



## International Women's Day

Women are precious gift from God. They are creative, sensitive, compassionate, intelligent, talented and according to the Bible, equal to men. However, across the world, less than 15% of the world's countries have a female leader. Only 24% of senior managers are women and 25% of companies have no female senior managers at all. Women do the lowest-paid jobs and earn less money for the same work. This difference in pay is called the gender pay gap. Women are also more likely to do most of the housework and childcare. When it comes to healthcare and safety, women also face significant inequalities. Globally an estimated 830 women a day die in childbirth. There are some shocking statistics for female murder too. In a survey, the UN found that 137 women a day were killed by their partner or former partner.

The 1960s brought significant changes in the understanding of the Church on the theology of womanhood. Speaking on women, Pope John XXIII stated in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* 41, "Since women are becoming ever more conscious of their human dignity, they will not tolerate being treated as mere material instruments, but demand rights befitting a human person both in domestic and in public life." This was resounded in *Gaudium et Spes* 29, "With respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent."

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is celebrated every year on the 8th of March. The theme for this year's International Women's Day is, "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality". Under the theme, the United Nations Observance of International Women's Day 2023 will highlight the need for inclusive and transformative technology and digital education.

Women have their own unique role to play in the economy of salvation. They are fully human beings with faculties of the mind, emotions and the spirit. This affirmation of women's human dignity as persons of their own right, with their biological differences with men, is important for positioning them on an equal footing and partnership with men. It is the need of the pilgrim Church to discern whichever area women can be empowered. Women are visible in all spheres of society even those fields considered in the past to be male bastions. For example, in the civil world we have women President, Prime Minister, Governor, Defense Minister, Secretary of State, Finance Adviser, renowned Scientists, Police and Defence forces including air force and many more.

Although we celebrate International Women's Day every year in a very grand way, have we been able to change the negative attitude of the people towards women! In fact, majority consider a woman as unequal to a man, right from her birth or even more specifically before her birth. When a baby is in mother's womb, many parents or the members of the family worry about its gender and expect the new born to be a male.

When the crowd brought the woman to Jesus (Jn 8:1-11), what a respectful and empathetic gesture was shown by our Lord to her. Even though Jesus knew from the crowd that the woman was caught in the act of adultery, yet he had respect for her because she is a child of God. This kind of discrimination towards women is always present even in this DigitALL age. The attitude towards women is still remaining primitive. The violence and abuses against women are on the rise, be it in the workplace, or in public transport, even in our own families.

The types of crimes vary. It may be physical, sexual, spiritual, mental or psychological. Physical abuse causes external wounds or fractures which leaves the visible marks on the body due to beating, burning, throwing objects, pulling hair and kicking, while mental or psychological torture are humiliation in front of the family members or in public - husband not spending time or not talking with the wife or lack of transparency, isolating in the family discussion or decision making or may be doubting on her fidelity which affect the physical, emotional, social and spiritual health. This may lead to physical illness such as ulcer, hypertension, mental health problems, asthma or heart disease etc.

The reports of different researches conducted on various categories of women show that there is so much gender disparity; whether the woman is a doctor or engineer or professor or lecturer or nurse or journalist or politician or minister or bank employee or housemaid. In every sphere of society, a woman has been deprived of her rights, respects or privileges.

Most of the working women have to take care of the entire household work including shopping, taking care of the children or elderly persons after coming back from her duties and male members are hardly ready to share the household work with the women. Some of the earning women share that despite their earning; they do not have rights over their income. It is also shared that the woman has to supply alcohol to her husband with no regular earnings. If he is denied of money for drinks the day will end with physical torture i.e. wife beating or verbal abuse.

Sr. Licia Pithuparambil, SMI, in her article "Empowering Women in the Church" says that Jesus' liberating presence is experienced by women despite the rabbinical tradition of which Jesus was a part of. He treated women as equals. He taught them, though the Jews denied women the right

to study or discuss the Torah. He spoke to them in public though no Jewish man would even address his wife or mother or sister outside the home. As we know, he refused to stone the woman caught in adultery, healed the haemorrhaging woman, who touched him and rejected the taboo of primitive times, which held her as untouchable.

Let us make a difference in and around the diocese as we celebrate the

International Women's Day every year. It may include small but meaningful gestures of thanking the woman who gave us birth or appreciating the woman with whom we have promised to live our life. Every household may think of a small prayer service in which we express our gratitude towards women. Habits that inculcate and deepen gratitude will bring about a great change in the society and in the world.

+ Shyamal Bose

## 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Fr. Ante Gabric, S.J. at Kumrakhali Parish

On February 19, 2023, the 107<sup>th</sup> birthday of Fr. Ante Gabric, S.J. was celebrated with pomp and honour at Kumrakhali Parish. The memorable day began with the solemn Eucharistic celebration, with Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the Bishop of Baruipur, as the main celebrant. Rev. Fr. Dominic Gomes, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Kolkata, Rev. Fr. Indrajit Sardar, the Parish Priest of Kumrakhali Parish and Rev. Fr. Bablu Sardar, the Curate, joined as concelebrants. We were privileged to have two special guests from Croatia, namely Mrs. Violeta Orsulic and Mrs. Marina Vrecko, who added joy to the occasion. During the entrance procession, the celebrants and the special guests from Croatia were welcomed with a welcome dance. Around 600 faithful prayed together during Eucharist with one mind and heart. The Bishop, in his homily, beautifully shared his own experience of the saintly man whose birthday was celebrated. He prayed for the cause of his beatification and canonization.

The Mass was followed by breakfast and a colourful cultural programme displayed by the parishioners in the playground. The bouquet of programme was attractively decorated with songs, dance and recitation. The guests from Croatia were given a special welcome during the programme. Mrs. Marina V., on behalf of both, expressed their sincere gratitude towards all present during the birthday celebration of Fr. Gabric. She assured their constant support and love to the Church at Kumrakhali. They requested the people to continue to pray for the cause of beatification and canonization of the person who has an invaluable contribution towards the Parish at Kumrakhali. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal.

- Fr. Indrajit Sardar



## Expression of Gratitude



On February 05, 2023, the parishioners of the Catholic Church Khari expressed their gratitude to Most Rev. Salvatore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur Diocese. As the Bishop is celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination and Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Consecration, the faithful were overjoyed to have him in their midst. The twin celebration began with the Solemn Mass presided over by Bishop himself. He was brought to the altar with the procession of 25 people holding the lighted candle representing 25 years of his Episcopal Consecration. At the beginning of the Mass, a short introduction was given by Rev. Sr. Polina DSA narrating the work of Bishop. At the end of the Mass, the Bishop was felicitated with the cutting of the cake and with words of gratitude by Rev. Fr. Panneer Selvam, the Parish Priest. Then the people came forward with their gifts to express their gratitude to Bishop. The gifted money was given back by the Bishop for the ongoing renovation of the Church. At the end of the program, people were given a piece of cake.

- Fr. Pradip Dari

## Holy Childhood Day in SMS Kalyanpur

St. Mary's School, Kalyanpur, observed Holy Childhood Day on Friday 17th February 2023. The theme for the day was "Our little hands are always ready to help". The children put up various items like skits, dances, and also posters on related themes. It was heartening to see the little ones holding banners. Fr. John Britto, the manager, appreciated and encouraged the headmistress, staff and students for their efforts to think of the less fortunate children and do something for them. The children also have contributed very generously for the cause.





## Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur

### Major Activities for the Month of February 2023

#### Visit of Mr. Astere & Mrs. Marie Paul from Belgium



On February 5, 2023, Mr. Astere & Mrs. Marie Paul from Belgium visited to Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur. They discussed about the educational

sponsorship program and the progress of 26 poor children who are receiving educational support from Belgium to shape their academic carrier.

Mr. Astere & Mrs. Marie Paul had a long discussion about the re-designing of the sponsorship program. They expressed their happiness to see the educational improvement of the children. They committed to extend their hand holding support further more for the educational betterment of the poor children as an institutional manner in collaboration with PUS Baruipur.

#### Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Caritas India

Caritas India organized annual review meeting of Uttoran III project from February 7 - 9, 2023.

All together 42 participants from three states of India namely, Karnataka, Telangana and West Bengal Participated in the Meeting.



On February 8, 2023, Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur

celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Caritas India. The program began with Eucharistic celebration. Altogether 120 people Participated in the Eucharistic Celebration.

Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Baruipur was the main celebrant. Salvatore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus, Fr. Jolly Puthenpura, the Assistant Executive Director of Caritas India, Fr. Kanauj Roy, the Vicar General of Catholic Diocese of Baruipur, Fr. Soosaiappan Y, Fr. Pradeep Roy, the former Directors of PUS Baruipur, Fathers, Sisters and 13 Directors of Diocesan Social Service Society from Karnataka, Telangana and West Bengal were present in the Celebration.

Mr. Anjan Bag, Thematic Lead Humanitarian Aid & DRR, Dr. Haridas VR, the Thematic Lead Climate Justice, Mr. Bablu Sarkar, the State program Associate of West Bengal, Ms. Asha Ekka, the Program Lead - Child Development, West Bengal of Caritas India, Mr. Mukul Gomes, the Program Finance Associate of West Bengal, Caritas India graced the occasion as guests.

Soon after the Eucharistic celebration, a cultural programme was staged beginning with the Lighting of the lamp and a prayer dance presented by PUS staff. All the distinguished guests and dignitaries were felicitated with "Flowers" and "Uttorio".

Rev. Fr. Saumen Malik, Director of PUS Baruipur expressed his gratitude to Caritas India for their kind support over the decades to PUS Baruipur especially during the time of emergency. He presented the activities of PUS Baruipur with a small video clipping. The PUS staff and sponsored children presented songs and performed dance as per thematic area of PUS.

Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the chief guest of the day expressed his gratitude and recalled his memory to be with Caritas India and their kind support from the inception of PUS since



he was a former Director of PUS. He handed over Diamond Jubilee Memento to Rev. Fr. Jolly Puthenpura, the Asst. Executive Director of Caritas India.

Most Rev. Salvatore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus, the guest of honour, expressed his gratitude to Caritas India for their sixty years of dedicated service to 174 dioceses in all over India. He also acknowledged the support that Caritas India extended during any natural disaster like flood and cyclone.

Fr. Jolly Puthenpura, the Assistant Executive Director of Caritas India shared in brief the activities of Caritas India. He appreciated to all the former and present directors of PUS for their contribution towards fulfilling the mission of church. He thanked the bishops, directors and staff for sparing their valuable time to be part of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Caritas India.

#### Exposure Visit of Uttoran III

On February 9, 2023, 40 participants had an exposé Visit to Pathankhali and Bipradaspur in Gosaba Block, the operational areas of Uttoran Project. The aim of the visit was to have an exposé on climate change adoptive organic agriculture



in Sundarban. The visitors and guests were divided into three groups and met with the farmers. They exposed more about climate change adoptive organic agriculture and its good harvesting. The visitors expressed their happiness to see the amazing indigenous technique of climate change adoptive agricultural and its profitable harvest.

#### Well-wishers Visit



On February 10, 2023, Mr. Antonio Bancora, Ms. Michela Sommaruge, Ms. Vileria and Mr. Ricardo from FADV- Italy along with Mr. Biplob Chakrabarty Visited Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur. All of them

were felicitated with flowers and Uttorio.

Fr. Saumen Malik, the director of PUS shared about the present status of the projects supported by FADV Italy. The distinguished guests also interacted with the children with disability and their mothers in Day Care Center and realized the problem faced by the children and their parents.

They expressed their happiness to see the achievements of the projects and assured their handholding support for the mothers of Day Care Centre and Youth through the vocational skills training as an alternative livelihood.

### **Rallies and Street Corners on Social Violence against Women**

On February 14, 2023, a Rally and Street Corners were conducted on social violation issue like Underage Marriage, Anti Human Trafficking, Abuse and Violence against women and children at Hasarabad village of Canning II Block in the District of South 24 Parganas.

Altogether 85 community people participated in the Rally & Street corner and raised their voice on different social issues on women and children. The Banners, Posters, Placards were displayed against Underage Marriage, Human Trafficking, Child Labour and other social violence against women and children during the procession towards sensitizing the whole community.

There was a gathering as street corners at the end of the Rally. The Local PRI member, ASHA worker, ICDS and Teacher, invited to share their opinion about the issues as Resource Persons, shared their experiences on the issues and the ways to overcome.

Local Police Officials were present as resource persons and showed their cooperation for the mitigation of the issue. They advised to the participants to contact the toll-free child helpline phone number 1098 or 100 for Police Help Line. The rally concluded with thanks and gratitude to all the participants and invited Government officials.

### **School Sensitization Programme on Women and Child Protection against Abuse and Violence**

On February 15, 2023, a School Sensitization Programme was conducted on protection of Women and Children against abuse and violence at Iswaripur Morjina Vidyaniketan, Basanti Block. Altogether 60 adolescent

Girls and Boys were sensitized about the awful effect of different social violence issues on Gender Discrimination, Trafficking, Underage Marriage, Domestic violence, child labour and adolescent health & hygiene.



The students are motivated about moral values, respect to senior citizen and their role and responsibility for the protection of women and children. They also stimulated to act as "Peer Educator" to bring back the school dropout children to mainstreaming.



### **Holy Childhood Faith Formation Programmes**

Holy Childhood faith formation programmes were held on February 5 and 26, 2023, at Catholic Church Morapai and Baidyapur respectively. A total of 277 and 59 children participated in the said programmes. The resource persons, Rev. Fr. Goutam Naskar and Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty dealt with the topics of Sacraments, Prayer, Ten Commandments and role of Altar Servers. The programmes consisted of meaningful celebration of the Holy Eucharist and fellowship meals.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar

### **Trainers of Trainee 2023**

Under the auspices of the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), the Regional Youth Commission of West Bengal and Sikkim Region held a Trainers of Trainee Orientation at Dishari Pastoral Center, Baruipur, West Bengal, on February 4 & 5, 2023. A total of 80 leaders from across the region participated in the training programme to share their skills and expertise as leaders.

The orientation opened with a welcome dance by Baruipur Diocese followed by Inaugural Ceremony. Most Rev. Fulgence Aloysius Tigga, the Chairman of the ICYM West Bengal and Sikkim Region, Miss Anancia Fernandez, the Regional Youth Lady Animator, Fr. Nilu Murmu, the Regional Youth Director and all the Diocesan Youth Directors were welcomed by Fr. Ramen Pailan, Youth Director of Baruipur Diocese.

Shortly after, Fr. Kanuj Roy led a counselling session in which he stressed the value of getting to know one another as well as oneself and mentioned the factors that affect one's leadership abilities. Fr. Michael Kerketta conducted an engaging ice-breaker.

Most Rev. Fulgence Aloysius Tigga and Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo officiated the inaugural Mass at the cathedral of Baruipur. Thereafter all the eight dioceses participated in a lovely cultural programe.

Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes led a workshop on leadership during which he discussed leadership traits and how they affect young people. Fr. Ashish Das, SDB handled the next most significant session on faith, discussing how to maintain a strong faith at all times.

It was then time to welcome newly elected Regional Youth Director, Diocesan Youth Directors and Regional Executive Committee (REXCO) members from various dioceses. At the same time former Regional Youth Director and REXCO members were given farewell. Fr. Rajesh Bag then led the Adoration where young people could once more rejoice in Christ through confession and meditation.



- Mr. Soumojit D'Costa



## Dishari at a Glance

### BEC Seminar at Rajarampur

Dishari Pastoral center had organized a one day Seminar of B.E.C. at Rajarampur under Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur on February 9, 2023. Altogether 43 members from different BEC units actively attended the seminar. The seminar began with Bible veneration. Fr. Goutam Naskar encouraged the participants through his talk. Mrs. Gargi Mondal and Mrs. Subhra Mondal the BEC representatives of three villages namely Rajarampur, Rospunjo and Amgachiya shared their experiences of promoting BEC in their respective places. Participants took great interest to proclaim Christ through BEC. The seminar ended with a blessing from the Word of God.

### Leadership Training at Dishari



Dishari organized one-day Leadership training for the members of BEC at Dishari on February 11, 2023. A great number of BEC members took active part in the seminar. Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy, the Vicar General of the Diocese, Rev. Fr. Goutam Naskar, Mr. Ajoy Naskar and Mr. Manas Pramanik were the resource persons for the seminar. In his session, Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy explained the role of a true leader. He also enlightened the participants about Environmental Awareness in the light of 'Laudato Si' the second encyclical of Pope Francis. He says Environmental awareness is important because it helps to minimize pollution and global warming. It can also lead to a more sustainable world by promoting renewable resources such as solar, wind and water.

It is also the awareness that the earth is in need of protection for its survival.

### BEC Seminar at Dosh Nombor



A one day BEC seminar was held at Dosh Nombor under Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kumrakhali on February 12, 2023. Altogether 88 participants actively took part in the seminar. Fr. Pradeep Roy and Fr. Goutam Naskar and Mr. Ajoy Naskar were the resource persons for the same. The seminar began with the Bible veneration. The seminar ended with a Holy Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Fr. Pradeep Roy enlightened the participants through his inspiring talk. Fr. Goutam Naskar thanked and encouraged the participants for their enthusiasm of spreading Good News through BEC.

### BEC Seminar at Baidyapur

"He replied, 'blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it' (Luke 11:28). The Word of God is the only principle of Christian life. A one-day SCC seminar was organized at Baidyapur on February 26, 2023. Altogether 37 participants took part in the seminar. Rev. Fr. Molloy Mondal the parish priest welcomed and encouraged the members of BEC. Fr. Goutam Naskar enlightened the minds of the people through his session and encouraged them to spread the Word of God through BEC. The seminar came to an end with a blessing from the word of God.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar

## News from Paribar Jyoti

**Family Cell Follow-Up Meeting at Dosh Nombor February 2, 2023:** A family cell follow-up meeting was held at Dosh Nombor,



the substation of Kumrakhali Parish. Parents who have previously attended children's mental health seminars have said that they have really benefited from the seminars and are treating their children with great love and concern and taking responsibility from time to time as

needed for their children. Ms. Jaya Doloi, the staff of Paribar Jyoti explained how to take care of their children. The members were keen to participate in the discussion with great enthusiasm and eventually suggested organizing a day-long seminar on the husband-wife relationship. The meeting ended with a short prayer. - Joya Doloi

**Teachers' Seminar on February 3, 2023:** Under the initiative of the principal of



Bengali Medium School Kalyanpur, Rev. Sr. Jessie RNDM organized a seminar for the teachers of their Bangla Medium School. Teachers were very happy in this seminar to know the reason behind a student acting differently. Finally, the teachers wanted to have one more seminar for the parents.

- John Francis Lobo

**Follow up Family Cell Meeting at Kalyanpur Parish on February 3, 2023:**

The family cell meeting started with a prayer by Rev. Fr. Himangshu Poti, the Parish Priest of Kalyanpur. Some new members have joined therefore Mrs. Jaya Doloi, the staff of Paribar Jyoti discussed the necessity of the family cell according to *Amoris Laetitia*. She also explained their role and responsibilities. Various



programs hold Paribar Jyoti and field/Parish level for the necessity to strengthen husband/wife relationships, in-laws, Parenting counselling etc. They wish to have a seminar in the month of March 2023. Finally, Rev. Fr. Aloke Kanji ended the meeting with a short prayer.

- Joya Doloi

### **Domestic Violence Seminar at Gostomath on February 5, 2023:** The



couples of the sub-station of Raghobpur parish organized the seminar. The couples attending this full-day program were very enthusiastic, cooperative, and spontaneous right from the beginning. It was very interesting to have a mixed age group as the couples who attended the seminar were leading their married life within one to fifty years. Due to this age, there was different life experiences shared. This sharing helped each one present there to relate with their life's situation and problem. Moreover, the couples focused not on the problem and its cure, rather their focus was on the prevention to strengthen their spousal relationship and family bonding. This seminar was really a fruitful one.

- John Francis Lobo

**Regional Family Commission Training for Trainers at Proggaloy from February 7-9, 2023:** This time TOT was arranged mainly for four Dioceses, namely Raigunj, Krishnagar, Kolkata and Baraipur. It was held in Proggaloy, Barasat, Kolkata. The different topics related to marriage and family life were presented by some members of



Kolkata and Baraipur dioceses. The thirty-two members present in this training shared a lot with each other to know more about the program that is going on in their respective dioceses. In this training, they gained a lot through the sessions and discussions that will help them to guide the couples of their respective dioceses accordingly. - Gurupada Dolui

**Marriage Preparation Course on February 10 & 11, 2023:** With bright faces and joyful hearts, the training participants were spontaneous and cooperative from the start. The willing couples attended all the sessions very seriously and asked questions whenever or wherever they had any doubts or



clarifications which the trainers explained till they were satisfied. Their cooperation and active participation showed that they have good hearts and minds to accept and adapt to their partner for a happy and joyful married life.

- John Francis Lobo

**In-laws Seminar at Mondal Para Nagendrapur GP. on February 14, 2023:** The seminar was very fruitful as the participants responded to the discussion between daughters-in-law and in-laws' relationship with open-minded. In this seminar Gram-Panchayat's Secretary, ANMs and ICDS workers were present. They expressed that we have benefited a lot from this seminar. They wish to have a one-day seminar coming month on this matter. - Gurupada Dolui

**Seminar on Child Mental Health at Basanti, Kalidanga on February 17, 2023:** With the initiative of Mrs. Pravati Bag, the Animator of Paribar Jyoti organized a seminar for mothers on Child Mental Health at Basanti Block. In this seminar participated Health workers, ANMs, ICDS, AMP; ASHA Workers of Basanti Block, and expressed



interest that the seminar was so nice to know so many things about a child's mind and act accordingly. They said that it is good to learn and do needful things for a child.

- John Francis Lobo

**Awareness Programme on Husband-wife Relationship at Belegachiya on March 19, 2023:** An awareness program was held at Belegachiya with the cooperation of Mrs. Madhobi Pramanik, the animator of Paribar Jyoti. The participants participated with great interest to know their relationship with their partner at a special time when there is quarreling between them. There were young mothers and fathers who participated in it. They shared a lot of things which are very enriching experiences and great learning for us.

**Young Couples Workshop on February 24 & 25, 2023:** Each training group participants have their own mindset. This particular group really inspired us in a special way. The couples present there were mixed ages from three months to nine years of married life due to which they had shared different



experiences and which was a blessing for us to learn more about married life. They were brave enough to share their real-life experiences which were really helpful for everyone.

- John Francis Lobo

**Animators Workshop on February 27 & 28, 2023:** Keeping in mind the appropriate time to groom themselves, Paribar Jyoti's animators and staff attend these workshops



every month without interruption. This time through the workshop the animators got a chance to learn, work and practice on every topic and training we have here at Paribar Jyoti and Villages. Accordingly, they prepared for the next month with exercises and action plans.

- Gurupada Dolui



## Ecumenical Clergy Fellowship Meeting

The ecumenical clergy fellowship meeting was held in Keorapukur Mission on February 16, 2023 wherein besides two bishops, Rt. Rev. Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop of Barrackpore diocese, CNI and Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Baruipur, there were 42 priests and pastors of Catholic Church, CNI Church and Baptist Church. The meeting started at 10 a.m. with a hymn followed by a short prayer.

While welcoming Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Baruipur, Rev. Anjan Singh, the General Secretary and Sudip Biswas, the president of Bengal Baptist Union, Mr. Herod Mallik, the working president of Bangio Christio Pariseba, West Bengal and all the participants, Rt. Rev. Subrata Chakrabarty applauded the ecumenical meeting as rare occasion where bishops, priests and pastors of different churches gather together for a common cause of fostering unity among the churches living within the territory. Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose too making reference to Jesus' Prayer for unity drew the attention of all to the recent untoward happenings to the churches and religious institutions within and outside the state in our country. This necessitates Christian unity to live peacefully, to grow deeper in faith, to face different challenges pose to us, to mix with other and to have cordial relation with all. Rev. Anjan Singh reiterated the importance of Christian unity as minority. Leaving aside our doctrinal differences it is necessary to be one. The meeting of this kind only strengthens the unity. Rev. Sudip Biswas made a statement saying, often it is we are Christians and you are protestant; it should be rather we are all Christians living together in unity which is not limited only to priests and pastors but also extends to lay faithful in grass root level.

Thereafter, Rev. Subir Lalnath who is associated with Vellor Hospital briefed about the procedure of addressing a letter to the Medical Superintendent and made us aware of the facilities and concession available there.

Mr. Herod Mallik after recounting the effects of Bangio Christio Pariseba movement made us aware of the impending disaster that may fall on us so we have to be on guard by being united. After presenting the danger he suggested few ideas where we could capitalize such as community building through sports, cultural program etc.

Then the forum was opened for the discussion wherein some of the practical challenges and difficulties were posed and discussed. The problem of structural organization was also talked about in the discussion and it was agreed to make use of digital communication where information could be shared and to have convener based on the jurisdiction of Thana. The date of next meeting was fixed on April 19, 2023 at Dihisari Pastoral Centre, Baruipur.

Then vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Rev. Surajit Sarkar, vice President, CNI. The meeting ended with fellowship meal.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka



## Annual Sports Meet



Red, Green, Blue and Yellow all conjured up together to make the day a colourful, joyful and active for the children of St. Mary's School Kalyanpur on February 6, 2023. The occasion was the Annual Sports Meet. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose graced the occasion as the chief Guest; Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur and Sr. Anita Moolan, the Provincial of RNDM were the guests of honour.

The event started at 9.00 a.m. with the little angels of the school leading the guests that included a number of priests, sisters and brothers to the podium. The programme started with lighting of the lamp, honouring of Mother Mary, the patroness of the school, hoisting of the national flag, releasing of dove as a sign of spreading peace and relaying of the Sports Torch by the four team captains. Bishop Shyamal Bose gave an inspiring speech to the children and parents who had come in hordes to witness the event.

The children then, arrayed in four houses of Red, Green, Blue and Yellow, held the audience spell-bound as they marched past and saluted the chief guest. It was a beautiful sight to behold as the little children took to the ground to compete with each other. The programme also included performances of pyramid formation, yoga postures, colourful drills and a Tusu dance. While the Green house won the prized cup for the March past the Red house carried away the Champion's Cup.

The occasion served also a chance to thank and felicitate Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, the Bishop emeritus of Baruipur for his dedicated service and contribution to the school as President of the Founder Body. Fr. John Britto, the manager gave a felicitation speech and gifted Bishop with three flower plants as he is a lover of nature. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Sr. Kiran, the headmistress.

This was the first big event in the school after the COVID19. The children could thus showcase their talents and exhibit their prowess in sports and co-curricular activities. The full-fledged English Medium School, started in 2015 has now 345 children from nursery to class VI.



- Fr. Panneer Selvam



## MARCH

- 05 Br. Anshu Ghoroi
- 08 Fr. Rajen Simon Singh
- 24 Most. Rev. Shyamal Bose
- 25 Fr. Kanauj Roy

## Ordination

### MARCH

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

## Priestly Ord. of Bp.

- 19 Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo

## NOTICE BOARD

### Paribar Jyoti: Programme for the Month of March 2023

- # Marriage Preparation Course from 10th March to 11th March 2023
- # Personality Development Seminar for Class Nine (IX) and Class Ten (X) from 17th to 18th March 2023
- # Young Couples Programme from 24th March to 25th March 2023

## Memorable and Admirable

- 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 2023

**For victims of abuse:** We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

## Women's Awareness Program

The women commission of Baruiapur diocese had organized a Women's Awareness Program on February 19, 2023. Around 117 women participated for the gathering. Our honourable guest for the day was Most Rev. Shyamal Bose along with him were three resource persons. We were highly privileged to have among us Mrs. Christian Biswas our chief guest for the day, who is a councilor of Ward No. 143. She enlightened the women on her journey of being the councilor as she being a simple catholic woman and a modest homemaker how she reformed herself for the betterment of the society. The other two speakers were Miss Tulika Das a director of an NGO who spoke on womanhood. Next speaker Dr. Rajashree Dutta emphasized on various health issues faced by woman of different age groups. The doctor had a thorough interactive session with all the women about their individual health complications. It was a very fruitful and informative day for all of us. We were fortunate to have a lot of knowledge related to women. We acknowledge and appreciate the encouraging presence of Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Fr. Kanauj Roy, Vicar General of Baruiapur Diocese, Fr. Dominic Gomes, Vicar General of Archdiocese of Calcutta, Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes, Fr. Goutam Naskar, Fr. Deepak Ekka, Fr. Himangshu Poti and Fr. Aloke Kanji for their support and help.

- Ms. Babli Das

## Bishop S. Bose's Programme for the Month of March 2023

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Kalyanpur	Visiting the Priests at Kalyanpur Church
02	Thu	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Meeting of Proclamation Commission
03	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Baidyapur	Way of the Cross and Mass
05	Sun	07.30 a.m.	Sorbonondopur, Moapai	Mass for 2nd Sunday of Lent
06	Mon	06.00 a.m.	Kirtankhola	Holy Mass
07	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Baruiapur	Meets the Capuchin Fathers
08	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Cathedral Ch., Baruiapur	Mass and Celebration of International Women's Day
10	Fri	02.00 p.m.	Debipur, Raghobpur	Way of the Cross and Mass
12	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Salpukur, Raghobpur	Mass for 3rd Sunday of Lent
16	Thu	09.00 a.m.	Baruiapur	Meets visitors from Church in Need, Germany
		06.00 p.m.	Keorapukur	Inauguration of Presbytery, Keorapukur
17-18	Fri-Sat			Meets visitors from Church in Need, Germany
19	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Balarampur, Raghobpur	Mass for 4th Sunday of Lent
20	Mon	03.30 p.m.	PUS, Baruiapur	G. B. Meeting of PUS
21	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Bamangachi	G. B. Meeting of Paribar Jyoti
22	Wed	03.30 p.m.	Baruiapur	Meeting - Finance Committee
23	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Baruiapur	Meeting - Board of Consultors
25	Sat	06.00 p.m.	Cathedral Ch., Baruiapur	Mass for CLC Mothers
26	Sun	09.00 a.m.	Jota, Panchamkhanda	Mass for 5th Sunday of Lent
27	Mon	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	G. B. Meeting of Dishari
31	Fri	01.00 p.m.	6 No. Sonatikari, Khari	Way of the Cross and Mass

## Bishop Lobo's Programme for the Month of March 2023

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Wed	07.00 a.m.		Goes to Asansol
02	Thu	07.30 p.m.		Returns to Baruiapur
05	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Baidyapur	Mass for 2nd Sunday of Lent
12	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Keorapukur	Mass for 3rd Sunday of Lent
16-17	Thu-Fri		Baruiapur	Meets a team from Church in Need, Germany
19	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Morapai	Mass for 4th Sunday of Lent