



RICE COAL

ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021



“Come and See” (Jn 1:46)

A Short Summary of the MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2021 WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY on May 27

The invitation to “come and see”, which was part of those first moving encounters of Jesus with the disciples, is also the method for all authentic human communication. In order to tell the truth of life that becomes history it is necessary to move beyond the complacent attitude that we “already know” certain things. Instead, we need to go and see them for ourselves, to spend time with people, to listen to their stories and to confront reality, which always in some way surprises us. “Open your eyes with wonder to what you see, let your hands touch the freshness and vitality of things, so that when others read what you write, they too can touch first-hand the vibrant miracle of life”. This was the advice that Blessed Manuel Lozano Garrido offered to his fellow journalists.

This year, then, I would like to devote this Message to the invitation to “come and see”, which can serve as an inspiration for all communication that strives to be clear and honest, in the press, on the internet, in the Church’s daily preaching and in political or social communication. “Come and see!” This has always been the way that the Christian faith has been communicated, from the time of those first encounters on the banks of the River Jordan and on the Sea of Galilee.

Let us look first at the great issue of news reporting. Insightful voices have long expressed concern about the risk that original investigative reporting in newspapers and television, radio and web newscasts is being replaced by a reportage that adheres to a standard, often tendentious narrative. This approach is less and less capable of grasping the truth of things and the concrete lives of people, much less the more serious social phenomena or positive movements at the grass roots level. The crisis of the publishing industry risks leading to a reportage created in newsrooms, in front of personal or company computers and on social networks, without ever “hitting the streets”, meeting people face to face to research stories or to verify certain situations first hand.

“Come and see” were the first words that Jesus spoke to the disciples who were curious about him following his baptism in the Jordan river (Jn 1:39). He invited them to enter into a relationship with him. More than half a century later, when John, now an old man, wrote his Gospel, he recalled several “newsworthy” details that reveal that he was personally present at the events he reports and demonstrate the impact that the experience had on his life. “It was about the tenth hour”, he noted, that is, about four in the afternoon (cf. v. 39). The next day – John also tells us – Philip told Nathaniel about his encounter with the Messiah. His friend is skeptical and asks: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip does not try to win him over with good reasons, but simply tells him: “Come and see” (cf. vv. 45-46). Nathaniel did go and see, and from that moment his life was changed. That is how Christian faith begins, and how it is communicated: as

direct knowledge, born of experience, and not of hearsay.

Journalism too, as an account of reality, calls for an ability to go where no one else thinks of going: a readiness to set out and a desire to see. Curiosity, openness, passion. We owe a word of gratitude for the courage and commitment of all those professionals – journalists, camera operators, editors, directors – who often risk their lives in carrying out their work. Thanks to their efforts, we now know, for example, about the hardships endured by persecuted minorities in various parts of the world, numerous cases of oppression and injustice inflicted on the poor and on the environment, and many wars that otherwise would be overlooked. It would be a loss not only for news reporting, but for society and for democracy as a whole, were those voices to fade away. Our entire human family would be impoverished.

Many situations in our world, even more so in this time of pandemic, are inviting the communications media to “come and see”. We can risk reporting the pandemic, and indeed every crisis, only through the lens of the richer nations, of “keeping two sets of books”. For example, there is the question of vaccines, and medical care in general, which risks excluding the poorer peoples. Who would keep us informed about the long wait for treatment in the poverty-stricken villages of Asia, Latin America and Africa? Social and economic differences on the global level risk dictating the order of distribution of anti-Covid vaccines, with the poor always at the end of the line and the right to universal health care affirmed in principle, but stripped of real effect.

The internet, with its countless social media expressions, can increase the capacity for reporting and sharing, with many more eyes on the world and a constant flood of images and testimonies. Thanks to the internet we have the opportunity to report what we see, what is taking place before our eyes, and to share it with others. At the same time, the risk of misinformation being spread on social media has become evident to everyone. We have known for some time that news and even images can be easily manipulated, for any number of reasons, at times simply for sheer narcissism.

In Summary, “We have books in our hands, but the facts before our eyes”, said Saint Augustine in speaking of fulfillment of the prophecies found in sacred Scripture. So too, the Gospel comes alive in our own day, whenever we accept the compelling witness of people whose lives have been changed by their encounter with Jesus. For two millennia, a chain of such encounters has communicated the attractiveness of the Christian adventure. The challenge that awaits us, then, is to communicate by encountering people, where they are and as they are.

+Salvatore Lobo

After a year of beautiful regency experience, of which six months were spent in refugee relief of Bangladesh and another six months at St Aloysius school, Howrah. We arrived to Morning star College.

We arrived to MSC in the middle of June. Two months seminary was closed since all the brothers went for their holidays and ministries. When we came back we could see that there were lots of bushes grown like jungles, drainages were blocked. Hence First week we did the cleaning of the seminary campus and its surroundings. The following week we began our retreat to prepare ourselves spiritually and academically to begin the next academic studies. We concluded the retreat on 28th June and began the academic studies on 29th June 1972.

In the first year of theology, my classmates were the then Bros. Aboni Sardar, James Sengole, Leslie Fernandez, these were for the archdiocese of Calcutta. And Bro. Babazione Fernandez for Dibrugarah, Bro Alphonse for Dumka, Bros. George Mannarakam and Edward Congari for Jamshedpur, and Bros. Mani Ambat and PC Joseph for Raipur.

When we were in Philosophy our minds were oriented to think, understand and reason out the ancient and modern philosophical thoughts. Many used to argue and debate at the topics. But as we step into theology, we were sobered down because of scriptural studies, dogmatic theological studies, moral and Canon Law studies. There were two professors from Pune Papal seminary, who were the visiting professors, namely Fr Van De Valle and Rui De Menezes. We also had professors like Fr Stephen Fernandez for moral theology, Fr A Van for Canon Law. Thus we were able to complete our first year of theology at MSC in the year 1972-73.

(To be continued.....)

+Bishop Cyprian Monis

Assembly Election Results

The results of the assembly elections of West Bengal held in eight phases from 27 March 2021 to 29 April 2021. These are the results of the districts which comes under the Jurisdiction of the diocese of Asansol.

	Purba Burdwan	Paschim Burdwan	Birbhum	Bankura	Purulia	Overall result of the state
TMC	16	6	10	4	3	213
BJP	0	3	1	8	6	76
CPM	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	3

We wish our elected leaders God's Choicest Blessings to carry out the responsibilities entrusted by the democratic constitution of India

Lenten campaign at Kulti



During Holy Week we collected some groceries and food provisions in view of helping few poor and deserving families. It is a helping project named DUWARE SAHAYAK PUNARUTHITH YESU (RESURRECTED JESUS HELPING AT THE DOOR).

Our parishioners donated generously some food provisions apart from the usual "Chukkad" offering. On 4th April, immediately after the mass in the morning we reached out to the poor at their door. It is a small initiative to help few families. Let us continue to give witness to Him and recognize Him. May the risen Lord bless all the donors.

-Fr Peter

Administration of the Holy Sacraments

St Martin's Church, Sahebdanga



On 11th April, Fr I P Sarto administered the sacrament of Confirmation and first holy Communion to 33 children at St Martin's Church, Sahebdanga. Friends of Jesus sisters prepared the children with basic Christian faith. Fr Francis and Fr Joseph Irudaya, made all the arrangement and concelebrated the Holy Eucharist.

Children were excited to receive Jesus in the form of bread and wine. After the holy Eucharist, the parents expressed their gratitude and felicitated Fr Sarto, Fr Francis Badagu, the parish priest.

-Fr Francis Badagu



Our Lady of Velankani Church, Jyothinagar

On 11th April, Sacrament of First Holy communion was administered to children by Fr Sebastin Rodrigues and Fr Dolphy Mathias at Our Lady of Velankani Church, Jyothinagar. CSST and DSA sisters prepared the children with basic Christian faith. Fr Tony made all the necessary arrangement. May God bless these children with great love and sincerity.

-Fr Tony



St Thomas's Church, Ekpere

On 3rd April, the Sacrament of confirmation was administered to 14 children by Fr I P Sarto at St Thomas's Church, Ekpere. Frs. Rajesh and Christopher OMI prepared the children for the reception of the Sacrament and made all the necessary arrangements. Fr Alex concelebrated the Holy Eucharist along with them.

-Fr I P Sarto

St Francis de Sales's Church, Galsi

On 18th April, the Sacrament of confirmation was administered to 40 children by Bishop Lobo at St Francis de Sales's Church, Galsi. SMI sisters prepared the children for the reception of the Sacrament with basic Christian faith and Frs Nicolas and Michael, MSFS made all the arrangements. Bishop Lobo appreciated all the efforts taken to educate the children and their ministry at Galsi.



Chetana Trust Meeting

On 7th April, Chetana Trust meeting was held. The meeting was presided by Bishop Lobo. Fr Sarto presented the report, Fr Alex presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Fr Sarto presented the yearly account and the members approved and asked to forward it for auditing. Fr Wilson, Br Jiji, Sr Chandra SSAM attended the meeting. The meeting was concluded with prayer Sr Chandra.

-Fr Alex Tudu

Catechist's handing over Ceremony

As this Sunday dedicated to all catechists, Kamarpara mission honoured their service and small ceremony of Mr. Saheb Murmu taking over as 'Maran Mahasoe' after retirement of Mr. Dominic. Ceremony was like out-going catechist handed over Holy Bible, prayer book, Hymn book and Rosary to Saheb as a sign of continuing God's work. All their family members shared fellowship meal after the Mass. Today's collection will be sent to Diocese for their welfare fund. God bless our catechists Saheb & Sanjoy.

-Fr Brito



Youth Orientation

On 17th April, 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 Sr Christin HC. The youth took a strong resolution to plan a model village in the parish. Frs Christopher and Rajesh OMI made all the arrangements for the orientation.

-Fr I P Sarto



Farewell

On 19th April, Farewell was given to Sr Rajini, SMI. She had been very active in the BEC activities both in parish level and in the diocesan level. Fr Sarto Celebrated the thanksgiving Eucharist and Fr Nicolas, Andrew, Alex, Suku concelebrated the holy Eucharist and wishes best wishes to Sr Rajini for her future ministry in the archdiocese of Kolkata.

-Fr I P Sarto



Visits:

1. On 6th and 7th, Sr Celine, the new Regional Superior of sisters of St Anne's of Chennai, visited the diocese along with her councilors, and had a meeting with Bishop Lobo and Fr Sarto. Sr Gracy, the former regional superior accompanied them.
2. Fr Sebastian Rodrigues and Fr Sarto visited Fr Stephen Raphael of the archdiocese of Kolkata, on the special occasion of his ruby Jubilee. Fr Stephen worked in our diocese at St John's Church, Chelidanga for two years before the bifurcation of the diocese.
3. Bishop Lobo Attended the funeral service of Late emeritus archbishop Lucas Sirkar SDB, on 20th April, at Krishnagar.
4. Sr Christin HC, visited Our Lady of Kalipatar Church at Shanthinagar and stayed there for a week for her treatment. Fr Sebastian made all the arrangements for her happy stay.

Vows Renewal of Sisters of St. Anne –Madras [SSAM]

On 18th April 2021 two of Sisters belonging to SSAM, Sr. Monica Murmu and Sr. Veronica Soren renewed their Evangelical Counsels [vows] during the Eucharistic celebration before the people of God of Kristu Jyothi Mission Kurmun. Fr. Irudhaya Das Priest in-charge, Fr. Suku Soren, Sisters and the people Congratulated and blessed them to continue their service in the diocese of Asansol and bring fruits wherever they are planted.

-Sr Merline SSAM



Caring the Needy

On 11th April, Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SVP) a unit of St. John's Conference Asansol that is taken care by President- Mr. Regis Michael and Treasurer- Victor Shah along with all the other members distributed ration to 80 widows during this Holy week. A very special thank you to our parish priest Fr. Dolphy Mathias for his constant support.



Finding Jesus - way to inspire others

Mr Makhon Murmu of St Joseph's church, Laghata celebrated Easter in a different way. He fasted for 46 days of the Lenten season to experience the risen Lord among the poor and needy. He saved the money during these 46 days and gave a sumptuous breakfast to all the parishioners on the Easter day. May he be blessed by the Risen Christ.

-Fr Robert D'souza



Notice

Date: 21 April 2021

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings of Peace and Love to you.

Pandemic COVID 19 is again spreading very fast. Different States and Dioceses have come out with different guide lines to contain the sickness. In our Diocese we shall follow the following norms:

1. For the Eucharistic celebration on Sundays and weekdays only 30% of the church/chapel capacity shall be permitted. All the government norms viz. masks, hand sanitizers, social distancing shall be followed. However, if the Priest feels that the situation is getting worse in the area and wants to close the Church for the Public service till situation is controlled, is permitted to do so without any hesitation.
2. Churches/chapels are to be sanitized after every service.
3. On Sundays and major Feast days live mass may be relayed on the web.
4. For the funeral service and weddings maximum 50 people are permitted.
5. Discourage children below 10 years, senior citizens and people symptomatic of COVID 19 from attending the church services.
6. No village Mass is allowed till further notice (Exceptions are given only for wedding and Bhandan services already fixed, with attendance restrictions and necessary protocols). Discourage fixture of any new wedding or Bhandan dates till the situation is under control.
7. Until notified no house blessings and house visits are taken up.
8. Catechists and Catechist sisters are allowed to go for visits in emergencies only otherwise they are to stay in their houses.
9. To avoid crowding and to manage better, prior information is a must to visit any office in the Bishop's House. Emergencies are always excused.
10. All are requested to avoid unnecessary venturing out. Protect yourself and be a protector.
11. Kindly pray earnestly for the COVID 19 victims and their families.

+Salvadore Lobo

MAY

Birthdays

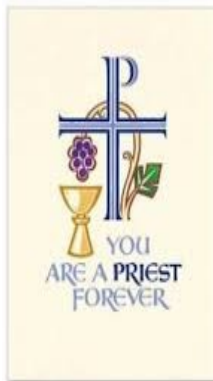
02 – Fr J Peter
09 – Fr Robert
10 – Fr Bishu Besra
13 – Fr Anand Raj
15 – Fr Harsha
24 – Fr Michael Dias
30 – Fr Arbind



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ordination Anniversary

05 – Fr Xavier P
05 – Fr Arockia Doss
07 – Fr Sarto I P
10 – Fr Aruldass
11 – Fr Sebastian R
15 – Fr Roshan
23 – Fr Devadoss



Congratulations dear Fathers

Prayer Request

Bishop Salvatore Lobo, the apostolic administrator requested to pray for the people who are affected with covid19. Many of our family members, relatives, priests and religious are being affected with this virus. Hence bishop Lobo requested all the people of God to pray for God mercy and healing touch.

Bishop Salvatore Lobo's Programme for May 2021

Date	Time	Day	Place	Subject
01	9:00AM	SAT	Jyothi Nagar	Funeral Mass of Lima Rose CSST
01	10:00AM	Sat	Cathedral	Burial of Lima Rose CSST
02	07:00AM	Sun	Jyothi Nagar	Mass and Confirmations
11	10:00AM	Tues	Asansol	Meeting of the Board of Consulters
22	10:00AM	Sat	Durgapur	Mass for the Silver Jubilee of M.C. Sister
23	8:00AM	Sun	Chelidanga	Mass and Confirmations
24	10:00AM	Mon	Shanti Nagar	Golden Jubilee of Sr. Isabella M.C.

OBITUARY

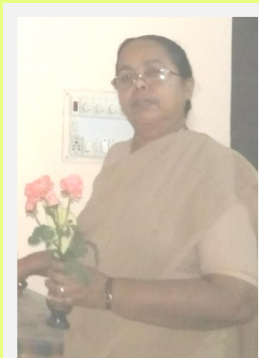
Sr Lima Rose CSST

Born: 4th April 1959

First Profession: 20th May 1981

Final Profession: 24th May 1987

Born to Eternal Life: 30th April 2021



Special Prayer Request for the Nation from CBCI

His Grace Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the president of CBCI, in his circular dated 22nd April 2021, has invited all our churches to fast and pray on **7th May 2021, Friday**, for the relief from Covid 19 pandemic. And has exhorted the people to take necessary precautions to contain the pandemic. Together with other members of CBCI, he assured his prayers to everyone.

Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

The World of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

