



ST. LAWRENCE: A JOYFUL WITNESS OF CHRIST

On August 10 the Church celebrates the witness of Saint Lawrence, who was brutally tortured and killed during the reign of the Roman emperor, Valerian. He is the Patron Saint of Cooks, Deacons, Poor and Firefighters.

A well-known legend has persisted from earliest times that as deacon in Rome, Lawrence was charged with the responsibility for the material goods of the Church, and the distribution of alms to the poor. Immediately after his election, Pope Sixtus II entrusted him with the care of the Archdiocese. As the Deacon responsible for charitable activities in the diocese of Rome. When Lawrence knew he would be arrested like the Pope, he sought out the poor, widows, and orphans of Rome and gave them all the money he had on hand, selling even the sacred vessels of the altar to increase the sum. When the prefect of Rome heard of this, he imagined that the Christians must have considerable treasure. He sent for Lawrence and said, "You Christians say we are cruel to you, but that is not what I have in mind. I am told that your priests offer in gold, that the sacred blood is received in silver cups, that you have golden candlesticks at your evening services. Now, your doctrine says you must render to Caesar what is his. Bring these treasures the emperor needs them to maintain his forces. God does not cause money to be counted: He brought none of it into the world with him – only words. Give me the money, therefore, and be rich in words." Lawrence replied that the Church was indeed rich. "I will show you a valuable part. But give me time to set everything in order and make an inventory." After three days he gathered a great number of blind, lame, maimed, leprous, orphaned, and widowed persons and put them in rows. When the prefect arrived, Lawrence simply said, "These are the treasures of the Church." The prefect was so angry he told Lawrence that he would indeed have his wish to die – but it would be by inches. He had a great gridiron prepared with

coals beneath it, and had Lawrence's body placed on it. After the martyr had suffered the pain for a long time, the legend concludes, he made his famous cheerful remark, "It is well done. Turn me over!" In 1619, Lawrence passed away while on a diplomatic mission to Spain. He was canonized in 1881. After his death, the body of Saint Lawrence was laid in a tomb on the Via Tiburtina. In this place, Emperor Constantine erected a basilica that was restored in the 20th century after damage caused during WWII by the US bombing of Rome on July 19, 1943. In the place of his martyrdom was built the church of San Lorenzo in Panisperna.

Lawrence was among the seven Deacons of the Roman Church serving Pope Sixtus II, whose martyrdom preceded Lawrence's by a few days: they were executed during the persecution under the Roman emperor Valerian. The testimony of this holy martyr, born in Spain in the first half of the 3rd century, is marked by piety and charity.

The life of St. Lawrence enriches us with some valuable lessons over which I would like to ponder now.

1. Strong Desire to be united with the Crucified Lord

St. Lawrence had a deep desire to live the eucharistic sacrifice in his life. When a persecution broke out, Pope St. Sixtus was condemned to death. As he was led to execution, Lawrence followed him weeping, "Father, where are you going without your deacon?" he said. "I am not leaving you, my son," answered the Pope. "in three days you will follow me."

2. Living the Call of Christ with abounding Joy

The second lesson which St. Lawrence teaches us is to live the day-to-day martyrdom with overflowing joy. Imagine the

pain and suffering which Lawrence endured in his martyrdom, yet he responded with humor. There is no way that would have been possible without a life of joy which can only come from a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. As saints militants here on Earth, we must be joyful Christians. There is no room for grumpy Christians. As St. Teresa of Avila said, "A sad saint is not a saint at all."

3. The Real Wealth of the Church

The wealth of the Church is not in its gold reliquaries, its beautiful art, or even in the collection basket, but is in the poor, the hungry, the oppressed the children of God for whom we should care the most. Our vocation demands preferential option towards these Anawim of God, who are the real treasures of the Church.

4. Called to be a Witness

As Christians, we are called to be witnesses to the world. The term, martyr, comes from the Greek term meaning witness. Many of us will never endure red martyrdom (death), but we will, and have already begun to endure white martyrdom (social persecution). We must stand against such tyranny and battle for our freedom.

5. The Salvific Value of Suffering

All suffering leads to Jesus Christ on the cross. Whether it is physical, mental, or spiritual, it can unite us closer to Our Lord who endured great pain during his Passion. All suffering will eventually lead to glory and resurrection. Let us have the mind of St. Lawrence who cheerfully said before his death, "It is well done. Turn me over!"

Wish you all a very happy feast of St. Lawrence, the joyful martyr of Christ.

+ Shyamal Bose

Celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

The 3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was celebrated on Sunday, 23 July 2023 in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Dheknamari, a substation of St. Claret Catholic Church, Nazat. The day turned into jubilation as the faithful had the privilege of having the gracious presence of Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Barupur Diocese on the auspicious occasion to offer mass concelebrated by Fr. Jaswant Nayak CMF, Parish Priest and Fr. A. Irudayaraj CMF.



The faithful cordially welcomed the Bishop with garland and led him to the Church in procession. It was captivating to see during the procession children carrying the placards inscribed God's Word, grandparents wearing the logo batches and the youth leading from the front with welcome dance.

Bishop in his homily reiterated the message of His Holiness, Pope Francis, to take care of the ageing parents. During the intercessory prayers, Pope's prayer for the grandparents and the elderly was recited and after the Holy Communion, Bishop presided over the oath-taking ceremony in which all the faithful promised to care for the elderly parents and surrendered them to God through the intercession of saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. There was a short felicitation wherein their contribution to the church and society was acknowledged and applauded. As a token of love they were presented with the portrait of Divine Mercy and Rosary.

- Fr. Jaswant Nayak CMF

Dishari



Dishari Pastoral Centre organized various faith formation programs for different groups of people. A seminar on Faith Formation for parents was held on 16 July 2023, at Mithani, a substation of Sacred Heart Church Morapai. A recollection for the catechists was conducted at Dishari Pastoral Centre from 20-21 July 2023. Altogether 125 catechists actively participated in the recollection for their spiritual rejuvenation. Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes, Fr. Panneer Selvam and Fr. Goutam Naskar were the resource persons. In his session, Fr. Panneer Selvam explained and enlightened the minds of the catechists regarding various norms of the Sacrament of Marriage and their applications. Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes helped them to encounter the Lord very personally through a healing service. As a whole the participants were happy to join in the programs.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar

Paribar Jyoti

Paribar Jyoti, the Family Commission of the diocese, conducted a variety of programs such as workshops, seminars and meetings in different places relating to several spheres of family life. The seminar on youth personality development at Barelia, Mograhat, the sub-station of Morapai Parish, was very enlightening. The digitalized youth were so vibrant in answering and asking numerous questions pertaining to the contemporary standards of moral values while using social media and gadgets. Apart from all these, there was the Training of Trainers (TOT) at Sanjivani, Krishnagar from 25 July 2023 to 27 July 2023 on 'Effective Parenting'. It was very enhancing for Trainers to know the adequate methodology to organize the program in a systematic way for better and impactful outcome.



- Fr. Uttam Naskar

Palli Unnayan Samiti, Baruipur



It is important to sensitize students on dehumanizing effects of gender discrimination, trafficking, underage marriage, domestic violence, child labour and adolescent health and hygiene so as to motivate them to restore human dignity. In view of the same there was school sensitization program for 369 pupils in a series of four days at Monmothanagar, Shambhunagar, Amjhara, Boria Junior High School and Sri Ramkrishna Niketan in Gosaba and Basanti Blocks of the District of South 24 Parganas. To have the wide spread impact of the same in its surroundings, there was a rally and a street play. Posters, banners and placards were displayed to captivate the attention of the viewers.



Vocational training is indispensable for becoming self-reliant in life. There were 34 trainees who were awarded certificate for successfully completing the 45 days residential electrical wiring training course

supported by Caritas India. The training was satisfactory for having achieved its objective of making the participants competent for better livelihood.

The free learning centers run by Palli Unnayan Smaiti, Baruipur catered for the education, health, nutrition, sports and culture of 175 disadvantaged children belonging to rural and marginalized families of farmers and labourers within its operational eras of Charavidya, Hotar, Unchipara, Keoratala and PurbaJata villages in the District of South 24 Parganas. They were provided with essential food commodities. Besides, with the help of Dr. Masud Mandal they had free medical checkup and prescribed medicines.

- Fr. Saumen Malik



In your Charity kindly pray for Mrs. Agnes Lobo, aged 88, Sister-In-Law of Bishop Salvadore Lobo, who passed away on August 4, 2023 at Mattar, Shirva and was buried on August 05, 2023 at Modubelle, Udupi Diocese.



The Diocese of Baruipur congratulates and wishes all the best to Rev. Fr. James Arjen Tete, the newly appointed Provincial of the Jesuits of Calcutta Province.



August

03	Br. Kenedi Kabi Ghughu
14	Br. David Panja
18	Br. Soumik Mondal
19	Fr. Pradip Dari
21	Fr. Soosaiappan Y.
24	Br. Rittik Kanji
25	Fr. Alexcius Kindo, S.F.X
27	Fr. Joseph Toppo, S.J.

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers & Brothers

Memorable & Admirable

Month of August

05	Fr. S. Chinnappan
29	Fr. Jean Henrichs, S.J.

NOTICE BOARD

- # Marriage Preparation Course from 4th August to 5th August 2023.
- # Young Couples Programme from 25th August to 26th August 2023.

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of Aug. 2023

For World Youth Day : We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Youth Orientation



The Diocesan Youth Commission hosted youth orientation at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Sajnaberia on 23 July 2023. The 60 youth from the parish began the day's endeavour with Holy Eucharist followed by a talk on mental wellbeing by Fr. Ramen Pailan. Thereafter, Mr. Sarbeswar Chakraborty led a workshop on the principles of leadership and its characteristics. In the concluding session Fr. Rajen Singh, the diocesan youth director, shed light upon the value and power of self-realization. At the end the PEXCO Committee was formed in the presence of Parish Priest, Fr. Ujjwal Mondal.

Mr. Soumyojit D'Costa

Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of August 2023

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Baruipur Cathedral	Celebration of Feast of St. John Marie Vianney
10	Thu	07.00 p.m.	Kolkata	Feast Day celebration of St. Lawrence
13	Sun	10.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Youth Sunday Mass at Cathedral
15	Tue	07.00 a.m.	Khari	Inauguration of the Renovated Parish Church
25	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Asansol Diocese	Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elias Frank
30	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Bishop's H., Baruipur	Meeting with FADV from Milan
31	Thu	11.00 a.m.	Bishop's H., Baruipur	Meeting with Superior General of Holy Cross Sisters

Bishop Salvatore Lobo's Programme for the Month of August 2023

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Baruipur Cathedral	Celebration of the Feast of St. John Marie Vianney
02	Wed	09.40 a.m.		Goes to Mangalore to see ailing eldest Sister-in-Law
06	Sun	04.00 p.m.		Returns to Keorapukur
07	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Presides over awards ceremony at PUS
10	Thu	10.00 a.m. 07.00 p.m.	Kumrakhali Kolkata	Spends some time with Fathers and M.C. sisters Feast Day celebration of St. Lawrence
13	Sun	02.00 p.m.	Thakurpukur	Family Commission programme for Couples
15	Tue	07.00 a.m.	Khari	Concelebrates at blessing of the renovated Church
16-18	Wed-Fri	04.00 p.m.	Raghabpur	Spends some time with Jesuit community
25	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Asansol Diocese	Participates in the Consecration of Fr. Elias Frank