



LENTEN MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS : 2019

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery “for in hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God's mercy. When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticum of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures and ourselves as well since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough”, gains the upper hand. The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others

and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body.

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3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made “a new creation”. For “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery. This “eager longing”, this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the “travail” that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth “from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to “devour” everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

4. Dear brothers and sisters, the “Lenten” period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the desert of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be “set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

Youth Orientation at Raghampur



Raghampur Parish organized a day of orientation programme on Sunday, 27th January 2019 to benefit the youth. We have also invited our neighbouring parishes: Thakurpukur, Keorapukur, Sajnerberia and Hogalkuria. We have invited DEXCO members both old and new. There was a good response from all corners. Our resource persons were: Fr. Ramen, the diocesan youth director, Fr. Mahanando SJ, the Parish Priest of Prabhu Jisur Girja and Mr. Aritra Sen, one of the old DEXCO members. The topics dealt were: Youth and Bible, Youth and their Futuristic hope and how to enhance youth's participation in the Church. There were altogether 75 youth members. At the end of the programme, there was a cultural programme.

Fr. Ramen insisted the role and the importance of knowing the Bible as Catholics in the lives of youth. He also stated that the year 2019 is announced by our Bishop as the Year of Youth. Fr. Mahanando SJ insisted how the youth could face tomorrow: the preparedness and readiness to face the future. This orientation laid a foundation to the participants. I take this opportunity to thank our Raghampur youth and all those who worked hard to make this day a successful one.

- Fr. Sahaya Jude SJ.

Youth Seminar on "Theology of the Body"

The seminar was organized on the theme "Theology of the Body" for the youth of our Diocese by the youth commission in Dishari Pastoral center on 16th and 17th February 2019. Youth director Fr. Ramen Pailan welcomed the guests, Fr. Mark MC, Salomi Bramblebee Nizel Samuel, Sonu Minj, Xavier Sampad, David Saha and Demi Felix with bouquet. Fr. Mark began the session with invoking blessing of the Holy Spirit. He said that youth may be inspired and learn to live a holy life by St. John Paul II. Nizel Samuel invited youth by their name and asked them to make small group.

The team members shared one by one their experience about TOB. They said that since Almighty God has created us and gifted with every quality that we have within us but sometimes we cannot recognize them because we often choose the wrong way to lead our life and therefore we struck with depression and tension. They also said youth should be happy in life, and happiness is not what we want to do but happiness is to do the right thing at the right time.

Love is a beautiful gift from God. St. John Paul II says that love should be "Free, Total, Faithful and Fruitful". Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty (DYP) thanked Fr. Mark and his team Members for giving us inspiring sessions which helped us to rethink about our own lives.

- Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty

From the Desk of Women's Commission

On 23rd and 24th of February 2019, we had our two days of regional meeting in Cathedral of Holy Rosary. Our theme for the meeting was Accompanying the Young Minds in Traversing the World of Ideologies. All the 8 dioceses were present for meeting along with our National Secretary of Women's Commission Sr. Talisha Nadukudiyil SD and our Regional Secretary Mrs. Sandhya Vincent. The day began with an Eucharistic celebration offered by Fr. Robert Johnson deputy secretary for BRBC. Then the programme started with the welcoming of guests. Mrs. Sandhya Vincent invited the guests to come up for the lighting of lamp soon after that she addressed with a few words to the women; She was very thankful to each of the dioceses for coming to attend the regional meeting. She requested each diocese to come up and to introduce themselves individually to the gathering.

The first session was taken by Sr. Talisha our National Secretary. She elaborated her speech about inequality in democratic India. She exemplified how the girls are physically used and tortured by the manlike of our society. She demonstrated wonderfully that women are not sexually harassed due to their way of dress up or going out of the house with friends or by using cell phone but it is the men of the society who think women are made to be used and throw. India is a patriarchal society and it is the mind-set of masculine to think women to be inferior, to be under their feet always. So being women and mothers of today's generation we must train our sons to respect women as we respect them. Women don't want to be superior and ruling over manlike but nor should they think that women are inferior before them. She showed us many video clippings to show the different ways a woman faces sexual harassment and how she can defend and overcome herself.

After lunch report was presented from each diocese by diocesan secretary about whatever work we are doing and will be doing. To remove our drowsiness after lunch action song was presented by Ms. Puja Gomes. She also invited a few diocese to sing song to refresh every ones mood.

After tea-break there was a session by Youth group of Calcutta Archdiocese. They verbalized how to accompany young mind in traversing the world of Ideology. They spoke about the different problems faced by present generation and as parents at times we understand those but still we don't help or fail to help due to various reasons. If parents are friendly with their children it's easy to share problems and know what exactly our children are going through. Every time we cannot dump anything forcefully to our children. It is according to their capability that they will fulfill our expectations.

The next day Sr. Shaline addressed to the women about the children and specially about girl children, she also spoke about how the girls are trapped in trafficking and kidnapping. Next Action plan was presented by all the diocesan secretaries. There was an extensive discussion about all the plans presented. Sr. Sarita spoke to the women about health and hygiene of women and how to maintain a healthy life. The programme ended after a Holy Mass followed by lunch.

- Ms. Babli Das



Dishari At A Glance

On 5th February 2019 Diocese of Baruipur organized a meeting for the members of CLC mothers, SVP and Women Commission for Pastoral planning. Altogether 38 members attended meeting from different Parishes namely, Thakurpukur, Keorapukur, R.B. Nagar and Sajnerberia. Fr. Pradeep Roy was the facilitator for the meeting. All of them actively participated and expressed their opinion for the future holistic growth of the Diocese.

On 5th and 6th February 2019 Dishari organized a Recollection for all the Priests who are working in Baruipur Diocese. Altogether 25 Priests attended the recollection. Fr. Gregory Monterio was the preacher for the day.

On 16th and 17th February 2019 Dishari organized SCC Seminar at Hotar under Kalyanpur parish and Gangarampur Parish. Including both the places altogether 78 participants attended the seminar. Fr. Saumen Malik and Mr. Dipankar Sardar was the resource persons for the seminar. Main topic was why do we need SCC today? Seven steps and Four Marks of SCC and Five models of the church were unfolded to them. Participants were very happy to attend the seminar and promised to start SCC in their respective places.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

Children's Parliament



On 24th February 2019 a programme was organised by Fr. Saumen Malik on the topic "Children's Parliament in Dishari" which was led by Fr. Uttam Naskar for the Children of Kalyanpur Parish along with its sub-stations. The programme started at 10.00 a.m. with a prayer led by Fr. Ramen Pailan. Besides, Children, many Parents, Fathers, Deacon and Brothers from Minor Seminary were

present for the programme. There was a big number of participants. There was traditional welcome dance by the children. Thereafter, Fr. Uttam presented the topic 'Children's Parliament' through power point. They were very energetic and active to participate and listen to the Power Point presentation. In the Power Point presentation, there was written explanation in English and Bengali. English written projection was read by Bro. Robert Joshi (Sacred Hearts) and Bengali written words were read by Rev. Deacon Peter Bablu Sardar. There was question and answer session to make children involved. In the beginning children hesitated to answer but Fr. Uttam made children to interact. In between there were also video clips to reflect and see reality of one's own life. After video session children expressed their views about the video and how it was helpful for them. Fr. Uttam gave a short reflection to understand the reality of their (children) life and how it can be graceful, when we help each other and be honest in doing anything before God. After that at 11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist was offered by Rt. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop of Baruipur Diocese. He enlightened in his Homily the theme, "love your enemy and forgive those who hate you". He continued saying forgiveness is not easy but being follower and being the disciple of Christ is always demanding to become mature Christian after the Path of Christ. After Holy Eucharist there was a delicious meal. Thereafter, there was half an hour break and after the break again Fr. Uttam continued with the session. Mid-day session began with mid-day prayer led by Fr. Saumen Malik to bring the children in tune. There was a video clip about helping poor and needy. Henceforth, the next programme was on 'Altar Server' through Power Point. Fr. Uttam explained and pushed them to understand personal responsibility and in taking interest to help during Liturgy. The programme ended with a final prayer by Deacon Peter Bablu Sardar.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

Colourful day for Grandparents



Parents are the best gifts of God. Keeping this in view a beautiful programme was organised for the parents on 24th February 2019 at St. Anthony's Church, Keorapukur. This was the third year since this special programme has been organized in the parish for parents who are above sixty years.

The day began at 8.00 a.m. with a Holy Mass preceded by welcoming everyone with flowers. The main function began after the mass by lighting the candle (diya) followed by a prayer dance. Thereafter, Parish Priest delivered a valuable speech for the parents.

On this occasion Sr. Cheryl AC, Headmistress of Carmel High School for Girls, Sr. Asha AC and brother Prodiop were present to witness the programme. Thereafter the parents were divided into five groups. A quiz competition was conducted from Book of Genesis and Exodus. After the lunch few family related subjects were enacted. In the evening few games were conducted for the parents. The programme came to a end at 5.00 p.m. after the evening tea.

- Ms. Polina Gomes

News from Paribar Jyoti:

A Teachers' Seminar in Telengana

62 teachers from St. Ann's High School, Tarnaka, near Hyderabad, participated in one-day seminar facilitated by Fr. Pradeep Roy. He had gone there for another purpose, but made use of the occasion to conduct the teachers' seminar.

While they found all the topics beneficial to them, the topic they particularly liked was *'The impact of family life on their professional life. The other topics were, 'Understanding your students' and 'The effect of interpersonal relationship on their mental physical health'.*

Though these topics were very personal, the way these were dealt with helped them to take these to heart and create a roadmap for functioning more effectively for the benefit of their family members, the students, and above all for their own lives.

A Personality Development Course for Children of Class IX and X

The course was attended by 61 boys and girls. Nearly half were non-Christians. Sr Sanju of Basanti St. Teresa's School had come with 20 girls. All the children found the course very invigorating and also beneficial to live a more meaningful and richer life.

It was a life-skill education programme of a special kind with a number of topics relevant to their age such as relationship with parents and siblings, falling in love, eloping, falling out of love and its impact, suicidal tendencies, prudent use of the media, addiction and its effects and so on. Value-based sex education helped them to understand God's plan revealed in their body and mind and the need to give God time to fulfill his plan. The moral and spiritual values imparted helped them to review their lives and resolve to bring newness into their lives.

Since the course was conducted in a participatory process and with group dynamics and simulation exercises, it became very interesting and appealing to the children. The outcome of the course too was very promising. After a fantasy exercise based on Gestalt therapy in which they burned their bad qualities and enhanced their selected good qualities, they made a promise highlighting the new behaviour they would adopt and invoked God's help to fulfill the promise.



Bethany Ashram Centenary

The Congregation of the Order of the Imitation of Christ, OIC, also known as Bethany Ashram, celebrated its centenary on February 16, 2019 at Bethany Ashram in Thakurpukur. On this occasion of the centenary year, His Excellency Most Rev. Bishop Salvadore Lobo was the chief guest. The Congregation of OIC was founded on August 15, 1919 in Kerala by Servant of God, Archbishop Geevarghese Mar Ivanios Panickaruvetil OIC, a great Indian Christian visionary. While he was a professor in Serampore College, West Bwngal, during the years 1913 to 1919, he was inspired to initiate the religious congregation called Bethany Ashram blending the ideals of Indian Sanyasa and Eastern Christian monasticism. At present there are four priests namely, Fr. Mathew Manaluvila, Fr. Godwin Christo, Fr. Justin Thomas and Fr. Thomas Sijo, who are rendering their ministry in Kolkata.

- Fr. Mathew Manaluvila

In Charity kindly Pray For: Mrs. Lilly Crasta, the mother of Rev. Fr. Henry Crasta, went to her eternal abode peacefully on 14th February 2019 in Mangalore at the age of 88. May her soul rest in peace. Kindly pray for her.

Mr. Nicholas RIP: God called Mr. Nicholas Naskar to his eternal abode on 23rd February 2019. He died at home at 82 years of age living behind wife and eight children (three daughters and five sons). One of his sons, Fr. Subrata Larry Naskar, the eldest brother, is a Salesian priest, presently working in USA. Nicholas Naskar served the church as a catechist in Kumrokhali Parish for 35 years. His funeral was conducted on 2nd March 2019 in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kumrokhali. A large crowd attended his funeral was a proof of his popularity. He was a man for others. We pray for the repose of his soul.



Our visitors

Most Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta, Bishop of Jashpur visited Bishop's House Baruipur on February 11, 2019. He was here after attending the seminar on the World Sick day in Kolkata.

Most Rev. Peter Paul Saldanha, Bishop of Mangalore paid a visit to Baruipur diocese on February 15, 2019. He had come to Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore for the Symposium on Evangelization in South Asia since Maximum Illud.

Rev. Fr. Maria Elias, the Founder and Superior General of the Society of the Holy Family Father visited Baruipur on February 23, 2019. He was accompanied by Fr. Biju M., the parish priest of Canning. He was here to discuss and find a Patron among the bishops of India for their Society.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH 2019

08 Br. Rajen Simon Singh

20 Fr. Johnson Kadamthod, CMI

24 Fr. Shyamal Bose

25 Fr. Kanauj Roy

ORDINATION

MARCH 2019

19 Fr. Aloysius Carvalho, SJ

22 Fr. Kuruvilla Thottam, SJ

31 Fr. Uttam Naskar

Priestly Ord. of Bp.

MARCH 2019

19 Bp. Salvadore Lobo

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer, Month of March 2019

Evangelization: Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities:

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

Bishop Lobo's Programme for the Month of March 2019

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01-03	Fri-Sun		Darjeeling	Spends two days with Bishop Bp. Stephen Lepcha
04	Mon	03.30 p.m.	Baruipur	Finance Committee meeting
05	Tue	03.00 p.m.	Baruipur	Governing Board Meeting of Palli Unnayan Samiti
06	Wed	07.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Mass and blessing of the Lenten Ashes in the Cathedral
07	Thu	09.30 a.m.	Baruipur	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
10	Sun	10.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Women's Day Celebration at Dishari
11	Mon		Krishnagar	Regional Pastoral Council at Sanjivani, Krishnagar
12	Tue		Krishnagar	Regional Pastoral Council at Sanjivani, Krishnagar
		04.55 p.m.		Goes to Varanasi
13	Wed		Varanasi	Meeting of the Regional Chairmen and Secretaries of CBCI-OSC
14	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Meeting of Priests' Council
15	Fri	06.00 p.m.	Baruipur	Way of the Cross followed by Holy Mass
16	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Meets Parish Council of Thakurpukur
17	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Hotor	Holy Mass
19	Tue	11.00 a.m.	Baruipur	G.B. Meeting of Paribar Jyothi
		06.30 p.m.		Goes to Delhi
20	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Vaishali	Governing Board meeting of NISCORT
21	Thu	06.35 p.m.		Returns to Baruipur
23	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Thakurpukur	Pastoral visitation of Thakurpukur
24	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Thakurpukur	Pastoral visitation of Thakurpukur
25	Mon	08.55 a.m.		Goes to Neuenhain, Germany
26-29	Tue-Fri		Neuenhain, Germany	Meets with Dr. Erik Sattler- Dombacher and Sonja Sattler
30	Sat	Morning		Returns to Baruipur
31	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Panchamkhanda	Holy Mass