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17th ACECI
General Body Meeting
pg 04

“We often do the bare minimum, whereas Jesus invites us to do the maximum possible. How many times are we satisfied with doing our duties — the precepts, a few prayers — whereas God, who gives us life, asks us for enthusiasm in life!”
— Pope Francis

SCC Orientation... pg 6

Pope Francis: Love alone attracts and changes the human heart



Saint Paul reminds the Galatians – and us – that the centre of salvation and faith is the death and resurrection of the Lord, Pope Francis said at Wednesday’s General Audience. The Pope warned that there are many people today “who still seek religious security rather than the living and true God, focusing on rituals and precepts instead of embracing God’s love with their whole being.”

Return to what is essential

So, he said, St Paul asks the Galatians “to return to what is essential, to the God who gives us life in Christ crucified.” Pope Francis encourages us to “place ourselves in front of Christ crucified,” including in Adoration of the Eucharist, when we feel we are losing the thread in our spiritual life. This leads to a further step, he

continued: When we meet Christ crucified, Jesus changes our hearts, which leads us to understand that “the Gospel is meant for everyone, not just for a privileged few.” Thus, the Pope said, “the life of the community is regenerated” and through the Spirit, our lives as Christians are renewed, and we are able to continue “to engage in our spiritual battle.” Works of the flesh v. fruit of the Spirit

Here Saint Paul presents a dichotomy between the “works of the flesh” and the “fruit of the Spirit.” Pope Francis explained that the works of the flesh are “behaviours that are contrary to the Spirit of God. St Paul does not intend to say that the flesh is evil in itself, but uses the term to indicate the

condition of being turned in on oneself, “closing the door to the spirit” and reminding us that the things of the world grow old and pass away, “while the Spirit gives life.”

Christians are called to live out our baptismal calling, which leads to the fruits of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Pope Francis invited Christians to read Saint Paul and reflect on our own behaviour to see if we are bearing those fruits.

A challenge for our communities

“The Apostle’s teaching poses quite a challenge for our communities, too,” Pope Francis said. He explained, “the beauty of faith in Jesus

Christ cannot be grasped on the basis of so many commandments or of a moral vision developed in many layers which can make us forget the original fruitfulness of love nourished by prayer from which peace and joyful witness flow.”

Nor, he said, can “the life of the Spirit ... be suffocated by a bureaucracy that prevents access to the grace of the Spirit, the initiator of conversion of the heart.”

Proclaiming Christ crucified

Therefore, Pope Francis said in conclusion, “we have the huge responsibility of proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, enlivened by the breath of the Spirit of love. For it is this Love alone that possesses the power to attract and change the human heart.” CNA

Limelight

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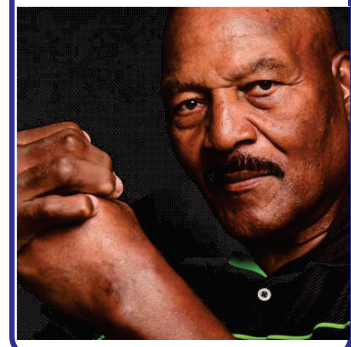


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-- Editor

NOTE TO WRITERS

All material may be edited for the sake of space, clarity or editorial policy. features, articles should not exceed 600 words, while reports should be within 300 words.

All submission should be made through email. Reports should accompany appropriate photographs. Deadline to submit articles is Sunday, for reports Monday evening, and for advertisements Tuesday 12 noon.

- Editor

Nagpur, religious meeting to recognize oneself in diversity



Nagpur (AsiaNews) - A national interreligious conference was held in Nagpur on Sunday 24 October on the theme 'Global challenges for community harmony and the role of India'. Organized by the Lokmat Media Group, a leading company in the media sector, and designed to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its first edition in Nagpur, the conference brought together the views of distinguished exponents of different religions and faiths in India.

"All religions have their own peculiarities - said Nitin Gadkari, Minister of the Indian Union for surface transport and highways - but tolerance and inclusion must be the meeting points and communion between the various faiths".

The archbishop of Mumbai, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, also of the same opinion, underlining the decisive role of profound and constant inter-religious communication:

"Let's not focus only on differences, but exalt what unites us - said the cardinal -. India is home to many religions and is the place par excellence where the thought Vasudhaiva kutumbakam, which means 'All the world is a

family', developed. We can draw from a very rich heritage of people of different traditions who have lived together over the centuries. At this time we have the task of preserving this heritage and promoting it, especially we spiritual leaders".

"The richness of humanity lies precisely in diversity - said Gurudeva Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder of Art of Living - and yet, we do nothing but foment the hatred due to these diversities. There is now a need to be able to walk together and respect each other. God appreciates diversity and our country needs it to grow".

Fr Neil dos Santos, chancellor of the archdiocese of Mumbai, who was present at the conference, interviewed by AsiaNews, underlined the importance of ecumenical moments like this in which the leaders of the major religions meet. He then reported the happiness of Cardinal Gracias following the conference: "The cardinal was received with warmth and respect by all religious leaders, not only as archbishop of Bombay, but above all as a representative of the pope. breathed an atmosphere of fraternal love and joy among the representatives of the various religions".

Religious unity can look like a carnival and religious liberty can look like a funeral.

~ Gilbert K. Chesterton

Catholic school in Madhya Pradesh ordered to install Hindu idol

Satna, Oct 25, 2021: Rightwing Hindu activists on October 25 served a 15-day ultimatum to Catholic school in the central Indian state Madhya Pradesh state to install in the campus an idol of Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge.

A 30-member delegation of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (world Hindu council) and Bajrang Dal (Party of the stout and strong) met Father Augustine Chittuparambil, manager of Christ Jyoti Senior Secondary School in Satna district headquarters, to make the demand through a memorandum.

The memorandum They gave the priest 15 days to comply with their demand or face protests in front of the school. "The Hindu activists came to our school and wanted us to install an idol of goddess Saraswati in the campus," Father Chittuparambil told Matters India.



The radicals forced the priest to give in writing that he had received their memorandum that he accepted at the school's main gate.

The Hindu activists left the place with a warning to come back in case the school failed to comply with their demand. "They claim that the school was built at a place where the idol of goddess Saraswati had existed," the priest explained. He pointed out that the school was built 49 years ago and no one had made such a claim until now.

The Syro-Malabar diocese of Satna manages the school. Satna town is some 455 km northeast of Bhopal, the state capital.

The priest said they will seek legal protection if the radicals come back to create any problem. But the school management would wait for

some more time, he added.

This the second case of harassment of Catholic schools by Hindu groups this year.

On February 22 the police registered a case against Sister Bhagya, a member of the Sisters of Destitute and principal of Sacred Heart Convent High School in Khajuraho of Chhatarpur district.

The nun was accused of attempting to convert a former female staff. She had to obtain bail from the Madhya Pradesh High Court to prevent her arrest.

Ruby Sigh, the complainant accused the nun of offering her better package if she converted to Christianity. The nun had also allegedly promised her that ailing husband would be healed if they prayed to Jesus.

Church leaders termed the complaint as fake since neither the nun nor the

complainant had met during the time the alleged offer was made as the school was shut because of the Covid-19 lockdown.

The school had removed the complainant from her job much before the lockdown following complaints from students and their parents about her poor performance. The complainant targeted the nun under a stringent anti-conversion law Madhya Pradesh implemented in January this year.

The nun is still facing the probe against her.

Madhya Pradesh has been ruled by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. Matters India

The Herald

Church in the World

Dhaka: religious minorities go on hunger strike against sectarian violence



Dhaka (AsiaNews) - Hindus, Buddhists and Christians have joined in a hunger strike in solidarity with the Hindu community which in recent days has been attacked by Muslim radicals. From 13 October onwards, during the Durga Puja holidays, 7 people died in the sectarian clashes and hundreds of houses were burned down. "Please stop the persecution of the Hindu community. The government should guarantee our security", pleaded during the demonstration Neem Chandra Bhowmik, one of the main Hindu leaders in Bangladesh. The violence was triggered by the image of a Koran placed at the foot of a statue of a Hindu deity. The photo circulated on social media generating the

indignation of Muslims, who began to storm Hindu houses and temples. It was later discovered that a Muslim extremist, Iqbal Hossain, now in police custody, was actually disseminating the photo. Hemanta Corraya, secretary of the Christian Association of Bangladesh, expressed solidarity with the Hindus attacked: "We want justice for our brothers and sisters and we ask the government to put a stop to the propaganda on Facebook which has favored a return of sectarian violence". "The voice of religious minorities has not been raised in Parliament," said Nirmol Rozario, president of the Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council. "If religious minorities leave the country - continues Rozario - even the

government risks disappearing and giving way to sectarian violence. Not only minorities are at risk, but also those who believe in secularism and have a progressive vision". Rozario then asked the secular parties of Bangladesh to unite against those who would like to fuel the divisions. The Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, which brings together the country's religious minorities, during the hunger strike organized on 23 October, made a series of requests to the government, including the creation of an independent commission of inquiry, compensation for traders who they lost their business, a greater participation of minority representatives in the government. The protesters asked the executive above all to cover the expenses for the vandalized temples, provide medical treatment for the wounded, pay 2 million taka (20 thousand euros) to the families of those killed, and relocate those who have lost their homes. The investigation should also be swift and impartial and should also investigate the role of law enforcement agencies who delayed and did not intervene to stop the clashes.

Authorities kidnap Catholic bishop in China



Manila: Chinese authorities have kidnapped Catholic Bishop Shao Zhumin of Wenzhou, according to a report by AsiaNews on Tuesday, Oct. 26. The report said the 58-year-old prelate was taken by authorities "on vacation," adding that it was not the first time the bishop was taken away. He has been arrested several times since he was appointed to the diocese in 2016. "Pray that the Lord will give

§Bishop Shao confidence and courage, that he will not be disheartened by what has happened," read a statement from Catholics in the diocese quoted by the AsiaNews report. "Pray also that he remains healthy and refreshed, under the guidance of Christ, so that he will come back to us as soon as possible to pasture his flock," it added. The Vatican confirmed Bishop Shao to lead the diocese in September 2016, following the

death of his predecessor, Bishop Vincent Zhu Weifang, who was imprisoned for 16 years. At the time of his predecessor's death, Zhumin was arrested by police and taken "on a trip," according to the pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need. He was then detained by authorities several times after that. In April and of May 2017, Bishop Shao was arrested; after the second arrest, he was detained for seven months. In 2018, he was reportedly arrested again and subjected to indoctrination. Born in 1963, Bishop Shao Zhumin was ordained a priest in 1989. In 2011, he was appointed coadjutor bishop of Yongjia. His appointment was, however, not accepted by the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China and the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. Detentions of underground clergy in China are common, as a means of pressuring them to join the state-run Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

In synodal journey, reach out to those who left Church: Singapore archbishop

Singapore: For too long, the Church hierarchy has held consultations between bishops and priests, and between bishops and the pope, without involving the laity seriously. However, unless the hierarchy identifies with the pains of the people, it would not be able to come up with solutions that are effective, practical and uplifting. Archbishop William Goh of Singapore made this point during his homily at an online Mass on October 17 to launch the synodal process in the Southeast Asian archdiocese. This process of Church consultation, launched simultaneously by dioceses around the world, is part of a

Archbishop Goh recalled that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI had said that the laity are "co-responsible" for the Church. "If they are co-responsible, they need to have some authority, they need to have a place in the governance of the Church," said Archbishop Goh. He urged Catholics to "bring people along with you in this journey, especially those who have left the Church". "We need them back so that they can tell us what went wrong or how the Church has abandoned them or how the Church has not understood them," he said. He recalled Pope Francis reminding bishops, and by extension priests also, that "we



two-year process leading to the Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2023. The event has the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." "The Church is not just simply constituted of the hierarchy," stressed Archbishop Goh in his homily. "The Church is the People of God including the bishops and the priests. And so it is very important that this synodal process must begin by including everyone." He noted that many Catholics had left the Church "because they feel that the Church lacks compassion, the Church did not listen to them," he said. "They have been hurt, they are angry." The synodal process "is a journey with every baptized Catholic," he said, "whether they are active, whether they still go to church, whether they agree with Church doctrines... whether they are holding positions in the Church. "Everybody is asked to be in this journey so that together we can be in communion by listening to one another. And so it is in listening that we learn to participate more closely in the mission of the Church," he said.

are not there to talk, we are just there to listen" during the synodal journey. "We need to really listen - listen with our heart and not just listen with our ears. Only then can we truly be one with each other." However, Archbishop Goh cautioned that the synodal process is not the same as a parliamentary process. "It is a process for everybody to articulate their aspirations, their pain so that those who are in authority, the bishops at the end of the day ... scant make real decisions that are effective for the Church." He added that parishes will inform Catholics of the strategy and methodology of the consultation process. Singapore has 360,000 Catholics out of a population of 5.45 million. Catholics here are served by 32 churches. Mattersindia

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BEWARE OF YOUR INNER CIRCLES

No man is an island. John Donne wrote those words four centuries ago and they are as true now as they were then, except we don't believe them anymore.

Today more and more of us are beginning to define our nuclear families and our carefully chosen circle of friends precisely as a self-sufficient island and are becoming increasingly selective as to who is allowed on our island, into our circle of friends, and into the circle of those we deem worthy of respect. We define and protect our idiosyncratic islands by a particular ideology, view of politics, view of morality, view of gender, and view of religion. Anyone who doesn't share our view is unwelcome and not worthy of our time and respect.

Moreover, contemporary media plays into this. Beyond the hundreds of mainstream television channels we have to choose from, each with its own agenda, we have social media wherein each of us can find the exact ideology, politics, and moral and religious perspective that fosters, protects, and isolates our island and makes our little nuclear clique, one of self-sufficiency, exclusivity, and intolerance. Today we all have the tools to plumb the media until we find exactly the "truth" we like. We have come a long way from the old days of a Walter Cronkite delivering a truth we all could trust.

The effects of this are everywhere, not least in the increasingly bitter polarization we are experiencing vis-a-vis virtually every political, moral, economic, and religious issue in our world. We find ourselves today on separate islands, not open to listen, respect, or dialogue with anyone not of our own kind. Anyone who disagrees with me is not worthy of my time, my ear, and my respect; this seems to be the popular attitude today.

We see some of this in certain strident forms of Cancel Culture and we see much of it in the increasing hard, inward-turned face of nationalism in so many countries today. What's foreign is unwelcome, pure and simple. We will not deal with anything that challenges our ethos.

What's wrong with that? Almost everything. Irrespective of whether we are looking at this from a biblical and Christian perspective or whether we are looking at it from the point of view of human health and maturity, this is just wrong.

Biblically, it's clear. God breaks into our lives in important ways, mainly through "the stranger", through what's foreign, through what's other, and through what sabotages our thinking and blows apart our calculated expectations. Revelation normally comes to us in the surprise, namely, in a form that turns our thinking upside down. Take for example the incarnation itself. For centuries people looked forward to the coming of a messiah, a god in human flesh, who would overpower and humiliate all their enemies and offer them, those faithfully praying for this, honor and glory. They prayed for and anticipated a superman, and what did they get? A helpless baby lying in the straw. Revelation works like that. This is why St. Paul tells us to always welcome a stranger because it could in fact be an angel in disguise.

All of us, I am sure, at some point in our lives have personally had that experience of meeting an angel in disguise inside a stranger whom we perhaps welcomed only with some reluctance and fear. I know in my own life, there have been times when I didn't want to welcome a certain person or situation into my life. I live in a religious community where you do not get to choose who you will live with. You are assigned your "immediate family" and (but for a few exceptions when there is clinical dysfunction) like-mindedness is not a criterion as to who is assigned to live with each other in our religious houses. Not infrequently, I have had to live in community with someone who I would not, by choice, have taken for a friend, a colleague, a neighbor, or a member of my family. To my surprise, it has often been the person whom I would have least chosen to live with who has been a vehicle of grace and transformation in my life.

Moreover, this has been true for my life in general. I have often found myself graced by the most unlikely, unexpected, initially unwelcome sources. Admittedly, this has not always been without pain. What's foreign, what's other, can be upsetting and painful for a long time before grace and revelation are recognized, but it's what carries grace.

That is our challenge always, though particularly today when so many of us are retreating to our own islands, imagining this as maturity, and then rationalizing it by a false faith, a false nationalism, and a false idea of what constitutes maturity. This is both wrong and dangerous. Engaging with what is other enlarges us. God is in the stranger, and so we are cutting ourselves off from a major avenue of grace whenever we will not let the foreign into our lives.

—RONROLHEISER, OMI

17th ACECI General Body Meeting



The 17th General Body Meeting of the Association of the Catholic Enquiry Centres-India (ACECI) was from 21st to 23rd October 2021 at Navinta Retreat Centre, New Delhi. Owing to the pandemic the participation of this AGM was severely hampered. Only 15 participants from across the country could make it. The Centres represented were CEC Nagpur, Sr. Jiwanlata Ekka DSP (Directress) and Sr. Ashrita DSP, Masih Vidhya Bhavan, Indore by Fr. Pius Lakra SVD (Director), Director of Maitri Sadan Udaipur Fr. Raju Sastya SVD and four members from CEC Delhi headed by Mathew Antony, Director CEC Delhi.

Sir,

With reference to the report captioned NUNCIO SEES RED IN PRIESTS' PERSONAL TRUSTS (Herald 22-28 October), the Apostolic Nuncio to India was informed that several priests in Tamil Nadu were running private trusts "habitually registered under the guise of Non-Governmental Organizations ostensibly intended to provide assistance to those in need." So he wrote the Advisory No Prot.N.0899/21/IN dated October 8, 2021 to all bishops of Tamil Nadu, adding that "all too often they (Trusts) become financial and political power bases for the priests involved". He cited Canon 285: "Without the permission of their

The Centres presented their reports along with inspiring stories of work done. Noteworthy were the sharing of CEC, Nagpur and Masih Vidhya Bhawan, Indore. The participants were inspired by one another sharing and agreed to continue to support each other in this beautiful ministry of the spreading the Word of God.

The Election for the new office bearers was conducted by Fr. Biju Xavier. The following office bearers were elected by voice vote.

1. President – Fr. Norbert Herman, SVD
2. Vice-President – Mr. Mathew Antony
3. Treasurer – Sr. Jiwanlata

Ekka, DSP

4. Member – Fr. Raju Sastya, SVD
 5. Member – Fr. Pius Lakra, SVD
 6. Member – Sr. Clare C.L., DSP
- Fr. Biju Xavier is appointed as Executive Secretary of the ACECI for a term of three years by The Archbishop of Delhi, His Grace Anil Couto.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Fr. Norbert, President ACECI who specially thanked His Grace, Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi for the continued support and patronage to the ACECI office and its apostolate. They specially thanked for the appointment of Fr. Biju Xavier as the new Executive Secretary of the ACECI.

ordinary, they are not to take on the management of goods belonging to lay persons or secular offices which entail an obligation of rendering accounts. They are prohibited from giving surety even with their own goods without consultation with their proper ordinary."

He also quoted Canon 286: "Clerics are prohibited from conducting business or trade personally or through others, for their own advantage or that of others, except with the permission of legitimate ecclesiastical authority."

He mentioned Canon Law 1392 regarding the consequences of infringement of Canons 285 and 286: "Clerics or religious who exercise a trade or busi-

ness contrary to the prescripts of the canons are to be punished according to the gravity of the delict." He cautioned that no Trust is to be under the sole control of a single member of the clergy.

In this context, there is a smokescreen on HOMAGE TO MOTHER TERESA FUND in the Archdiocese of Calcutta. The genesis of this fund is under clouds and it is being controlled by single signatory. The Archbishop's House must LISTEN to the Laity (central theme of Synod-2023) and clear the air.

The Nuncio deserves kudos for his courage. He has followed (Acts 4:20) "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard."

—ISAACHAROLD GOMES

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Liturgy



THIS WEEK'S SAINT

Bl. Maria Teresa

MY FAVOURITE SAINT

Blessed Maria Teresa of Saint Joseph

(19 June, 1855 - 20 September, 1938)

Memoria: 30 October

"To be able to dry tears, to heal wounds of souls from the heights of heaven, this is my ardent wish."

Anna Maria Tauscher van den Bosch or popularly known as Blessed Maria Teresa of Saint Joseph, was born in Sandow, East Prussia, now in Poland. She came from a deeply religious Protestant pastor's family. But God guided her to the Catholic faith. On 30 October, 1888, she was accepted into the Catholic Church.

Blessed Maria Teresa of Saint Joseph founded a religious congregation, the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus, on 1 July 1891. She took for a model St. Teresa of Avila, the reformer of the Carmelites. Thus she took up the Carmelite spirit of prayer and coupled it with apostolic service.

Her concern was aimed especially at poor and neglected children, above all those who had no home. Her loving dedication was further directed to families and individuals who had left the Church, to the lonely, the aged, to immigrants and transient workers – simply all who were

homeless in any way.

Blessed Maria Teresa of Saint Joseph is remembered for her contemplative prayer coupled with active charity. These two aspects of her life became the distinguishing mark of the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus which was founded by her. Her contemplative prayerful life and dedicated service is a great inspiration for us. It instills in us the two most important aspects of a Christian life – contemplation and action – one is incomplete without the other.

— By JUBILEE CARDOZO

When Celebrating Mass Alone

Q: I was recently speaking with some of my brother priests about the celebration of a private Mass when there is no server and no congregation, just the priest. There seemed to be no uniformity on how it is to be done, and the only thing we could find in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) is a few lines found in No. 254. It says, "Mass should not be celebrated without a minister or at least one of the faithful, except for a just and reasonable cause. In this case, the greetings, the introductory or explanatory remarks, and the blessing at the end of the Mass are omitted." I know this question really is of no interest to most people, but I think many priests (at least the ones I have talked to) would like some guidance on this topic. — D.C., Sioux Falls, South Dakota

A: Our correspondent also laid out a scheme of what he believed should be omitted in this case. I will use the scheme although modifying some details.

Although this might appear to be a rather obscure point, nothing in liturgy is so obscure that liturgists cannot find points to disagree on — and this is no exception. Therefore some of what I say is just my personal opinion based on what I believe to be an adequate interpretation of the law.

The most difficult aspect to interpret regards what is encompassed under the Latin term "Monitionis." The English translation of this term as "introductory or explanatory remarks" may give rise to a very broad interpretation.

The basic model to be followed would be the rite of Mass with

only one minister present, omitting whatever would be directed toward this minister as well as the gestures of turning toward the minister for these greetings.

Therefore when a priest celebrates alone he does the following:

— After kissing the altar he recites the entrance antiphon and makes the sign of the cross.

— He omits the greeting at the beginning of Mass ("Dominus vobiscum") and the invitation at the beginning of the penitential rite ("Fratres, agnoscamus..."). The rest of the penitential rite is as normal.

— He recites the invitation to the orations ("Oremus"), for these are not just invitations directed to the people but invitations in which he himself is included. The same criterion is obeyed for the introduction to the Our Father which is not omitted.

— He includes the introduction to the readings and Gospel ("Lectio sancti...") but does omit the greeting of the people at the Gospel ("Dominus vobiscum"). He includes the conclusion to the readings and Gospel ("Verbum Domini"). These are also for his benefit and not just greetings to the people.

— At the presentation of gifts he recites the prayers offering the bread and wine but omits the response "Blessed be God...." He also omits the "Pray Brethren" ("Orate, fratres") along with the response "May the Lord accept...."

— Unlike the other "Dominus vobiscum," I believe that the one which forms part of the initial protocol of the preface dialogue should always be

said. The norms are clear that the Eucharistic Prayer must always be said integrally and that it retains its plural form even when the priest is alone. As this dialogue is inseparable from the Eucharistic Prayer it should always be recited.

— Although the Eucharistic Prayer must be said in its entirety, the memorial acclamation ("Mysterium fidei") does not form part of the prayer. Therefore both introduction and acclamation are omitted. This rubric is explicitly stated in some orders for concelebration when only priests are present at the Mass.

— The giving of the peace ("Pax Domini sit semper...") is omitted.

— The moment of showing the host is easily confused. In fact we have two prayers which are placed one beside the other.

Here, the norm of No. 268 of the GIRM is followed: "If, however, the minister does not receive Communion, so there is no minister, the priest, after genuflecting, takes the host and, facing the altar, says quietly the 'Domine, non sum dignus' (Lord, I am not worthy) and the 'Corpus Christi custodiat' (May the Body of Christ bring) and then receives the Body of Christ. Then he takes the chalice and says quietly, 'Sanguis Christi custodiat' (May the Blood of Christ bring), and then consumes the Blood of Christ."

— After holy Communion the priest recites the Communion antiphon before purifying the sacred vessels.

— After a period of silent thanksgiving the priest says "Let us pray" and recites the prayer after Communion.

— Zenit

Sunday Reflections

Thirty first Sunday Ordinary Time (October 31)
Deut 6:2-6; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28-34

The central theme: The central message of today's readings is the most fundamental principle of all religions, especially Christianity. It is to love God in Himself and living in others. Scripture readings for today remind us that we are created to love God by loving others and to love others as an expression of our love for God. Our religious practices like prayers, Bible reading, Sacraments, acts of penance, and self-control are meant to help us to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God in our neighbors and to express our love for God by serving our neighbors with love, sharing our blessings with them.

Scripture lessons: The first reading presents Moses explaining the Law to the Israelites after his return from Mount Sinai. He tries to make the people reverence and obey the Law given by God as something that will bring them dignity, purpose, stature, distinction, and a unique place in history. He reminds them that keeping God's commandments will give them God's blessings of long life, prosperity, and fruitful, peaceful lives. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 18) invites us to love God because He alone is our strength and our stronghold. In today's Gospel, a Scribe asks Jesus to summarize the most important of the Mosaic Laws in one sentence. Jesus cites the first sentence of the Jewish Shema prayer: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Dt 6:4). Then He adds its complementary law: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lv 19:18). Thus, Jesus says that true religion is loving God and loving our fellow human beings at the same time. It is by showing genuine, active love for our neighbors that we can demonstrate that we really love God.

Life Messages: #1: How do we love God? We must keep God's commandments, and offer daily prayers of thanksgiving, praise, contrition for our failings, and petition. We also need to read and meditate on His word in the Holy Bible and to participate actively in the Holy Mass and other liturgical functions. If I am going to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, then I am going to have to place His will ahead of mine, and to ask Him for help when I have to say no to some things that I might want to do. I am also going to have to seek the Lord's will and make it paramount in my life.

#2: How do we love our neighbor: We love our neighbor by helping, supporting, encouraging, forgiving, and praying for everyone, without discrimination based on color, race, gender, age, wealth, or social status. If I am going to love my neighbor as I love myself, or as Jesus has loved me, it will cost me suffering as it did Jesus! I may have to seek forgiveness when I think I have done something wrong. I may have to sacrifice something I think I need, to meet a brother's need. I may have to spend time in prayer for other people and reach out to them, helping, encouraging, and supporting them in the name of the Lord.

Anecdote: SoSA practicing the two great commandments of God: SoSA was given the first Hero of Food Recovery and Gleaning Award by the US Department of Agriculture. The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) is a grassroots, Faith-based, hunger-relief, nonprofit organization which works with all denominations to bridge the hunger gap between 96 billion pounds of food wasted every year in the United States and the nearly 40 million Americans who live in poverty. SoSA relies on support from donors, volunteers, and farmers as they glean nutritious excess produce from farmers' fields and orchards after harvest and deliver it to people in need across the United States. Gleaning is the Biblical practice of hand-gathering crops left in the fields after harvest. Each year, tens of thousands of volunteers come together across the country to glean food left in farmers' fields and orchards so that it does not go to waste but instead goes to the tables of those in need. Since it began in 1979, the Society has collected more than 200-million pounds of fresh produce – perfectly nutritious food that might have some cosmetic deformity, making it unsaleable – and delivered it to soup kitchens, food banks, Salvation Army Centers, homeless shelters, and the like. That 200-million pounds otherwise would have rotted! Ken Horne, a United Methodist minister who is a co-founder of the group, accepted the award and noted, "There is enough surplus food in this country to feed every hungry person... No one should ever have to go hungry." Amen! Can you imagine that God does not mind if people go hungry, that God does not care that every day some 40,000 children around the globe die of malnutrition-related causes? Hardly! Then we who say we love God will demonstrate it in love for our hungry neighbor. All it takes is the commitment of God's people, time-wise and money-wise, and the problem will be solved. No holding back.

— Fr. Anthony Kadavil

Archdiocese

SCC ORIENTATION FOR MIDNAPORE DEANERY

SR. RAJNI MARANDI & SR. ROSHNI AIND



On 19th & 20th October 2021 a 2-days residential SCC Orientation Workshop was held at Seva Kendra Calcutta's Training Centre at Hijli in Kharagpur for parishioners of Zones I, II and III of Midnapore Deanery. This was the first physical gathering of BEC/SCC after the Covid 2nd Wave restrictions. Braving the inclement weather, 62 participants from 12 parishes of the Deanery attended the workshop to understand the deeper purpose of SCC and also how to conduct the 7-Steps Gospel sharing in the parish Units. For 30 of the 62 participants this was their first encounter with SCC. All inputs and discussions were conducted in Bengali, Santali, Hindi & English. The first day started with enthronement of the Bible, a short prayer by Fr. Dominic Gomes, and a warm welcome extended to all by Fr. Reginald Fernandes - Dean of Midnapore. Input sessions were interactive and through a group-work process the 7-Step Gospel Sharing was

elaborately explained while the participants themselves simultaneously practiced each Step in their groups, and took time to reflect and gain a deeper understanding of the Gospel of St. Luke 10: 1-2, "...the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; so ask the master of harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." The Four Marks of SCC based on the 4 pillars of One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church were explained very clearly by Mr. Ravi Samping the SCC Coordinator for Kolkata Deanery and Sr. Rajni Marandi anchoring the SCC Diocesan Office. The first day's program ended with the thanksgiving adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. The second day started early at 7 am with participants engaged in a full 7-Steps Gospel Sharing exercise in 6 groups. The main sessions of the day started with a solemn Bible Procession and Enthronement with inspired singing and Biblical slogans. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Ajoy Chaudhuri on understanding

what is meant by Synodal Church and how we are to engage at Parish community levels in the Diocesan process inaugurated by Archbishop on 17th Oct 2021.

The two days of animation on SCC Gospel Sharing, Four Mark of the BEC/SCC and synodal process implementation inspired and motivated them to make concrete action plans with dates and timelines. All the new trainees have enthusiastically planned to start units in their parishes where there were none before. The plans were collected by the Diocesan Resource Team to follow-up and assist with: Formation of new and re-activation of old SCC Units; Organizing animation programs to motivate others; and join Parish Synod Teams to engage in consultation process with community groups. More animation programs from Diocesan level are being planned on demand. The program was very encouraging and fruitful for all. Mr. JC Lakra the MC for the workshop (also SCC Coordinator for 24 Parganas (N) Deanery) proposed the Vote of Thanks. The program concluded with a solemn thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Dominic Gomes and concelebrant Rev. Fr. Reginald Fernandes. All shared a delicious meal and said good bye with enthusiastic spirit and departed for home. This workshop was graciously hosted by Fr. Reginald Fernandes the Dean of Midnapore and himself an SCC pioneer, and conducted by BEC/SCC Diocesan Resource Team (DRT) of the Kolkata Archdiocese under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Dominic Gomes VG and SCC Diocesan Coordinator with collaboration of Mr. Ravi Samping, Mr. J C Lakra, Mr. Ajoy Chaudhuri, Sr. Roshni Aind MSMHC and Sr. Rajni Marandi SMI.

Confirmation at the Church of Our Lady of Vailankanni

MARGARET COELHO



Kolkata: Archbishop of Kolkata His Grace Thomas D'Souza administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 34 children on 24th October at The Church of Our Lady of Vailankanni - Picnic Garden at the 6:00 pm mass.

The Service began with the recitation of the Holy ROSARY, being the moth of our Lady, dedicated to reciting the Rosary, at 6:00 pm we recited the Angelus, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration.

In the Procession trail, we had the Cross bearer, the Thurible, with Incense bearer, Altar server, Youth & Adults making their Confirmation, and the Sponsors.

The Arch Bishop along with Parish Priest and assistant Parish Priest celebrated the holy Eucharistic celebration. In his sermon Bishop stressed upon the theme of the 2023 Synod, - For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. He also stressed on the importance of Confirmation Sacrament. In Sacrament of Confirmation one will receive the

Holy Spirit. We have seen in bible Jesus gives this sacrament to his disciples. They symbolically witnessed this sacrament in the form of fire upon them. Bishop said, "This holy spirit will remain with you to live a Christian life and true follower of Jesus. This sacrament will guide you what to speak, how to behave and how to show true spirit of catholic life. You need not to fear about others, it will boost your confidence. It will help you to judge good and bad by inspiring your value system. Today Jesus calls each one of you to be His true followers through the Holy Spirit and you are responsible to live the true catholic life.

Bishop anointed 34 children with holy oil and blessed them. Present to witness the Sacrament of Confirmation was the Parents of the Confirmation Children. After the mass, Bishop had presented a Picture of Divine Mercy, and their Confirmation Certificate. The Conformant were also presented a snack packet as they left the church premises.



There are the saints of every day, the 'hidden' saints, a sort of 'middle class of holiness'... to which we can all belong.

— Pope Francis —

AZQUOTES

Youth

Convocation at Morning Star Regional Seminary

■ L. RENI PRAKASH



Barrackpur: On the momentous day of 23rd October 2021, The IV Year Students of Theology, Morning Star Regional Seminary (MSRS), were conferred B. Th degree by His Grace Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, the Archbishop of Calcutta who was the Chief Guest, in the august presence of Rev. Dr. Fr. Dominic Savio SJ, the Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, the Guest of Honour. Rev. Fr. Henry Jose MSFS, Director of Theology welcomed the dignitaries formally and presented the academic programme as well as the performances of the graduating students at MSRS. Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, stressed on the vital role of the Priests and the Essential elements of developing one's intellectual calibre in the challenging world of today in his Convocation Address. The Archbishop in his felicitation Address, quoted the Message of the Holy Father Pope Francis on the occasion of Mission Sunday

2021, "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)" and exhorted the students to bear witness to Christ. Rev. Dr. George Panthanmackel MSFS, Rector of Morning Star, spoke on the importance of servant leadership. There were 29 graduating students of which one of them secured the High Distinction, 9 of them secured Distinction, 14 High First Class and 5 of them secured First Class. Bro. L. Reni Prakash representing the graduating batch expressed the sentiments of gratitude and their profound indebtedness to all who helped them to reach this great success. The New Book titled Succession to the Throne: A Synchronic and Diachronic Analysis of 2 Kings 11 by Dr Patrick Jayaraj Antony MSFS, was released by the Archbishop Thomas D'Souza. Rev. Fr Niraj Toppo proposed the vote of Thanks and the convocation ceremony ended with the seminary Anthem.



Archbishop Thomas D'Souza ordains Deacon Amit Xess

■ ISAAC HAROLD GOMES

On Sunday 24th October 2021, Deacon Amit Xess from the Salesian Province of Kolkata, was ordained priest by Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta. The day was World Mission Sunday and therefore it was befitting this day was chosen to ordain Deacon Amit to induct him in the Missionary work of the Church to serve those who are living in situations of poverty, injustice and oppression. The theme of this year's Mission Sunday was: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). It's a two-fold message of hope – (1) Jesus Christ is risen and we cannot keep his love, compassion, and mercy to ourselves. (2) It also challenges us to stand up and speak out on behalf of those who are weaker. For them, we cannot remain silent.

Deacon Amit Xess was born on 09th September 1988, in Kansbahal, a modern industrial town where L&T's Kansbahal Works, Orissa's largest heavy engineering unit in the private sector, is located. He is the third child in the family. After his novitiate in Bandel seminary, he studied Theology from 2008-2011 and did his graduation. He also has a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Thereafter, he completed further theological studies at Salesian Pontifical University, Faculty of Theology, Ratisbonne, Jerusalem and was ordained Deacon, on Sunday 14 June, at the Church of All Nations, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, by Most Rev. Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM, the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The Holy Eucharist began with a welcome dance by mothers of Hindi-speaking community of Auxilium Parish. This was followed by hand-washing and garlanding of Archbishop Thomas, Salesian Kolkata Province Head Fr Joseph Pauria and Fr Martin Lakra. After this the faithful walked in a procession and handed over the Bible to the Archbishop. He consecrated it and placed it on the lectern. Deacon Amit's sister did the First Reading from the Holy Scriptures. The Second Reading was taken up by his brother. Deacon Amit read the Gospel Mark 16:18, NIV: "they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it



will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." Fr Martin Lakra initiated the ordination proceedings. First Deacon Amit's parents came up and dedicated their son to God, in keeping with Proverbs 3:9: "Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops." After this the Salesian Provincial handed over Deacon Amit to Archbishop Thomas and requested him to ordain Amit. The Archbishop agreed. He prayed over Deacon Amit so that he is filled with the Holy Spirit to serve his community, especially the downtrodden and can bring back the lost sheep with his love and pastoral care. He asked him several questions on fidelity, his life of prayer and service, including his obedience to his local Bishop. Deacon Amit

answered in the affirmative. Fr Pauria and Fr Martin dressed up Deacon Amit in his new vestments after which Archbishop ordained him as Priest. He rubbed holy oil on his palms and blessed him. The 50A concelebrants came forward, kissed Fr Amit's palms and welcomed him into their fold. Deacon Amit now a priest offered his first Holy Eucharist along with the Archbishop. At the end of the mass, he profusely thanked his parents, all his former provincials and superiors, colleagues, including his superiors in Jerusalem. He sought the continued prayers of all and ended by saying: "Not my will, but your will be done" (Luke 22:42).

The Eucharist was very well-organised, backed up by excellent choir led by Amit Bagey on the keyboard and Peter Kerketta, lead vocalist.



Miscellaneous

National SCC Secretary meets Asansol DST members

I. P. SARTO



Fr. George Jacob, National Secretary of CBCI Commission for SCCs met the Diocesan Service Team (DST) members of Asansol diocese on Oct. 23, 2021 and interacted with them. 19 DST members were present at Chetana Pastoral Centre, Burdwan to share with him their joys, impact, challenges and struggles of SCC promotion in the villages and parishes.

Fr. I P Sarto, Regional SCC Coordinator welcomed and introduced Pallotine Priest, Fr. George from Nagpur to the DST members. Emeritus Bishop Cyprian Monis greeted him with an Uttarya.

Fr. Alex Tudu, Asansol SCC coordinator gave a brief report of SCC activities of the diocese in 2021. Youth and priests gathered for the meeting shared the impact of SCCs. "Due to SCCs, many youth comes for various activities in the Church" said Mr. Benjamin Murmu from Ekpere parish. People of other faith also come to do cleaning, planting trees and making road when they see our SCC members take up social action, added Mr. Murmu, an active youth

SCC meetings have brought unity in the village, said Mr. Subhash Hansda from Talit village of Burdwan Parish. Through SCCs, many Bidins have accepted faith in Christ, he added.

Reflection during SCCs, made us to have concern for the poor and sick in the villages, said Miss Pratima Murmu from Kamarpara parish. Now many

read the Word of God and listen to it, said Fr. S. Britto Pastor of Kamarpara.

To encourage men to attend SCC meeting is a great challenge, said Fr. Antony Devasahayam Parish priest of Nuta. Motivating people for prayers, Church activities and SCCs are major problems in the villages, said Fr. Stephen Toppo, Pastor of Katwa. Priests and religious need to be more involved in SCC meetings to motivate villagers, said Bishop Monis sharing his personal experiences.

Fr. George appreciated the DST members for their keen interest to promote SCCs and to develop love for the Word of God. Challenges are part of life everywhere in the world. We need to discuss with the villagers and to listen to them for solving every problem in the parish, he added.

Synodal Church invites us to be agents of communion, Participation and mission, said Sr. Christin, HC from Calcutta while inviting the members to promote communion in the villages. All the DST members expressed happiness to meet with the National Secretary first time in Asansol diocese. Fr. George thanked them for their sharing. I learnt much from you all, added Fr. George, Secretary of National Service Team (NST) of SCCs. This is his first visit to the dioceses after taking over as the Secretary, Bishop Monis concluded the sharing session with prayer and blessing

MARY MARGARET

The Youths of St. John's Church, Sealdah organized an Inter Parish Mixed Basketball tournament on the 23rd and 24th of October, 2021 in the premises of Our Lady of Dolours Church, Baithakhana.

It was the 7th edition of their signature event- Zion. The tournament was held over two days which witnessed participation of 12 teams from various catholic churches in and around the city. The parishes participating were – Bandel Basilica, Don Bosco Lilluah, St. Joseph's Barrackpore, St. Michael Church Premnagar, Christ the King Church, St Francis Xavier, Sacred Heart Church and Auxilium Parish. Referees for both the days were Mr. Siddharth and Mr. Noel. All the teams had put up a good show and played very well till the end. As part of the sport, two teams qualified for playing the finals of Zion with one emerging as Winner and the other taking up the Runners-up position. Auxilium Church emerged as the Winners while St. Michael Church Premnagar secured the Runners-up position in a closed fought finale. The audience was in

ZION 2021



awe while they witnessed a tough and an interesting match between the two best teams.

Allen Peter (Auxilium Church) and Jacky (SFX) won the Most Valuable Players Male & Female respectively. While Alok Kerketta (Premnagar) and Jimmy (Premnagar) won the award for the Highest Scorers Male & Female respectively.

Zion2021 wouldn't have been a grand and a successful event without the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sponsors and Benefactors. A special thanks to FiFi Bridal Store and Marian Enterprises for their generous contributions towards the event. It was the hard work and the planning for

several months by the youths of the parish under the guidance of the President Jason Samaddar and the parish priest Rev. Fr Joy Cyprian D'Souza that this tournament was made possible. "We eagerly await for ZION every year so that every fan and player of the sport of basketball from the various churches can come under one roof and witness a spirit of passion towards the game while experiencing the spirit of brotherhood among each other" – Steven Gomes (Player representing Auxilium team for 6 years).

We look forward to Zion 2022 till then let us pray for one another safety and good health.

Why is St. Jude the patron saint of lost causes?

Denver: On Oct. 28, the Catholic Church celebrated the feast of Saint Jude, also known as Thaddeus, one of Jesus' 12 apostles. He is believed to have written the Letter of Jude, one of the shortest books of the Bible, and is thought to have been martyred in Beirut, Lebanon, in around 65 AD. He is typically depicted with a club or axe, symbolizing the way he died, as well as with a flame above his head which refers to Pentecost.

Although Jude is not mentioned much in the Bible and only had one quote attributed to him in the Gospel of John (14:22), this quiet apostle is extremely popular among Catholics today. St. Jude's popularity probably stems from his patronage of lost causes. An experience Jude had while in the city of Edessa is said to be the reason why St. Jude is associated with lost causes.

According to the ancient church historian Eusebius, while Jesus was still alive, the ruler Abgar V of Edessa was afflicted with an incurable and painful disease. He had heard



of the miracles of Jesus and wrote him a letter requesting a visit. Jesus responded that he would send one of his disciples. After Jesus' Ascension into heaven, Jude went to evangelize near the city of Edessa and went to visit Abgar. Jude laid his hands on the sick ruler and he was instantly healed.

Many people choose to carry the image of St. Jude on a medal or as a pendant on a necklace for comfort and call on him in their time of need and healing.

A Prayer to St. Jude
Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of difficult cases, of things almost despaired of,

Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone.

Intercede with God for me that He brings visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly - (make your request here) - and that I may praise God with you and all the saints forever. I promise, O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor granted me by God and to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR
THIS YEAR'S DEARLY
DEPARTED LOVED ONES

CATHOLIC ONLINE



Relevant Concerns in our Pastoral Ministry in Series - 33

Prophetic Voices from the Periphery – Poets of Bengal – 24
Srijato Bandopadhyay

FRANCIS SUNIL ROSARIO

Srijato Bandopadhyay is a poet from Bengal and writes in Bengali language. He was born in a musical family. He lived at Garia and spent his childhood at Kamdohari, Narkelbagan. Srijato is the grandchild of classical vocalist Sangeetacharya Tarapada Chakraborty and nephew of musician and the Khalifa of Kotali Gharana Pandit Manas Charabarty; his mother is also a classical vocalist Gaan Saraswati Srila Bandopadhyay. His early schooling was completed to Jadavpur Vidyapith. He graduated from the Asutosh College, a University of Calcutta affiliate. Srijato started his writing career in the 1990s. He currently lives in Selimpur, southern Kolkata with his wife Durba. Having worked as a journalist, he is now on the editorial board of the magazine "Prathama". Popularly known as Srijato, he is more famous amongst the younger readers of Bengali poetry. His poetry is experimental in style where he employs a number of innovative techniques such as use of words from other languages, allusions to elements of popular culture, as well as poems, which are untitled. In fact, his latest collection of poems Aami aar William (I and William) has all the poems untitled. This anthology also sees the employment of a postmodern literary technique, where William is the alter ego of the poet, and they both embark upon a journey where they come across Jesus Christ, Albert Einstein, Sunil Gangopadhyay, Begum Akhtar and others. His poetry is usually set upon an urban background and deals with themes such as urban alienation, unrequited love, pangs of unemployment, etc. An untitled poem given below exemplifies the beauty of his verse rendering:-



“Prithibir shat shatta ashchorjoikhubboro. Choto ashchorjo bolte ei kobita Jaami tomake ditey pari.” (All the Seven Wonders of the World are huge.

The smaller wonder is this poem Which I can gift you.)

Works His notable works include Chotoder Chiriyakhana: The menagerie for kids (2005), Katiushar golpo: Tales untold (2006), Borshamongol : The monsoon epic (2006), Okalboisakhi: Storms unprecedented (2007), Likhte hole bhodrobhabekho: Write politely, if you have to (2002), Ses Chithi: Last Letter (1999), Bombay to Goa (2007), Coffe namti Irish : Irish Coffee (2008), Onubhob korechi tai bolchi : Revealing the feeling (1998). His book of poems, Andhakar Lekhaguchchha was firstly posted in the Facebook by the poet. Every poem of this book is a Sonnet.

He has also written novels. His first novel is "4043". His second novel was published in Pujabarshiki Anondolok, named "Shalimare Shonghat". He won the Ananda Puroskar in 2004 for his book Udanta Sawb Joker: All Those Flying Jokers. In 2014, he won the Filmfare awards East for Best for Best Lyricist for the song 'Balir Shohor' from 'Mishawr Rawhoshyo'.

His latest poetic composition 'Megh Bodoler Kabbi' has been published in International Kolkata Book fair 2020 along with another novel- 'Briksha

Onubadak'

Besides writing poems and songs, he also does anchoring and Public Speaking. Recently he made his acting debut in Srijit Mukherji's film Zulfikar. He has also attended a writer's workshop at the University of Iowa.

Famous Works: – Uranta shob Joker (All those flying Jokers), Coffee'r Namti Irish (Irish Coffee), Aami aar William (I and William).

Awards and accolades: – Ananda Purashkar (2004) for Uranta shob Joker.

2014 :Filmfare Awards East for Best Lyricist - "Balir Shohor" from Mishawr Rawhoshyo
 2014 :Bangla Academy Award – 'KorkotkrantirDesh' (Poetry)

He has now don the director's hat. He is into film direction from Manabjamin, a romantic comedy. Joy Sarkar has given the music for the film. Rana Sarkar has produced the film.

Speaking to Anandabazaar Patrika, Srijato mentioned that romance and comedy, the two central elements of Bengali cinema, have become comparatively rarer as a genre in the Bengali film industry today. Srijato added that he will bring these good old yet integral elements back into the narrative of Manabjamin. He looks to emulate the 'essence' of the brand of cinema popularized by Tapan Sinha, his favorite film director.

In an interview with the Telegraph, the Bangla Academy award-winning poet said that the title of the film is drawn from Ramprasad Sen's song Emon Manabjamin rolili potit, which became an important part of the script.

He added that the story that came to him around three years ago is 'a relationship tale', a story of and about people, intertwined with bits of the director's poetic talent.

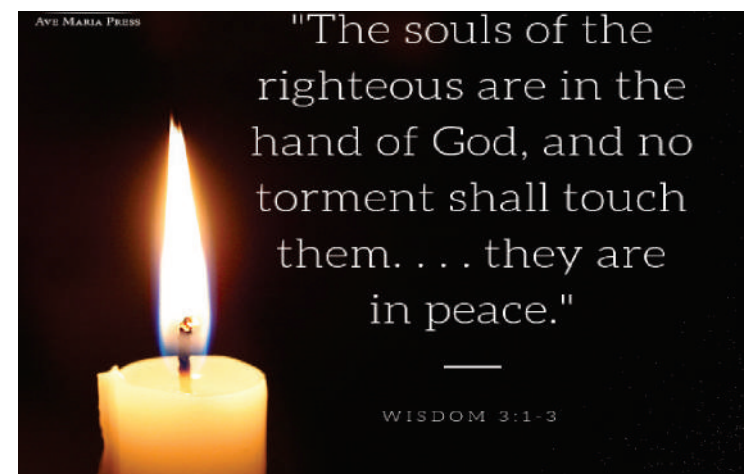
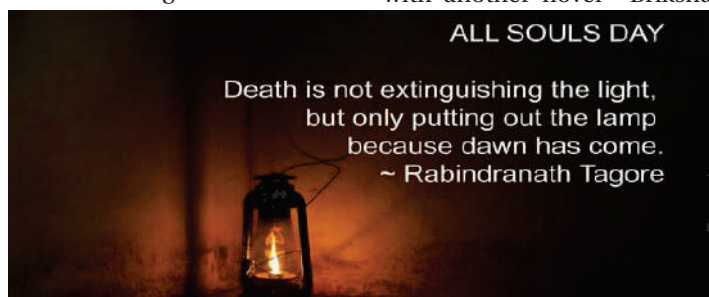
Obituary Fr Sebastian Singh



Father Sebastian Singh, born in Upper Neong Merong, Pedong, was ordained as a Diocesan priest on March 25, 1983. After his ordination as a priest, he faithfully carried out his duties as a loyal priest and on October 16, 2021, he renounced this world and attained the union of God. His demise has caused irreparable loss to the Darjeeling-Sikkim Christian community. Born on February 20 1955, to father Isidore Singh and mother Anna Maria. Father Sebastian was baptized at Sacred Heart Church, Pedong. After receiving his schooling at St. George's Higher Secondary School in Pedong and St. Robert's School in Darjeeling, he received his primary education at the Minor Gurukul (JTI) in Darjeeling. Father Sebastian Singh, who studied philosophy in 1975-77 and spirituality in 1979-82 from Morning Star College Barrackpore, Kolkata. In 1982-83, he started preparing his journey towards priesthood. After becoming a priest, he worked as an assistant parish priest in Bhimbar in April 1983 and St. Mary's Parish Kurseong in 1985. In May 1986, he became a parish priest at St. Maurice Parish Suruk. He completed his Bachelor of Education at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and spent his time assisting at St. Augustine's School, Kalimpong while preparing for his Post Graduate degree. In 1997, he took a counselling class on religious education from Monfort College, Bangalore, and from April 1998, he became the

director of JTI Darjeeling. From 2004 to 2011, he served as a parish priest at the Sacred Heart Parish in Loley, and for the next year as an assistant Parish Priest at St. Teresa's Parish 8th Mile Kalimpong. He has been working as an assistant teacher at St. Francis School in Jorethang since 2014. In June 2021, he was appointed as a Parish priest at St. Francis Parish in Jorethang. Father Sebastian Singh had been working on language and translation since the early days of his theological studies. "Nepali Dharmashiksha" "Pabitra Atmako Jwala" Sumarg 'etc are his work of scripture. During his priesthood, he acted as a mentor for 23 priests of the Darjeeling Diocese and seven priests of the Bagdogra Diocese and helped them to become a priest. The entire Darjeeling-Sikkim diocese is mourning his death.

The Funeral Mass was conducted on 18th October 2021 by his Excellency the Bishop of Darjeeling and Sikkim Diocese, Rt. Rev. Stephen Lepcha, Rev. Father Joseph Chhetri Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish Pedong and Twenty three other Priests and was attended by a large number of sisters of different congregation, faithful, non-Catholics, relatives, family friends and well-wishers. He has been cremated in the Old Cemetery of Pedong Parish. His last Holy Mass for peace of soul will be on October 25, 2021, at his home at Upper Neong Merong, Pedong.



Syro-Malabar: our synodality and the path of Pope Francis



New Delhi (AsiaNews) - The Syro-Malabar Church is one of the oldest Christian communities not only in India but in all of Asia with over 4 million faithful, 34 dioceses and more than 9 thousand presbyters. A community in communion with Rome which - following the Eastern tradition - has for centuries been one of its cornerstones in the exercise of synodality. A sign of vitality, but not without some efforts as clearly emerged a few months ago on the occasion of the heated discussions regarding the "single liturgy" of this Syriac-rite Church. How, then, do these communities of India look at the synodal path that Pope Francis has pointed out to the whole Church for the next two years? AsiaNews asked Fr. Paul Thelakkat, former spokesman for the Syro-Malabar Synod

"The Eastern rite churches have always structured their ecclesial life on a synodal type structure - explains Fr. Thelakkat to AsiaNews -. Our church has a long tradition of Yogam, a word that indicates a council, a meeting, and which probably originates from the notion of Sangam (assembly of poets) dear to Buddhism". The Syro-Malabar church has always felt strongly the concept of community and communion, despite the Yogamin the beginning it was reserved only for men of upper class and caste. "The current ecclesiastical system is deeply synodal - explains Fr. Paul -. The synod meets periodically and decides in the name of the faithful. However, the Synod of Syro-Malabar bishops does not have a system of consultation of the clergy, or of religious, or of the laity; therefore we do not have an always fruitful

dialogue with the levels below the bishops. This is because the concept of authority and power structure in our Eastern Church remains the same as in the Latin Church. A limit that Pope Francis himself identifies well when he uses the term clericalism. After all, the deconstruction of the power structure is very painful but, at the same time, it is necessary in the modern world for the simple reason of existing as the Church of Christ".

Hence the importance of a participatory and open synodal process also at the lower levels of the Church: "There should be no decision in the Church without adequate consultations - highlights Fr. Paul -. Only the method of dialogue and sincerity in exchange can be the way forward to open the way to the divine. Pope Francis also said that the Synod must be more than a parliament. I believe that the ecclesial assembly is like a novel with a series of characters, but what moves the actions of the individual subjects is the pen of the author, that is, Christ; the characters embody the constant presence of the author and his intentions. This is why I say that the language of the synod, the incarnation of the Word of Christ, must be of love, sincerity and openness". Based on these reflections, Fr. Paul dreams of a Church that listens and realizes the proposals that come from below, from parishes and territorial eparchies. "There must be clear indications on how important decisions that affect everyone are made - he concludes -. The best method is consensus, neither by majority nor by minority: a consensus built on listening to several voices".

Valedictory Address to the Out-going Theologians of Morning Star



Rev Fr Dr Dominic Savio SJ, Principal, St Xavier's College (Autonomous)

Dear Theologians, you are graduating today after your intense study and rigorous training over the last four years. You have learned to place these in the context of our past heritage, present situation and the future to come, keeping in mind our Faith and option for the poor. We reflect on the virtue of thankfulness. Thankfulness is important for the well-being of this life and for here and now that will ensure happiness in the next.

This vocation you have chosen is great and noble because it is a life dedicated to the service of God, and so a life dedicated to others. Be thankful to God.

Fr George Soares explaining Mark 1: 15 says that Jesus came to establish God's Kingdom of Freedom, Fellowship and Justice. He brought about our total freedom by liberating our body, mind, heart and soul. Once liberated, in love and fellowship we bring about justice to establish a just society. As His disciples you go out and establish His Kingdom of Freedom, Fellowship and Justice. "Let Thy Kingdom come" become a reality.

This choice you have made to serve God and others has set you apart. You will look after the spiritual welfare of people. They will also turn to you in their need. You will not have the answer always but will always have faith to carry and give to your congregations, and they will look on you as anointed by the Lord.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor and to bind up the broken-hearted...." (Is 61/1). You are anointed to spread the Word of God, to offer comfort and solace. Realise the responsibility entrusted to you, understand the deep meaning of service to God and others, entailing both a spiritual and a secular

obligation.

Having embraced celibacy, now an anointed one, you be thankful for it. The sacred and secular duties have laid out the conduct of your future life. You will be the shepherd of your congregation. Comfort them in their misery, be a light in their darkness. This will fill you with humility and thankfulness because few are privileged to receive such regard.

Remember, honour must be earned by command and honesty of your faith. Make yourself continuously worthy of honour by inculcating deep faith in Jesus and deep love for people.

Looking at the aspects of commitment, your commitment first is to Jesus who has called you personally and intimately. This is expressed in your commitment to your Bishop, Superiors and the faithful; a commitment of love, faithfulness, joy.

Your commitment concerns your growth. Grow fruitfully in Celibacy, Obedience, and Poverty. These involve growing spiritually into a deeper involvement and intimacy with God, bringing Him ever greater glory, without seeking your glory.

The completion of your seminary training is an end but also a beginning. Poet T. S. Eliot said, "In my end is my beginning". This is very true at this turning point in your life as the next phase is about to begin.

Look at the importance of education and knowledge. This is a continuing process for all, importantly for a priest. Once ordained, you commit yourself to a life of service and self-development. You can educate yourself in many ways. There are many specialised areas. Find an area of interest and pursue it with rigour and purpose.

The Vision of Morning Star is to form pastoral leaders who are men of God, for & with others for bringing Good News to all. The inspiring Motto of Morning Star is "Let your light shine". It means that Mary, Morning Star and beloved Mother of priests, will guide you on the path of Christ, the true light.

What is your personal Vision, Mission and Motto? You may have formulated these. If not, pray and formulate these now. These will inspire, guide and challenge you in your journey as a priest.

The role of a priest is not confined to the pulpit,

confessional and the Church. We have a wider role spreading across the lives of our flock. For that, skills, sensitivities and intuitions have to be acquired with experience. The first stage of your priesthood is a kind of apprenticeship where you pick up those attributes and habits.

This is the 500th anniversary of Cannonball Moment of St Ignatius. In May 1521, while defending the castle of Pamplona, a cannonball shattered his one leg and broke the other. That started his conversion. From seeking his own glory he began to seek God's Greater Glory. We too must seek God's Glory in whatever mission, big or small, is given to us. Like St. Ignatius, we must free ourselves from all inordinate attachments to offer ourselves with these words: "Take O Lord and Receive...."

Think of Jesuit General Fr Pedro Arrupe. He guided the Jesuits through the stormy waters after 2nd Vatican Council and is known as the 2nd Founder of the Jesuits. Because of him in our 32nd General Congregation the Decree Our Mission Today: the Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice, was passed in 1975. During those years in South America the torture and murder of the Jesuits and the suffering of the boat people from Vietnam, urged him to declare that "Jesuits are men for & with others." This is the very essence of priesthood.

As a shepherd, you will find so many coming to you. It is not just any person but Jesus entering into your life. Treat each person with love, respect and concern. Let each person go away from you with a smile, hope and touch of Jesus.

As priests it is very important to have and to grow in our human qualities. Find the slightest good in others and not the negative. Be always positive. Be a People's Priest, be available, generous, warm, understanding; be a person of peace, joy, hope; be with them in their joys and sorrows. You will have the smell of your sheep as the Holy Father desires of us.

The saying goes, "Blossom where you are planted." And you will bring fulfilment, nourishment, shade and comfort where you grow. Your restless heart will have found rest in Abraham's bosom, and this is a rest and peace that passeth all understanding.

Go you now and be a shepherd unto your people, be a light unto the world!

Leisure

Modi to meet pope this weekend, says Indian cardinal



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet with Pope Francis in the Vatican during his Europe visit, Cardinal George Alencherry has confirmed.

Cardinal Alencherry, head of the Eastern-rite Syro-Malabar Church and president of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council, issued an official statement on Oct. 27 saying that Modi is due to meet the pope on Oct. 30.

He said he came to know about the meeting "from official sources" and termed it as a "historic meeting."

"There is no doubt that it will add more energy and warmth to our country's relationship with the Vatican and the Catholic Church," said the statement.

Indian media have been speculating on the Modi-pope meeting ever since India's External Affairs Ministry confirmed last week that the PM would be traveling to Rome and Glasgow from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 to attend the G20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP26.

However, neither the Indian government nor the Vatican

has officially issued any statement about such a meeting.

The meeting comes seven years after Modi came to power by leading his pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party to victory in May 2014. The BJP and other Hindu groups, which support the idea of turning India a nation of Hindu dominance, have been opposing papal visits to India.

Hardline Hindu groups have also opposed Christian mission activities and publicly protested against St. Pope John II's visit to India in 1999, when he arrived to launch Ecclesia in Asia, the document of the Asian bishops' synod.

Modi's government has been lukewarm to Indian Church efforts to invite Pope Francis to India, reportedly fearing a backlash from Hindu groups who believe such relations would encourage Christian missionary work in the country.

Church leaders say the scheduled meeting is a good sign amid Indian Christians facing increased persecution, especially since Modi came to power. "The scheduled meeting of

Modi and Pope Francis is a step in the right direction. The head of the Catholic Church still commands certain global respect in matters of religion and ethics," said Divine Word Father Babu Joseph, a former spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

"Modi, if he nurtures any ambition of growing into a world leader of some significance, can no longer afford to gloss over an institution and its head that hold sway over 1.3 billion people across the world.

"Pope Francis has broken certain glass ceilings and broached issues that are of great human significance, and his voice is heard by world leaders. That is why the president of a world power like the USA calls on Pope Francis and seeks his good counsel.

"Additionally, no global institution other than the Catholic Church has such a vast network of service-providing agencies that have played a tremendous role in transforming the lives of people.

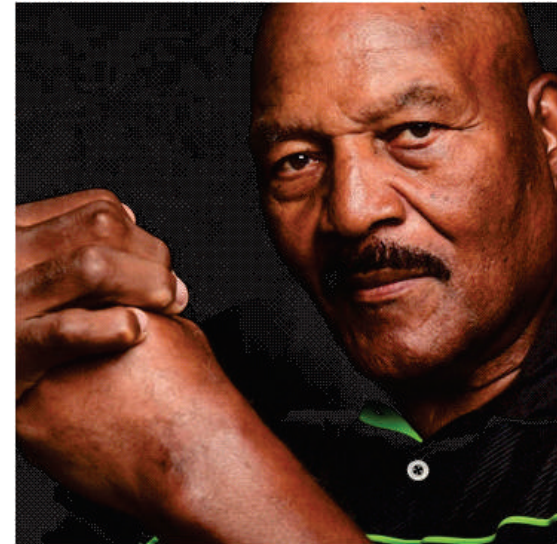
"India, despite the contrary claims, is no exception to this service delivery network of the Catholic Church. As a seasoned politician, Modi would want to acknowledge it, though somewhat discreetly."

Modi's government has ignored several appeals by church leaders to invite Pope Francis to India. Their latest effort was in February when Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai along with Cardinal Alencherry and Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, major archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church, called on Modi and asked him to invite the pope to India. UCAN

STORY BANK

Story 125: Interview with God

FR. FELIX RAJ SJ



James Nathaniel Brown, born on February 17, 1936, is a former American football fullback, sports analyst and actor. He played for the Cleveland Browns of the National Football League (NFL) from 1957 through 1965. In 2002, he was named by The Sporting News as the greatest professional football player ever.

Jim Brown wrote 'I dreamed I had an interview with God'. God asked, 'So you would like to interview me?'

'If you have the time...' Jim said. God replied, 'My time is in eternity. What questions do you have in your mind for me?'

Jim asked, 'What surprises you the most about humankind?' God smiled and answered, 'That they get bored with childhood, rush to grow up and then long to be children again. They lose their health to earn money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by being anxious for the future they forget the present, and they live neither in the present nor in the future. That they live as if they would never die and then die as if they never lived.'

God took Jim's hands in His own and they were silent for a while.

Then Jim asked once again, 'As a parent what are some of the life lessons that you would want your children to learn?'

God replied with a smile, 'To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved.'

'To learn that it is not good to compare themselves with others.'

'To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most but the one who needs the least.'

'To learn that it takes only a few

seconds to open profound wounds in the persons we love and it takes many years to heal them'.

'To learn to forgive by practising forgiveness'.

'To learn that there are people who love them dearly but do not know how to express their feelings'.

'To learn that two people can look at the same thing but can see it differently'.

'To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they must forgive themselves'.

'And to learn that I am here - always'.

Here is a rich man's conversation with Jesus. One day a rich man asked Jesus, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

"Which ones?" he inquired.

Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

On this All Souls' Day let us not forget to remember and pray for our dearly departed loved ones!



**YOUR MEMORY WILL LIVE LONG
IN OUR HEARTS DAD.....**



JOHN JEYASEELAN DAVID

Born: 16-06-1937

Left for heavenly abode: 01-11-2017

FOR OUR DAD IN HEAVEN

*Those special memories of you
Will always bring a smile
If only I could have you back
For just a little while
Then we could sit and talk again
Just like we used to do
You always meant so very much
And always will do too
The fact that you're no longer here
Will always cause us pain
But you're forever in our hearts
Until we meet again.*

We pray to God for your every single day and every single night. May God grant eternal peace to your soul to live happily in his divine paradise. On this day missing you so much Dad. Sadly, missed by his loving wife Victoria, Sons Benedict and Sylvester, Daughters Ruby, Jennifer and Sylvia, Sons-in-law Joe and William, Daughter in-law Bineeta. Grandchildren Malcom, Damien, Aaron and Annuncia

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