



RICE COAL

ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



A NEWS OF GREAT JOY

At the birth of Jesus an angel of the Lord told the shepherds in the field keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night, "... I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Lk. 2:11-12)

This announcement brought three typical reactions from three categories of people:

1. Shepherds belong to the labour class. They are happy. The news brings joy to them and they share the joy with others. They go and find the family of Jesus and tell them what they had heard from the angel. These people are engrossed in their life of struggle of making the ends meet. They have their joys and sorrows. They tend to accept all that comes on their way - even injustice. They do not have the time to go to fight and think of justice. They want 'status quo' position. They are unaware of the power of their collective strength which can radically change their destiny. They hardly participate in the process of social change and prefer to remain indifferent. The savior is born to empower them to stand up work for their freedom. The news that the Saviour is born cannot be good unless the people partake in the process of change that would make them to fight against all type of evil. Peace and prosperity bloom where there is common commitment to truth, justice and love.
2. Wise men from the east were curious (Mtt 2:1 ff). They wanted to find the reality of the sign in heaven - a special star (Num 24:17). They go mentally prepared and make sacrifice to buy gifts to the new king. They managed to trace the new King of the Jews and pay homage to him. The wise men were essentially good people. They did not understand crookedness and dishonesty of King Herod. Such people are too good. Our goodness should not make us blind to the wickedness of people like Herod. We need, like the wise men, to keep our eyes open and see the wickedness of others. People of good will must be alert and see the evil in the world.
3. King Herod represents oppressors, power brokers and perpetrators of evil design for mass destruction. Birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is a threat to him. He assumes the garb of seeker and finds details of the child that was born. He orders to kill the child. It is a pity that the king did not learn the lesson of history that shedding innocent blood does not solve problems nor does it help to fulfill social, political and personal goals and aspirations. Swami Vivekananda had reminded the world that "Sectarianism, bigotry and its horrible descendant fanaticism- have long possessed this beautiful earth. They have filled the earth with violence, drenched it often and often with human blood, destroyed civilization and sent the whole nations to despair. Had it not been these horrible demons, human society would be more advanced than it is now. But their time is come."



We are in a period of prolonged uncertainty. Covid-19 pandemic is not going to go away that easily. There is a surge in the number of affected people in India. This pandemic is global and it affects all people. However, we religious must reflect our lives in the context of the pandemic uncertainties. We are to give hope to the hopeless, strength to the weak, and voice to the voiceless. Consecrated life is a state of life in the Catholic Church lived by believers who wish to follow Jesus Christ in a more exciting way. "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigour! If we wish to follow Christ closely, we cannot choose an easy, quiet life. It will be a demanding life, but full of joy. If we act like children of God, knowing that He loves us, our lives will be made new, filled with serenity and joy". (Pope Francis)

The pandemic is a reality. God's presence too is. "I am with you! I will never leave you!", He assures us. God is constantly communicating God's will to us every day of our lives: "to bring all things into one in Christ" (Ephesians 1:10). We can be sure that God's plan is unfolding as we experience an unshakeable peace; we discover and trust our deepest desires; the impossible suddenly becomes possible; others affirm God's grace in us; and finally an unmistakable joy gives that telltale sign: God is with us, in our communities. Let us be out of the bottle to share the hope with all.

May this Christmas bring peace, joy, love and hope to you and to your family.

+ Salvadore Lobo

FROM MY MEMORY

As student of Minor Seminary and 2 years Juniorate

Bishop Cyprian Monis



As I finished High School at St. Philomena's Mysore I wanted join the seminary. My parish priest advised me to write Archbishop of Calcutta Bishop Albert D'souza who was transferred at that time to Calcutta so I wrote a letter to him. He sent me letter to go to minor seminary Mysore. There were other seminarians studying for Calcutta. I was one of them PUC (Pre University College) it was one year. We were, Bro. Jerome D'souza, Bro. Patrick, Bro. Sebastian, Bro. John Noronha etc. for Calcutta Archdiocese at St. Mary's Seminary at Mysore. Fr. J.J. Telly, our rector, shifted all the students to newly built seminary near St. Philomena's College. Fr. Rector assigned us a plot each, in the garden, to look after our plot, plant the seedlings, water them daily, clean weeds regularly etc. He used allow us half an hour to play ring tennis, football, shuttle-cock etc. There was also Vice-Rector Fr. John Mantadam. The Rector was very strict in discipline and accompanied us with love and compassion. There was one a theft at night, some 10 bags paddy was stolen. The robbers could not carry bags home. We were asked to find out if the bags were hidden some where in then campus or outside our campus nearby. We looked everywhere then we looked under a small bridge. They had hidden the bags under

the bridge. We managed to get all begs back to the seminary. Thus remaining in the minor seminary course as well PUC, I finished in one year. Then we were asked to go to St. Joseph's Seminary Mangalore for the juniorate course for two years. We had English and Latin study, Church history, homiletics, weekly spiritual talk etc, we were guided by a senior theology brother. I was assigned look after gardening. So I was fully busy during Manuel work and playtime. I liked the worked and I carried on for two years. We had weekly walk after tea for 2 hours "not two but always three - "noneque dove semper tres" thus I spent my time 2 years that is 1966-1967, 1967-1968. After finishing Juniorate for 2 years we were asked to come to Calcutta, Barrackpore, to begin our studies in the newly built Seminary in 1968 June.

(To be continued)

Bishop Salvatore Lobo at Durgapur Parish

It was a great joy and a blessing for St. Theresa's Church at Durgapur on 28th and 29th of November 2020, as Rt. Rev. Bishop Salvatore Lobo the Diocesan administrator, payed his Pastoral visit to the parish.

On November 28th, he spent some time with four religious communities knowing their joys and sorrows as they collaborate with the parish priest in pastorally being effective. The Society of Jesus runs St. Xavier's School with 2300 students. The school is affiliated to ICSC board. Apostolic Carmel Congregation runs two schools, one at MAMC and the other at Guru Nanak Road, affiliated to ICSC board. Missionaries of Charity have home for 85 mentally challenged people. They also conduct village dispensaries and teach catechism to the children.

On November 29, the first Sunday of Advent Bishop officiated the Holy Eucharist at 09.00 a.m. in the Church and gave his blessings to all. After the Mass, he met the Parish council members and all the different associations of the Parish. All were glad and were happy to receive his advice, blessings, support and guidance. Fr. Raja Shekhar, the parish priest had got all involved in the pastoral visit.

His Fatherly love and concern brought great joy to the people of St. Theresa's Church, Durgapur. And so we the Parishioners express our gratitude to him for his visit to us and pray for God's blessings on him.

Sr. Sabeth A.C.

First visit of Bishop to Saltora in Sariakata: “The pastoral visit is an apostolic endeavour, an event of grace”

On 'All Saints' Day' 1st November 2020 Rt. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Apostolic Administrator of Asansol Diocese paid a short pastoral visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Saltora accompanied by very Rev. Fr. I.P. Sarto for the first time. It was the remarkable event for this place. This place is surrounded by Santals, Gorais and Bengalis. They have very little knowledge of Christianity. So there was no crowd of faithful while the Apostolic Shepherd visited to this place. From Jhantipahari Rev. Fr. E.S. Joseph SJ, Rev. Fr. Alphonse SJ, Sr. Kusum FJ, Sr. Rani FJ, and Sr. Merina FJ were invited for this memorable event. Since there is no church or presbytery, Bishop Salvadore was warmly welcomed in the rented house where Fr. Harsha and Mr. Babulal reside. Bishop presided the Holy Eucharist and delivered the good homily where he pointed out on the service of the poor and the missionary activities of the saints. He gave the word for the upliftment of the mission. As the sign of hallmark of this mission station, Rev. Fr. I.P. Sarto handed over a brand new Baptism register to Fr. Harsha. He introduced some dignitaries in this area. He also advised to jot down the history of this missionary event.

Sr. Carolina F.J. and Sr. Veronica F.J., who are in the convent at Saltora for over eight years, extended their helping hands to have meal together. After meal all departed to their respective places.

Fr. Harsha

Marriage preparation Course from 5th to 12th November, 2020



From 5th - 12th November, 2020 a marriage preparation course was for the young boys and girls. There were 55 participants from different parishes. Most of them were educated. The course was organized by Fr. Nilu Murmu, director of Family Commission.

The resource persons were Frs. Martin Behera, Rajesh Kujur OMI, Thomas Marandi, Nilu Murmu, Sr. Sarita SCCG, Sr. Rajni SMI and Mr. Binod Murmu. Fr. Nilu the moderator of the marriage preparation course welcomed the participants and he introduced to them Fr. Alex and Sr. Rajni SMI. He also welcomed to come forward and introduce themselves to the group, so that they can be free enough to mingle and talk with one another. Fr. Alex explained to the participants about the Chetana Ashram and the places as well some of the guidelines. Henceforth he wished them for the good stay at the Chetana family. Fr. Martin Behera explained about

Sacrament of marriage. He shared the importance of sacramental marriage. Further, he said that covenantal marriage is a relationship of mutual commitment by individuals characterized by shared values, open-ended commitment, mutual trust and concern for one another. He explained about the purpose of covenantal marriage that reduces that rate of divorce and frame marriage as an honorable and desirable institution. Fr. Nilu told them on happy marriage life in the family. He described about marriage that it is the beginning of the family and is lifelong commitment. It also provides an opportunity to grow in selflessness as you serve your Husband/wife and children. Sr. Sarita SCCG, an experienced nurse at Sanctoria hospital, taught them about health care in marital life of the couple. She stressed on the psychological maturity. She also emphasized on physical maturity like- self-control, respect partners opinion in marital life. As well be optimistic, be open to one another. She added that maturity and responsibility are not by age- they are built by experienced. Mr. Binod Murmu enlightened the young boys and girls with the rituals in the Santhal marriage. He said that Santhal rituals are very rich but we as young generation are not aware of the tradition and culture. Santhal culture reveals our identity therefore keeping up the tradition we need to be aware of our rich culture and preserve it, especially in the marriage. Fr. Rajesh Kujur OMI, explained about the SCCs in the marital life. He focused marriage life and to live according to the gospel values. He motivated the participants to be always involved to share the gospel in the family especially among the couple. He shared the importance of SCCs and the value. Henceforth he added that SCCs can always make us alive and active in sharing and experiencing the presence of God in the family life.

Fr. Thomas Marandi elaborated the word of God in the marriage life. Moreover he said word of God plays vital in the marital life. God wants his children into the inner parts of his life. He wants them to know him as a person not just as a father. He shares his personal thoughts, dreams and feeling with his spouse. Finally, at the end the participant expressed their gratitude that the course was very educational for the marital life in the future. Hence they appreciated the knowledge and wisdom is been shared to them. Since there were more graduate participants they could understand more deeply and effectively. Moreover they shared their vision of a happy and healthy of healthy marriage life in the future. At last Fr. Nilu thanked and appreciated their envelopment on the course and all other activities and he wished them with best luck for happy marriage life.

Fr. Alex Tudu

News from Jyotinagar

Church of Our Lady of Vailankanni, Jyotinagar mission celebrated the Solemnity of Christ, the Universal King on Nov. 22, 2020. Fr. Tony Lobo, CSST Sisters and DSA Sisters of Jyotinagar left no stone unturned to make the Eucharist and Blessed Sacrament procession solemn.

Following the government norms of wearing masks, keeping social distance and sanitization, lay faithful and religious joined the procession praying Rosary and singing hymns in praise of Jesus our Saviour. Fr. I.P. Sarto celebrated the Eucharist and exhorted the people to be kind, compassionate and loving towards the neighbours during the homily. Special prayers were offered for those who are affected by Covid 19, the suffering ones and all the departed.

Mr. Raju Thakur led the choir. Srs. Shirren, CSST and Mukta, DSA guided the flower girls to welcome Jesus along the way. This is the first time we are celebrating this Solemnity of Christ the King. Laity came forward to clean the Church, decorate and prepare the way, said Fr. Tony Lobo with much excitement. I am happy that we are able to have a small procession during this time to witness our faith in Christ, added Fr. Lobo

Sr. Vijaya, Provincial of the Carmelite Sisters of St. Theresa was also celebrated on that day. Special prayers were offered for her and her congregation.

I.P. Sarto

Christ the King Feast at Sahebdanga

Annually Our Holy Mother gives us an opportunity to celebrate the last Sunday (Thirty Fourth) of the Liturgical year as the Solemnity of Christ the King. The celebration reminds us of God's reign of love through Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and the King of kings. It prepares us for an encounter with Christ the King as he stages the final judgement and gives us an entry pass into the Kingdom of God. The faithful of St. Martin's Church, Sahebdanga Parish, having accepted the call of the Church, have celebrated the feast with a devout participation. The celebration begun with the Eucharistic procession from the convent premises. Rev. Fr. Francis Badugu, the Parish Priest, briefly explained the feast and initiated the Eucharistic procession. With devotion the procession was carried out and ended with the Benediction. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. M. Irudaya Joseph, curate at the parish. The homily on the feast of Christ the King and the need for receiving him into the life as the only King who ushers in the kingdom values of love, kindness, caring for one another with his exemplary reign. The parish also with the able guidance of the Parish Priest grows day by day with lot of spiritual activities both at the parish and villages. The catechism class for the new catechumens and the communicants from different substations are conducted with a perspective of faith formation. People on their own ask for the Eucharistic celebration at their villages and they take at most interest in having it at least once a week. In this way the Holy Mass is offered in the substations to meet the spiritual need of the people. Glory and praise to God who leads the faithful into a vibrant witnessing community.

- Fr. M. Irudaya Joseph

The diocese expresses condolences to the Jesuits of Patna Province and the Staff of Morning Star Seminary, Barrackpore who lost their spiritual guide Fr. Lourdasamy, SJ who left for his heavenly abode on Nov 22. He preached an inspiring retreat for the priests of Asansol diocese in November 2020. He was also spiritual guide to many of the seminarians of Asansol and some of the priests of the diocese

The diocese conveys prayers and condolences to Sr. Chandra, SSAM. Her father Mr. Prakash Reddy went to meet the Creator on Nov 25, 2020. He was sick for nearly four months. We pray for the repose of the soul and assure our prayers for the grieving family of Sr. Chandra, SSAM who doesa committed ministry for the children at CCC, Chetana, Talit

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE APOSTOLIC CARMEL CONGREGATION IN INDIA (1870 -2020)



MOTHER VERONICA OF THE PASSION FOUNDRESS OF THE APOSTOLIC CARMEL

'A Carmel for the Missions' was the dream of our Beloved Venerable foundress Mother Veronica. This desire was planted in her by Jesus Himself many years ago. She read the signs of the time then and felt the need of the hour to educate the girl child specially to give the children faith formation. It was on 19th November 1870 a band of three Apostolic Carmel sisters trained by Mother Veronica sent from Bayonne, France, landed on the shore of Mangalore, India. Though Mother Veronica herself wanted to come to India, many circumstances did not allow her to do. But she kept contact with the pioneering sisters through letters specially with Mother Marie Des Anges. She supported and encouraged her daughters in India to move forward with courage and fortitude through her prayers and a life of sacrifice.

We have our Founding Mothers Marie Des Anges and Aloysia who have toiled hard to make the Apostolic Carmel congregation what it is today. They have left a legacy for us to follow. Today this seed which was sown by Venerable Foundress Mother Veronica has grown into a mighty tree spreading its branches on Indian soil as well as abroad.

We are grateful to God for sustaining us through the years and for enabling us to celebrate 150 glorious years of our existence in India on 19th November 2020. May all those who have helped the Apostolic Carmel Congregation to stand tall and to hold its head high may be blessed by God. As we celebrate this Sesquicentennial Jubilee, we thank God for thousands of students who have got the light of knowledge and the value-based education through our institutions, that they may shine brightly in the world carrying the Carmel banner high. We the sisters may double our zeal to work for the people of God entrusted to our care.

Carmel Sisters
Durgapur.

NOTICE

Keeping in mind the pandemic situation in our diocese and all over the nation this year the Christmas celebration shall be done in a moderate way. Services on Christmas night and on the New Year Night shall end before 10.00 p.m. on December 24 and December 31. Morning masses will begin on Christmas Day and New Year Day after 07.00 a.m.

At no time there should be more than 200 people in the church at one time. Kindly follow the government regulations of social distancing, sanitization and wearing of the mask when people are in the church.

Whatever we would have spent in addition on celebration and decorations, we shall give to a poor family. This year we shall not have our usual Christmas gathering. The money that would be used for that purpose also shall be given to a poor family.



DECEMBER

- 20. Fr Xavier Pandian
- 25. Fr Alex
- 25. Fr Irudaya Doss
- 29. Fr Abraham

Ordination

DECEMBER

- 01 Fr. Dolphy Mathias
- 02 Fr. Martin Behera
- 03 Fr. Wilson Fernandes
- 10 Fr. Gerald Machado
- 21 Bishop Cyprian Monis
- 28 Fr Irudaya Doss

Bishop Salvadore Lobo's Programme for December 2020

Date	Day	Time	Place	Subject
02	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Asansol	Meeting of the board of consultants.
03	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Durgapur	Mass in St. Xavier's School - Feast of St. Francis Xavier
06	Sun	09.00 a.m.	Jantippahari	Pastoral visitation
08	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Kalipahari	1st Communion and Confirmation
09	Wed	04.00 p.m.	Bardhaman	Priests' Recollection at Chetana
10	Thu	02.30 p.m.	Bardhaman Bardhaman	Priests' Recollection till lunch G.B. Meeting of Chetana
13	Sun	10.30 a.m.	Laghata	Blessing of the grotto & Blessing of the New harvest.
19	Sat	10.30 a.m.	Raghabpur	Blessing of the new Primary School building of D.S.A
20	Sun	08.00 a.m.	Kalipur	Blessing of a renovated Chapel at Kalipur, Baruipur
25	Fri	07.00	Cathedral	Christmas Mass
27	Sun		Galsi	Mass for the Holy Family Feast

*Bishop Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Cyprian Monis
and Curia of Asansol Diocese wish all the readers of
this news letter a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year 2021.*

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