celebrated with great joy and happiness by the staff and SHG members of GANNAM SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE [GSSC], Kurmun. The Empowerment speeches given by Mrs.Krishna Majilla Panchayet member of kurmun village, Mrs.Bornali Roy Teacher of Kurmun High's school, Mrs.Anima Tudu Staff of ABSK from Bolpur, Fr.Rajesh Kujur, OMI Fr.Sukku Soren gave the powerful messages on which focused the Power and contribution of the women in the present society. There were sixty four Women present from different villages and participated in the celebration. Cultural programme was given by the village children. Women participated in the games and won the prizes. The programme concluded by sharing delicious meal.

Sr Merlin SSAM

Men's day celebrated to commemorate St. Joseph's Year

Talbona Mission celebrated Men's day to mark St. Joseph's feast on March 21, 2021. Talbona celebrated the feast of St. Joseph on Sunday for the convenience of the people. The women prayed for all men- elderly, husbands, adult, youth, students and boys during the Holy Mass.

Fr. Alexius Tudu, SCC coordinator of Asansol diocese exhorted the men to follow the virtues of St. Joseph. The statue of St. Joseph was garlanded at the Altar and all men knelt before the altar. All present extended their hands to pray over them.

Fr. IP Sarto was the main celebrant. He congratulated Fr. Avinash Kumar on his ordination anniversary. The men went in a procession to the Church led by women leading the entrance dance before the Mass. After the Liturgy a detailed session on "Patris Corde" by Pope Francis was taken by Fr. IP Sarto for the parishioners to educate them on the importance of the year of St. Joseph and its purpose.

The parishioners decided to recite the prayer to St. Joseph composed by the Pope everyday at home. They planned to honour all working men on the feast of St. Joseph the worker on May 1, 2021. This is the first time in the parish history of Talbona, started in 2008, men are honoured and special prayers were offered for them, said Mr. Jiten Hansda, Parish council Secretary. Fr. Alex took a session on Seven steps Gospel sharing emphasizing the need of SCCs in every village

-I.P. Sarto



Pastoral visit to Kamarpara mission

On 14.3.2021, Bishop Salvatore Lobo went to Kamarpara for pastoral visit. Santal Traditional welcome was given to bishop Lobo. There after Bishop offered holy mass, during the holy Eucharist 31 children received 1st Holy Communion and 40 youth and children received Confirmation.

-Fr Britto



Farewell to catechist Dominic Hansda

On 14.3.2021 Kamarpara mission felicitated and thanked him for his committed service as catechist for 39 years. Served in 3 parishes- Burdwan, Nuta & Kamarpara. Bp Salvatore during the felicitation, on behalf of Diocese thanked Mr Dominic Hansda and his family and honoured him with a Rosary and shawl. On behalf of Kamarpara mission Fr. Britto and village leaders also thanked him & offered him gifts as a token of gratitude. God bless him and his family.

Fr. Britto



The Youth Orientation

On 6th March 2021, the youth orientation was held in St. Thomas mission, Ekpere. There were 25 youth from different Villages. The session was facilitated by Frs. Sarto and Alex. The theme of youth orientation was self-motivation and acknowledging own qualities. Fr. Sarto elaborated about SCC and the leadership. The main idea was to empower the youth of the Parish towards building up self-confidence and able to lead everyone. It was appropriate and educational for self-integration. The youth responded positively and assured that they will be example for other children and youth in their villages.

At the end some responsibility was entrusted to them like - youth employment/ govt. scheme, family, SCC facilitator, social work, and environment. It was good to see that all voluntarily took up the responsibility. The orientation concluded with prayer and blessing by Fr. Sarto.

-Fr Alex Tudu



Diaconate Ordination

On 29th April 2021, Br Raymond Besra was ordained as a deacon by Bishop Cyprian Monis, at Sacred Heart Church, Burdwan. The Holy Eucharist was concelebrated by Bishop Lobo and other Priests. In his homily, Bishop Monis exalted the ministry of the deacon. While we congratulate Deacon Raymond Besra, we thank Fr Martin Behara and the parishioners for all the arrangements. We thank the family of Deacon Raymond for generously offering him to our diocese.



Chrism Mass

On 30th March 2021, Chrism Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Velankani Church, Jyothinagar. Bishop Lobo presided over the Holy Eucharist and blessed the holy oils. And all the priests of the diocese concelebrated the Holy Eucharist and renewed their Priestly commitments. Fr. Tony made all the arrangements for the Holy Eucharist and for the delicious dinner. Bishop Lobo expressed gratitude to Fr. Tony, to all religious communities and parishioners who were present for the Holy Eucharist.



Bengal Regional Bishop's council (BRBC) Meeting

On 2nd and 3rd March 2021, BRBC meeting was held at Seva Kendra Kolkatta. Bishop Salvatore Lobo Chaired the meeting. Asansol diocese was represented by Bishop Lobo, Bishop Monis, Fr. Sebastian Rodrigues and Fr. Sarto. The entire diocese gave the report of their activities of 2020. Fr. Sarto presented Asansol diocese report. All the commissions presented their annual report. Fr. Sarto presented the regional SCC report

-Fr. I P Sarto

Visitors:

1. Sr Joselette and Sr Rosita CJ had visited our diocese for vocation promotion. They stayed in the diocese for two weeks and visited many parishes and promoted vocation.
2. On 15th March to 21st March 2021, Fr Subhash, Sr Sheela and other 6 novices visited Chetana and made their annual retreat for a week. Fr Sarto preached the retreat for them.
3. On 18th Prerana group from Krishnanagar visited Chetana for their annual three days retreat. Fr Subhash. Bishop Monis offered concluding Holy Eucharist for them.

-Fr I P Sarto

Santals ari çali meeting

On 2nd to 4th March 2021, the diocesan youth commission organised Santal ari çali meeting at Chetana. There were 60 village leaders both male and female for the Santali ari çali meeting. They all came from different parishes of the diocese. It was an eye opening for many of them. They never attended before like this ari çali meeting which was organised in Chetana. They expressed the present situation of the santals ari çali which devalues the tradition of the santals. It was good initiative that shown by the village leaders. They brought up many issues regarding Santali ari çali in the meeting. They were happy to have this kind of meeting which enriched them and gave them many insights on the santal ari çali. The resource persons were Fr. Sonatan Kisku (Dumka), Fr. Salvator Murmu SJ,(Calcutta), Mr. Binoth Murmu(Bolpur). The resource persons began the meeting with few questions. What is ari çali? Why do we need to keep up the santals ari çali? What is the important of the ari çali? Do we require ari çali? How does the Church support it? They all took up the meeting very interestingly. They highlighted the ari çali of the santal which was not clear to them. At the end of the meeting a core committee is formed to safe guard the sandals ari çali.

-Fr Nilu Murmu

Marriage preparation class

45 boys and girls attended the marriage preparation course in Chetana. Among them few were pairs and rest of them were single. During the course, they were taught about the importance of the marriage life. In the present situation, the boys and girls are not able to keep up the sacredness of the marriage life. They are misguided by their emotion and feeling. Therefore, many resource persons came and enriched them with the values of marriage life. The resource persons were Fr. Martin Behera, Fr. Rajesh Paul Kujur (OMI), Fr. Nilu Murmu, Fr. Thomas Marandi, Fr. Marcus Hembrom (Sj), Sr. Phileema (CTC), Mr. Binoth Murmu. Many appreciated the course, the way it was facilitated to them. They were kept busy throughout the day with many activities. At the evening hour they had cultural program and movie show. At the end of the course we could see some changes in them and go back home happily.

-Fr Nilu Murmu

Youth Easter gathering



The theme of the youth gathering was **“young man I say to you arise.”** Youth are the future pillar of the church so we need to motivate, guide and energise them. They are ever ready for anything. There were 150 youth both boys and girls for youth Easter celebration in Chetana from different parishes of the diocese. It was a competitive gathering. They had dance, elocution, tableau, quiz competitions during the youth Easter gathering. Some input sessions also were there. The resource person was Fr. Rajesh Paul Kujur OMI. They were given the importance of the use of media. The resource person led them in and through the session very positively. He taught them, how to make use of the media in a best way in their life. They acknowledged their addiction in and through the session by which they are misled and mishandled by the media. So, for them it was an enriching youth gathering. Fr John Vaikath ,SDB from Joypur was also present to encourage the youth.

-Fr Nilu Murmu

Youth follow-up orientation Program

The follow-up youth orientation was held in St. Thomas mission Ekperere on 27th March, 2021. The meeting began with Bible veneration led by Fr. Rajesh OMI.

The resource persons were Frs. Sarto, Sebastian Rodriguez and Alex. There were 25 youth. Fr. Sarto elaborated about their ministry shared among themselves to strengthen their faith in SCC as well to lead other youth for better understanding. Moreover, Fr. Sebastian was explaining about holy week and vocation promotion. Thus, the day's program ended with prayer and Thanksgiving hymn.

-Fr Alex Tudu



Annual Retreat at Laghata

On 8th to 10th March 2021, annual retreat was organised at St Joseph's Church, Laghata. Sr Mary Tudu preached the retreat for three days. Along with the catholic families, there were non-Christian Santal families participated in this retreat and they experienced the healing touch of Jesus. Fr Robert D'souza, Cluny Sisters and some Parishioners made all the arrangement for this spiritual renewal.

-Fr. Robert D'Souza



Parish Feast Celebration

On 19th March 2021, Parish Feast was celebrated at St Joseph's Church, Laghta. Fr. Robert D'Souza and Cluny Sisters from Laghata invited Bishop Monis for the solemn celebration. Though it was a week day, church was filled with people. Religious, Priests from Bolpur and Ahmadpur were present. Fr. Robert served sumptuous meal and snakes to the parishioners.

-Fr. Robert D'Souza

Lenten Recollection at Bolpur

Bishop Monis was invited by Fr. Anthony Raj from Bolpur on 14th March 2021 for two days retreat to the parishioners. There were nearly 500 people gathered to listen to the word of God which would help them to be sorry for sin and accept God's Mercy. Bp. Monis ended session with Eucharistic service and praying over the sick people.

-Fr. Anthony Raj



Management committee meeting

On 13th March 2021, Management Committee meeting was held at St Joseph's School, Chittaranjan. All the Members of the management committee were present to discuss about the welfare of the school.

-Fr I P Sarto

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Birthdays

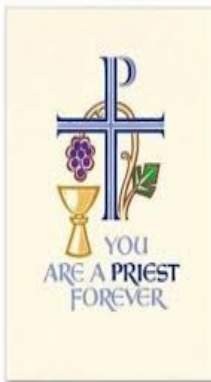
11- + Cyprian Monis
30 - + Salvatore Lobo



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BISHOPS

Ordination Anniversary

03 – Fr Ananth
21 – Fr Lawrence
23 – Fr Elias Frank
25 – Fr Bishu Besra
25 – Fr Alex
26 – Fr Henry
27 – Fr Arbind



Congratulations dear Fathers

Bishop Salvatore Lobo's Programme for April 2021

Date	Time	Day	Place	Subject
01	6:00 PM	THU	Cathedral	Maundy Thursday service
02	3:00 PM	FRI	Bardwan	Good Friday service
03	6:30 PM	SAT	Jamuria	Easter Vigil
06	8:00AM	TUES	Baruipur	Votes for the assembly election
08	10:00AM	THU	Asansol	Meets regional superior of St. Anne's of Chennai Congregation
11	10:00AM	SUN	Raniganj	Divine Mercy Celebration
18	9:30AM	SUN	Galsi	Confirmation and Mass
25	9:00AM	SUN	Jyothinagar	Confirmation and Mass
30	10:00AM	FRI	Baruipur	Attends a 'thank you' service

Bishop Monis' Programme for April 2021

Date	Time	Day	Place	Subject
01	6:00 PM	THU	Cathedral	Maundy Thursday service
02	10:00 AM	FRI	Cathedral	Good Friday service
03	6:00 PM	SAT	Cathedral	Easter Vigil service
04	10:00AM	SUN	Sahebdangha	Easter day Service
10	6:00AM	SAT	Kolkata	Travelling to Mysore
19	10:00 AM	MON	Mysore	Arriving to Kolkata
25	10:00AM	SUN	Purulia	Confirmation



Bishop Salvatore Lobo and Bishop Cyprian Monis and the Curia of Asansol Diocese wish all the readers of this news letter a grace filled Easter 2021

Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

