



## St. John of God (March 8, 1495 – March 8, 1550)

*"Lord be blessed for in your great kindness to me who am such a great sinner having done so many wicked things, yet you see fit to set me free from such a tremendous temptation and deception which I fell into through my own sinfulness. You have brought me into a safe harbor where I shall endeavor to serve you with all my strength. My Lord, I beg you with all my might, give me the strength of your grace and always let me see your clemency. I want to be your slave, so kindly show me what I should do. Give peace and quiet to my soul which greatly desires this. O most worthy Lord, may this creature of yours serve and praise you. May I give my whole heart and mind to you."*

### (Prayer by Saint John of God at the time of his final conversion)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, at present, we are all in the season of Lent, preparing to participate in the Passover event of Resurrection of our Lord. At this time the passion of our Lord is a source of great strength to lead us in the spiritual journey of repentance, conversion, reconciliation and a life of joyful union with the resurrected Lord. The life of the saint of this month, St. John of God, whose feast we celebrate on the 8th of March each year, may be a spring of edification in our Lenten journey.

Born in the village of Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal to a middle-class, faith-filled parents, John was said to be abducted from his home when he was only eight

years old and taken to the town of Oropesa, Spain, more than 200 miles away. Eventually, he joined the army of the Holy Roman Emperor and battled the French. John was falsely accused of theft and condemned to death. However, through the effective intervention of some influential people, he was released.

Upon the completion of his military service, he finds out that his mother had passed away after his abduction and his father had joined the Franciscans to advance in holiness. Inspired by his father, he decided to offer his life in the service of God and His people. He threw himself into a life of prayer, made a general confession, and tearfully went from church-to-church begging God for the forgiveness of his sins.

Touched by the preaching of St. John of Avila, he became so aware of his own sins, that he started running through the streets like a madman, shouting for mercy. He was admitted to a mental hospital for these actions. Saint John of Avila advised him to be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. John gained peace of heart, and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor.

After receiving permission to leave the asylum, John made a pilgrimage and had a vision of the Blessed Mother who encouraged him to work for the poor and infirm. He moved forward with his desire to open a hospital. He worked tirelessly to care for them, begged for food, brought

priests to hear their confessions, and nursed them back to health. In the years following, John extended his mission of mercy to the poor, the abandoned, widows, orphans, the unemployed, prostitutes, and all who suffered. His companions in the work made up what would eventually become the Order of Hospitalers.

We can gain some valuable lessons from the life of this humble saint as follows.

1. **Lost Childhood of St. John:** No matter what the past or childhood of a person is, God is able to create us anew and use us for his glory.
2. **The beauty of repentance:** The deep awareness of sin and conversion; being conscious of the mercy of God, leads us to a selfless life of service. Guilt can no more hinder us but faith, hope and love take us to a new height of holiness and service.
3. **Role of Divine Mother:** Our Divine Mother plays a vital role in our Passover journey, as she did in the life of St. John of God.
4. **God's work continues till eternity:** When we cooperate with God and begin to work selflessly, the work continues even after the death of the pioneer. What is needed is trust in divine plan and providence. Lent is a time to be aware of our sinfulness and repent to respond to the marvelous love of God who has plan for each one of us. In every sinner there lies a saint.

+ Shyamal Bose



## PARIBAR JYOTI



In order to draw interest and enthusiasm among 546 participants Paribar Jyoti devised innovative ways of planning and executing meetings, seminars, workshops, trainings and recollections. The celebration of "World Marriage Day", for married couples on February 11, 2024 was edifying among all other programs. Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus, was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. In his homily he put emphasis on the importance of a peaceful family as the source of responsible parenthood and wholistic development of children. While Fr. Himangshu Poti, Fr. Parimal Kanji and Fr. Molloy Mondal enlightened the couples on the sacrament of marriage; Fr. Kanauj Roy animated the staff on understanding the basic counseling.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

In compliance with the mandate of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur organized a strategic planning workshop in Dishari, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Baruipur on February 22, 2024. Its purpose was to elicit the expectations and dreams of the participants as stakeholders about how the Latin Church in India has to be significantly different by 2033 through its commissions. Thus, besides the Bishop and the V.G. there were 30 delegates comprising of all the eight diocesan commissions Secretaries, coordinator of commissions, six parish priests and assistant priests, six religious priests and sisters, six lay men and women and four youth. After the opening prayer and lighting of the lamp Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the Bishop of the diocese, briefed about the purpose of the strategic planning workshop. Thereafter, Mr. Joachim Ashim Campoo, Fr. Kanauj Roy and Fr. Nilu Murmu who have been specially trained to facilitate such programs led the workshop with practical demonstrations. It was followed with the division of participants into four groups for the spiritual inputs. Each group was assigned to discuss the future of two commissions and submit the bullet points to be sent to the national commission of CCBI. The following eight commissions were discussed: Liturgy, Bible, Basic Ecclesial Community, Ecumenism, Women, Family, Youth and Laity.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka



## PASTORAL VISIT AND CONFERRING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Most Rev. Shyamal Bose came to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Raghabpur for a pastoral visit on February 10, 2024. He started the pastoral visit with house visit to some Christian families of the parish. The families were overjoyed with the visit of our Bishop. In the afternoon of the same day he interacted with various commissions, as well as received feedback from them. The faithful felt that it was a moment of grace for them. The next day he conferred the sacrament of confirmation to 156 children of the parish during the solemn Eucharistic celebration. The children were duly prepared by the catechism teachers. In his homily Bishop spoke about the importance of the sacrament of confirmation in one's spiritual growth. He said that the sacrament of confirmation sanctifies, empowers and prepares the faithful to face the spiritual challenges of life. It was indeed a memorable day for all the children who received the sacrament.

- Fr. Joseph Toppo

## REGIONAL PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Regional Pastoral Council Meeting was held at Chetana, Asansol from February 27 – 29, 2024. The theme of the meeting was "the Role of Laity in the Church". It was well explained by Fr. Henry Jose MSFS, Dean of Theology of Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore. The Second part of the meeting was reporting of the activities by the regional Secretaries. Activities of the each day began with a Bible enthronement. All the Bishops as well as the regional secretaries actively contributed towards the success of the meeting.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar



## YOUTH ORIENTATION AND FELICITATION



The Youth Commission of Baruipur Diocese organized two youth orientation programs in Bamanpukur and Khari Parish on February 04 & 11, 2024. There were 140 youth who actively took part in the programs. Fr. Rajen Singh, the Diocesan Youth Director, conducted a session on the "Goal of Life." Mr. Atanu Panja & Mr. Andrewdeep Gomes, DEXCO members then shared their journey to encourage their young friends.

There was a special felicitation program on February 26, 2024 in Dishari Pastoral Centre in honour of Mr. Raj Bagh who has been newly elected as National Youth President of ICYM. The event was attended by 65 youth leaders from across the diocese. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose honoured Mr. Raj Bagh, applauded and appreciated him for his contributions as youth of the diocese. It was also a moment of inspiration for the youth present there.

- Sarbershwar Chakraborty

## PALLI UNNAYAN SAMITI BARUIPUR

The Social service society of the diocese has become important agent in the development process of the society with its involvement in the wide range of activities comprising environmental awareness programme, disaster management and combating social evil. With the support of CEI Agro based livelihood project 31000 Kgs. of Lime powder was distributed among 700 marginalized farmers as Gypsum for recovery soil fertility from its salinity in Namkhana and Patharpratima Block on February 12 & 13, 2024. Green Nets also have been provided to 80 poor farmers for enclosing their betel vine. Following this on February 26 & 27, 2024 under the leadership of Dr. Manashi and Dr. Tapas Sahana an exposure visit was conducted for 52 selected farmers at Ramkrishna Ashram KrishiVigyan Kendra, Nimpeeth under Uttoran III to provide better understanding and knowledge of climate change adoptive sustainable agriculture and organic farming.



With a view to free the society from the clutches of social evils on February 18, 2023, a rally and street play was showcased on social violence against women and children at No.2 Charavidya village. Altogether 105 people participated in the rally and street play to raise their voice on the woeful effect of underage marriage, human trafficking, domestic violence and abuse. Mrs. Pinky Mahato, the local PRI member; Mrs. Tandra Sardar, ASHA workers; Mrs. Saroma Sardar, the ICDS workers were invited as resource persons.

They also focused on the vocational training of electrical wiring course for the youth. Those who successfully completed the course were awarded with certificate on February 28, 2024. On the same day they inaugurated the beautician course for girls. A total of 154 young men and women participated in the above-mentioned trainings and received certificates. All the participants of beautician course were awarded certificates and beautician toolkits.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

## NEWS FROM DISHARI



"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever" (Isaiah 40:8). God's word sustains the life of every Christian. Dishari organized two BEC Seminars in Nazat and Morapai on February 04 & 12, 2024. A BEC Training of Trainers was conducted on February 10, 2024 in Dishari. It was followed with Faith formation program in Bibirchak on February 11, 2024 and altar servers animation program in Ranigarh on February 25, 2024. All those programs were facilitated by different resource persons namely, Fr. Goutam Naskar, Fr. Jasmant Nayek, Fr. I.P. Sarto and Fr. Pradeep Roy. They encouraged the participants to walk in the path of Christ and strengthen them to carry the Word of God to their fellow brethren. Altogether 377 participants took part in these programs. They were energized and spirited to share the Word of God with each other.

- Fr. Saurav Naskar

## SEMINAR ON CANON LAW

A seminar on canon law was organized for all the diocesan and religious priests working in the diocese from February 05-07, 2024 in Dishari. In the wake of many recently revised norms in the Code of Canon Law it was befitting that priests remain updated and aligned with the latest developments in the universal Church. The insightful guidance of Fr. Panneer Selvam and Fr. Deepak Ekka, the resource persons, on the various canonical matters will serve as a valuable resource for pastoral ministers in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Church and effectively responding to the pastoral needs of the faithful, always remaining faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. In the interactive sessions throughout the seminar many of the practical and critical doubts, questions and cases that the priests face during the exercise of their ministries were clarified and answered by them.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar



## MEDICAL AWARENESS

On February 07, 2024 there was a Medical Awareness program specifically on Diabetes. It was presented by Dr. Raja Basu, one of the renowned Doctors of Peerless Hospital. He briefly spoke on the various factors as cause of Diabetes and its effects. One can control it to an extent by changing the personal life that is by self-care. The outcome of diabetes depends on patients' knowledge and medical management. Knowledge has important role in early detection and disease prevention. Correct knowledge, practice and positive attitude are the three vital parameters of a diabetic patient. These three parameters are related, if the level of knowledge is higher the other two factors must be influenced positively. Some doubts related to health issues were also addressed by him during the interaction.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## NOTICE BOARD

- # Recollection for the Catechists in Preparation for the Easter will be held at Dishari Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Baruiপুর from 20th March 2024 at 4.00 p.m. to 21st March 2024 after noon.
- # All the Priests working in the Catholic Diocese of Baruiপুর shall attend the morning meeting on March 26, 2024 at 10.30 a.m. at St. Theresa of Child Jesus Church, Basanti Parish and Chrism Mass at 2.30 p.m.
- # **Paribar Jyoti:** Programme for the Month of March 2023
  - Marriage Preparation Course from 1st March to 2nd March 2024
  - Personality Development for Class IX & X from 15th March to 16th March 2024
  - Young Couples Programme from 22nd March to 23rd March 2024





**RIP**

Mr. Anthony Shanti Baidya, father of Fr. Prolay Baidya passed away at the age of 96 on February 22, 2024. Anthony Shanti Baidya and his wife Catharina Baidya, who died in 2006, raised two boys and three girls. One of his sons, Fr. Prolay Baidya became a priest. The funeral mass presided over by Most. Rev. Shyamal Bose and concelebrated by Most. Rev. Salvatore Lobo and many priests was attended by religious and people of all faith. He was buried in the cemetery of St. Paul's Church, Canning. We express our condolence to the family members and continue to pray for the repose of his soul. May God bless him with eternal peace.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## MARCH

- 05 Br. Anshu Ghoroi
- 08 Fr. Rajen Simon Singh
- 24 Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose
- 25 Fr. Kanauj Roy
- 25 Fr. Ephrem Bading CM

# Priestly Ordination Anniversary

## MARCH

- 22 Fr. Kuruvilla Thottam, SJ
- 31 Fr. Uttam Naskar

## Priestly Ord. of Bishop

- 19 Rt. Rev. Salvatore Lobo

## Memorable & Admirable Month of March

- 01 Fr. Le Jeune Jean Pierre S.J.
- 05 Fr. Van Hove Joseph S.J.
- 15 Fr. Ernst Albert S.J.

## Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of March 2024

**For the new martyrs:** We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

## Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of March 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Debipur	Way of the Cross followed by Mass
03	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Gostomath	Mass
04	Mon	08.30 a.m.	Kumrakhali	Visit to Kumrakhali Parish
07	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Council of the Priests
08	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Salika	Way of the Cross followed by Mass
09	Sat	10.30 a.m.	Archbishop's House, Kolkata	Meeting of the West Bengal Association of Christian Schools
10	Sun	09.30 a.m.	Monsada	Mass for International Women's Day
11	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Paribar Jyoti	G. B. Meeting of Paribar Jyoti
		02.30 p.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Proclamation Commission
12	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	G. B. Meeting of Dishari
		03.00 p.m.	PUS, Baruiapur	G. B. Meeting of PUS
13	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Archbishop's House, Kolkata	G. B. Meeting of the Radio Veritas Asia
		03.00 p.m.	Bishop's House, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Finance Committee of CDB
14	Thu	10.00 a.m.	PUS, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Diocesan Priests
		03.00 p.m.	Bishop's House, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
15	Fri	03.00 p.m.	Bharu	Way of the Cross followed by Mass
16	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass for C.L.C. Mothers
17	Sun	11.00 a.m.	Moipit	Mass
18	Mon			Journey to Ranchi
19	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Ranchi	Installation of Archbishop Vincent Aind
21	Thu	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass for the Catechists
24	Sun	06.30 a.m.	Baruiapur Cathedral	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
26	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Basanti	Meeting of the Priests
		02.30 p.m.	Basanti	Chrism Mass
28	Thu	06.30 p.m.	Kumrakhali	Maundy Thursday of the Lord's Supper
29	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Raghabpur	Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
30	Sat	11.00 p.m.	Baruiapur Cathedral	Easter Vigil Mass
31	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Hogalkuria	Easter Sunday Mass

## Bishop Salvatore Lobo's Programme for the Month of March 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
16	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Keorapukur	Lenten Mass for Carmel School children and their parents
18	Mon			Goes to Ranchi
19	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Ranchi	Installation of Archbishop Vincent Aind
20	Wed			Returns to Keorapukur
24	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Thakurpukur	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
26	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Basanti	Meeting of the Priests
		02.00 p.m.	Basanti	Chrism Mass
28	Thu	06.00 a.m.	Morapai	Maundy Thursday of the Lord's Supper
29	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Morapai	Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
30	Sat	10.00 p.m.	Baidyapur	Easter Vigil & Mass
31	Sun	06.30 a.m.	Baidyapur	Easter Mass

## Easter wish

**Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose**, Bishop of Baruiapur, **Rt. Rev. Salvatore Lobo**, Bishop Emeritus of Baruiapur and **all the Fathers** at Bishop's House wish all the readers the joy of Easter. May the new life that Jesus offers us through His resurrection be the continuous source of sharing and caring for one another.

*Happy Easter !*

