



## St. Catherine of Siena: The Heroic Saint

In this editorial I would like to highlight about a woman who played an eminent role in the History of the Church. The 14th century in which she lived was a troubled period in the life of the Church and throughout the social context of Italy and Europe. Yet, even in the most difficult times, the Lord continues to bless His People, bringing forth Saints who appeal to minds and hearts, provoking conversion and renewal. Saint Catherine of Siena, whose feast we celebrate on April 29, is one of such great saints of the Catholic Church. Not only was she a stigmatist, theologian, philosopher, mystic, and helper to the poor and suffering, but she was also a highly esteemed political ambassador utilized by popes!

Born in Siena in 1347, into a very large family, she died in Rome in 1380. When Catherine was 16 years old, motivated by a vision of St Dominic, she entered the Third Order of the Dominicans, known as the Mantellate. She was 18 then. She continued to receive mystical experiences or "spiritual espousals," as they were called. She was incredibly compassionate towards those in need of mercy: the poor, those suffering the worst diseases, and those in need of conversion.

Catherine offered her sufferings for the Church and the conversion of sinners, and was known to be radiantly happy. In one of Catherine's visions of our Lord, He presented her with two crowns, one of gold and one of thorns. He asked her to choose which she wanted. Catherine replied, "I desire, O Lord, to live here always conformed to your passion, and to find pain and suffering my repose and delight." She then proceeded to choose the crown of thorns and pressed it hard upon her head. Despite abundant acts of love and mercy toward others, she suffered tremendous persecution from her religious sisters and the friars of her order. She was the

subject of humiliations, contempt, and insults. She withstood these adversities with a joy and sweetness that showed she had heroic patience and love of crosses.

Catherine lived on little food, many times only subsisting on the Communion received at Holy Mass. She counselled many with great spiritual wisdom. Her soul was constantly at prayer, and she was granted many miracles. God was known to miraculously multiply provisions she was supplying to those in need. She was even given supernatural strength to carry items to those in need.

Catherine had the gift of tears. According to Catherine, the tears of Saints are mingled with the blood of Christ, of which she said, "Remember Christ crucified, God and man..... Make your aim the Crucified Christ, hide in the wounds of the Crucified Christ and drown in the blood of the Crucified Christ".

She received the stigmata (the wounds of Christ) in her own body, and two years after this, she miraculously learned to write. A prolific letter writer (nearly 400 personal letters written to popes, cardinals, sovereigns, nuns, students, and commoners), St. Catherine also wrote a Discourse on the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin and a series of Prayers. Her most famous work, however, is her Dialogue, a conversation with God pertaining to the spiritual life. Her Dialogue became the basis for her receiving the title "Doctor of the Church" by Pope St. Paul VI in 1970. She was canonized a saint by Pope Pius II in 1461.

When the fame of her holiness spread, she became the protagonist of an intense activity of spiritual guidance for people from every walk of life: nobles and politicians, artists and ordinary people, consecrated men and women and religious, including Pope Gregory XI who was living at Avignon in that period and whom she

energetically and effectively urged to return to Rome.

Though Catherine was a 14th century saint she appeals even to the believers of the present day. Her life teaches us many valuable lessons which can lead us in the path of spiritual journey.

1. Focus and Motivation: Catherine was strongly focused in her vocation. She even trimmed her hair, against the wishes of her parents, in order to have an ugly appeal. All her life she thought nothing else than offering herself as a libation in the kingdom of God.
2. Love for suffering: She willingly chose the crown of thorns instead of the crown of gold, offered by the Lord. It upholds the value of suffering and cross in the present world and speaks loudly to those who seek luxury and comfort and shy away from the little redemptive sufferings we need to undertake.
3. Faith in the Eucharist: She ate very little and sometimes survived only on the bread from heaven. This manna does wonders in our lives and grants us the strength and courage we need to remain strong amidst adversities.
4. God Educates the chosen: Though she had very little formal education, the Lord taught her to write. She became an effective diplomat who wrote volumes to resolve great crisis in the Church. It is a miracle which shows that God educates those he chooses for His glory.
5. Drawing strength from the Passion: The passion of our Lord was a great source of strength for her. If we take recourse to it and hide ourselves in His wounds, the Lord will use us mightily for His work, despite our weaknesses.

+ Shyamal Bose

## Meeting of the Diocesan Priests

There was a meeting of diocesan priests on March 14, 2024 in Palli Unnayan Samiti, Baruipur. As many as 37 priests including Most Rev. Shyamal Bose attended the meeting. It was headed by the Bishop. Fr. Himangshu Poti, the secretary of the council of priests, presented certain issues related to the pastoral activities, administration, health care, catechesis and education for the discussion and deliberation. The Bishop and the concerned persons responded to the issues and queries. This consultation will guide all to collaborate and participate within the diocese for a more fruitful ministry. In the meeting Most Rev. Shyamal Bose announced about the forthcoming Diocesan Synod to be held in November 2024.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## CLC Meeting

On the occasion of World CLC Day there was a meeting of the Core Committee members of all the CLC units of the diocese in Dishari on March 18, 2024. There were 70 members present for the meeting. The meeting was very much informative as all the activities carried out by the different CLC units were presented. The report encompassed the wide range of social, humanitarian, spiritual and psychological activities engaged by the members. Their efforts were applauded and encouraged by all. It was followed with the thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic celebration offered by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and concelebrated by Fr. Aloke Kanji, the spiritual director of CLC.

- Fr. Aloke Kanji

## Paribar Jyoti

In tune with the Lenten Season Paribar Jyoti conducted couple's recollections in various parishes and convents along with its residential and outreach programs. A total of 176 couples wholeheartedly participated in those spiritual exercises. The participants were grateful to have the opportunity of introspection through the recollection and thereby prepare themselves to have the experience of Jesus' Resurrection. Besides, they also organized new ways of enhancing family cell meetings, seminars, workshops and trainings for 551 men and women.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar



## Dishari at a Glance



Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty (John 6: 35).

Dishari Pastoral Centre organized a number of faith formation programs in a series starting on March 03, 2024 for the people of Hotar. It continued from March 08 -27, 2024 for the faithful of Kochpukur, Gangarampur, Morapai and Dos No. Sonatikari. Altogether 404 participants including Children, Youth and Parents took part in those programs. Fr. Goutam Naskar, Fr. Ramen Pailan and Fr. Irineu Diniz SFX were the resource persons. All these programs enhanced the faith of the participants to celebrate Easter in a meaningful way.

There was a recollection for the Catechists of the diocese from March 20-21, 2024. Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy, the Vicar General, preached the recollection for the Catechists. In total 48 Catechists actively participated.

- Mr. Sourav Naskar

## RIP



**Mrs. Polina Malik**, the beloved mother of Fr. Saumen Malik, breathed her last due to old age on March 16, 2024. Born on 20-09-1941, she was 84 years old. The funeral Mass was presided over by his Lordship Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and concelebrated by many priests of the diocese. A large number of relatives, colleagues and neighbours irrespective of faith gathered to pay her homage. She was laid buried in the parish cemetery.



**Mr. Prasanta Baidya**, the elder brother of Fr. Sushad Baidya, passed away at the age of 64 on March 22, 2024 leaving behind three children. Prior to his death he was admitted to Diamond Harbour Government Medical College and Hospital on March 20, 2024. Two days later he fell asleep in the Lord due to nontraumatic intracerebral hemorrhage. Fr. Sushad Baidya offered the funeral Mass concelebrated by some priests of the diocese. Thereafter, he was buried in the parish cemetery.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls rest in peace.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur

There was an exposure visit for 50 selected farmers of Namkhana and Patharpratima Blocks on two successive days, March 14 & 15, 2024 to Ramkrishna Ashram Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nimpeeth. It was under Sustainable Agriculture Based Livelihood project supported by Conferenza Episcopale Italia, Italy. The aim of the exposure visit was to provide better understanding about climate change adoptive sustainable agriculture and organic farming. Dr. Tapas



Sahana, an expert in agriculture, explained to the farmers the processes of vermin compost, growing saline-tolerant crops and following a seasonal crops calendar. He emphasized on Dairy, Poultry and Azola production to access natural Nitrogen. They were also exposed to the importance of soil testing as to promote good health of the soil towards better harvesting. They became more enthusiastic to practice the same in their own cultivation for their better livelihood.

On March 12, 2024, 2110 chicks were distributed among 211 marginal farmers at Basanti, Satjelia and Gosaba Blocks. The objective was to promote Backyard Poultry at their own houses as alternative livelihood, so that they could access the eggs and chicken for their own need and surplus could be sold out to add to their earnings for better survival.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

## Chrism Mass 2024

This year's Chrism Mass was celebrated in St. Theresa of Child Jesus Church, Basnati at 02:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. It was to mark the 150 years of the starting of Basanti Mission by Rev. Fr. Edmund Delplace SJ in the year 1873. Rev. Fr. Jayraj Veluswamy SJ spoke briefly about the history of Basanti Mission. Thereafter, Bishop Shyamal Bose specially thanked the Jesuits missionaries for sowing the seed of faith and nurturing it in the area. As an acknowledgement a memento was presented to Rev. Fr. James Arjen Tete SJ, the Provincial of Calcutta Province on behalf of the Society.

The Mass was presided over by Most. Rev. Shyamal Bose. Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese and priests serving across the Diocese concelebrated the Mass, during which they also renewed their commitment to priestly service. The Bishop blessed the oils of the sick, catechumens and chrism which will be used during the administration of sacraments in more than 100 parishes and substations in the Diocese.

In his homily Bishop asked the people of God to continue to encourage and pray for their priests and for more vocations to the priesthood. To his brother priests, he said to lead a life worthy of their calling. He highlighted the significance of implementing the spirit of synodality over clericalism in the diocese and spoke on the upcoming events in the diocese pertaining to Ordinary Jubilee 2025.

The two silver jubilarians priests, Rev. Fr. Ujjwal Mondal and Rev. Fr. Himangshu Poti were felicitated on the special occasion for their 25 years of priestly service. Prior to the Chrism Mass, the clergy, in the morning, took part in the recollection, confession and adoration animated by Rev. Fr. James Arjen Tete SJ.

- Br. Hrittick Hazra



## Spiritual Nourishment for the Youth of the Diocese



It was an exceptional and remarkable occasion for the youth of Baruipur Diocese to participate in a fruitful recollection in Dishari on March 24 & 25, 2024. This significant event was inspired by the presence of Rev. Fr. Ashish Das SDB, the prominent preacher. There were approximately 80 boys and girls who hailed from various parishes to take part at this table of spiritual nourishment. During the adoration, everyone came with a contrite heart to make a genuine confession and decided together to prioritize Jesus at the core of their hearts and walk along with Him for the rest of their life. Above all, there was also a depiction of the stations of the cross in which everyone enacted several roles such as the role of Jesus, Mary, Soldiers, Bandits and so on, and amplified their utmost sentiments towards Christ with a great authenticity. Throughout his sessions the preacher emphasized the significance of

Christ's Boundless Love towards humanity and urged everyone to remain intimate in the Compassionate Heart of Jesus.

- Br. Rajesh Naskar

## The Synodal Process in Baruipur Diocese

On receiving the circular of CCBI and the documents related to Synodal Assembly of 2023, the Diocesan Synodal Committee understood that whereas in the earlier Synods the product or the outcome, namely the apostolic document at the end of the synod, was given prominence, in the present Synod of 2023-2024 the process is given prominence. Previously it was thought that after completing the diocesan phase and sending the report, our role was only to wait for the final document. But it became clear from the 10 questions of the worksheet given by CCBI about steps taken so far and to be taken before the 2nd Assembly of the Synod in October, 2024 that the process which started in 2021 needed to be taken forward. The idea is that the church evolves in a gradual process into a listening church, journeying together with everyone. As soon as this understanding dawned on them they plunged into action.

Fr. Ujjwal Mondal, Diocesan Coordinator, had already sent the documents to all the members and also to the priests. He called two meetings of the committee to reflect on the Synthesis Report of the Synodal Assembly of 2023 in the light of the worksheet. The members narrated what has been done so far. They also made concrete plans and suggested tentative dates for activities to be conducted at various levels with the understanding that these dates will be finalised at the Core Committee meeting to be held before April 15, 2024. These included among other things formation of a team with suitable persons to carry out the tasks; detailed plan for meetings/discussions/trainings with the team members at Diocesan and Parish level; providing trainings in Conversation in the spirit. Later Bishop Shyamal Bose informed the members that the report was received at Synodal desk of CCBI in due time and it was highly appreciated. However the action in the field is more important than the report.

- Fr. Pradeep Roy

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## APRIL

02	Fr. Deepak Ekka
05	Fr. Goutam Naskar
09	Fr. J. R. Dejus
15	Fr. Sarajit Das
17	Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes
29	Fr. Daniel Makhal
30	Rt. Rev. Salvadore Lobo

## NOTICE BOARD

- Paribar Jyoti: # Marriage Preparation Course from 5th - 6th April 2024  
 # Personality Development for Class IX to XII from 19th - 20th April 2024  
 # Young Couples Programme from 26th - 27th April 2024

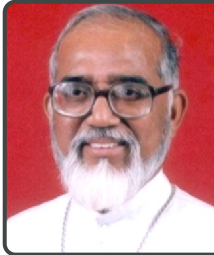
## Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of April 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
02	Tue			Journey to Purnea
04	Thu		Purnea	Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Francis Tirkey
07	Sun	10.00 a.m.	PUS - Baruiapur	Mass for Women day celebration
10	Wed	10.30 a.m.	Salpukur	Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sr. Sudipa M.C.
12	Fri		Dishari - Baruiapur	Vocation Camp
13	Sat		Dishari - Baruiapur	Synodal Meeting
15-20	Mon - Sat		Bangkok	BISCOM
28	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Sajnaberia	Mass and Confirmation

*Priestly*  
**Ordination**  
*Anniversary*

## APRIL

13	Fr. Sushad Baidya
15	Fr. Faustine Brank
16	Fr. Jaswant Nayak, CMF
16	Fr. Rabert R., CMF
20	Fr. Ephrem Bading, CM
22	Fr. J. A. Santhanam
23	Fr. Irineu Diniz, SFX
26	Fr. Sunil Ray
26	Fr. Surojit Mitra
27	Fr. Daniel Makhal
27	Fr. Jonas Singha
29	Fr. Prolay Boidya



Happy Birthday to our Dearest Bishop  
**Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo**  
 the Bishop Emeritus of Baruiapur Diocese  
 Best wishes from Most Rev. Shyamal Bose,  
 priests, religious and laity  
 Catholic Diocese of Baruiapur

## Memorable & Admirable

13th April : Fr. Abani Sardar

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

**For the role of women :** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



## Easter and Bengali New Year wish

Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruiapur, Rt. Rev. Salvadore 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 !  
 and

A Happy and Prosperous Bengali New Year - 1431.



শুভ বাংলা নববর্ষের  
 আন্তরিক প্রীতি ও শুভেচ্ছা