



Saint of Love: Francis of Assisi

Napoleon the Great was once travelling, when he saw a statue of St. Francis of Assisi. Napoleon commanded the entire procession to come to an immediate halt. He then removed his headgear and bowed. The generals were shocked. They said to Napoleon, "Sir, you are the greatest man in the world. You never bow to anyone, nor do you show respect to any other human being on earth. The entire world knows and reveres you as the most indomitable figure ever to walk on this earth. How is it that you have taken off your headgear now?" Napoleon replied, "I need guns and cannons to conquer the world. Once I conquer one country, another country revolts, and then I must go there to quell their revolt and reconquer the country. My victories are in no way permanent. Look at St. Francis of Assisi! He was such a great saint. He had no weaponry not one gun, not one cannon. I have countless weapons, but he had only one weapon: love. With that love-weapon, St. Francis of Assisi conquered the entire world. With all my guns, cannons, ammunition, armies and more, my victories are never, never lasting. But his victory is everlasting, and his sole weapon was love."

Born in the twelfth century at Assisi in Italy, Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

As the son of a wealthy merchant, Francis led a worldly, carefree life at a young age. In 1202 he marched off to battle against the city of Perugia, full of a young man's dreams of military glory. But he was taken prisoner during the battle, and a year passed before his father could arrange ransom. That was followed by a year's convalescence in Assisi, a year in which Francis, then in his early twenties, was slowly transformed. During his illness, he experienced dreams and visions. One day as he prayed in a dilapidated church in San Damiano, at the edge of Assisi, he heard Christ say three times from the crucifix: "Francis, go repair my house, which, as you can see, is falling completely to ruin." Francis understood that he was to repair the church he prayed in (though his followers later would see this as his call to reform the church), so he proceeded to sell off family goods to raise money for repairs.

His father got angry and took him to the local Bishop in order to get back the money from Francis. In the course of the interview, Francis took off his clothes and laid them neatly in a pile before his father. "Up to today I called you 'father,'" he said to him, "but now I can say in all honesty, 'Our Father who art in heaven.'" He walked out of the cathedral to become a hermit. Pope Francis, in his homily in the Basilica of Francis on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi said, "This decision of Saint Francis was a radical way of imitating Christ: he clothed himself anew, putting on Christ, who, though he was rich, became poor in order to make us rich by his poverty (cf. 2 Cor 8:9). In all of

Francis' life, love for the poor and the imitation of Christ in his poverty were inseparably united, like the two sides of a coin." The Holy Father continued, "Where did Francis's journey to Christ begin? It began with the gaze of the crucified Jesus... Francis experienced this in a special way in the Church of San Damiano, as he prayed before the cross which I too will have an opportunity to venerate. On that cross, Jesus is depicted not as dead, but alive! Blood is flowing from his wounded hands, feet and side, but that blood speaks of life. Jesus' eyes are not closed but open, wide open: he looks at us in a way that touches our hearts."

In 1979, Pope John Paul II proclaimed St. Francis as the "heavenly patron of those who promote ecology" (cf. Apostolic Letter Inter Sanctos: AAS 71 [1979], 1509f). St. John Paul II said, "He offers Christians an example of genuine and deep respect for the integrity of creation. As a friend of the poor who was loved by God's creatures, Saint Francis invited all of creation animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother Sun and Sister Moon to give honor and praise to the Lord. The poor man of Assisi gives us striking witness that when we are at peace with God we are better able to devote ourselves to building up that peace with all creation which is inseparable from peace among all peoples."

Pope Francis had chosen the name in honor of St Francis of Assisi, and had done so because he was concerned for the well being of the poor. He said to people 'we can never forget the poor'. In his first exhortation to the faithful, delivered in late 2013, he identified some of the societal challenges he intends his papacy to confront: poverty, inequality, environmental degradation. Pope Francis encourages the faithful to look to St. Francis of Assisi as "the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically."

St. Francis lived a life of extreme poverty and extreme love, allowing him to appreciate the value of every living being. St. Francis "shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." While environmental issues affect everyone's wellbeing, the poor are disproportionately affected by them. Francis quotes a Bolivian conference of bishops, saying, "Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest."

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+ Shyamal Bose

Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur

Major activities in the month of September 2022

Teachers Day Celebration:



On the 5th of September, 2022, Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur celebrated Teachers' Day in all its Learning Centres. All the children wished "Happy Teachers' Day" to all the Teachers, followed by small cultural programmes. Altogether 573 students and 56 Teachers participated in these Celebrations. The children were told the reason, meaning and importance of the day. They presented Songs, Recitations and performed Dance on songs of Tagore. All the teachers and students paid homage to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

Inauguration of Beautician Course:



On the September 6th, 9th and 22nd, 2022, the Beautician Course was inaugurated in four places namely, Manmathanagar, Baria, Charavidya and Khari. Fr. Saumen Malik the Director of Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur, shared the objectives of the course, which is to promote earning opportunity among the girls and young women to add some income to their families and a way to reduce the under-age marriage.

Altogether 128 adolescent girls and young women enrolled for this Beautician Training Course. The programme will continue for next three months. The local PRI members and other dignitaries were present to grace the inaugural ceremony of the Course and encouraged the participants to make use of the opportunity for their better future. All the participants who successfully complete the course in the next three months, would be awarded certificates.

Educational Materials, School Uniform and Dry Ration Packet Distribution:

Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur distributed Educational Materials, School Uniform and Dry Ration Packets among the 175 children of the five Free



Learning Centres on the 15th, 16th and 20th of September, 2022.

It is a big support for the educational development of the targeted children. The children and their parents were very happy to receive Educational Materials, like Exercise Books, Drawing Books, Pen, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpeners, Pastel Colour and Water Bottle, School Uniform and Food Packets consisting of Soya Chunk, Cooking Oil, Masoor Dal, Biscuit, Sattu, Sugar and Ration Bag.

Distribution of SAD Langalberia:



On the 19th of September, 2022, PUS Baruipur distributed Education Materials, Toiletries and Nutritious Food Packets to 371 students of SAD Langalberia Project. In the beginning of the distribution, there was an introductory meeting conducted with the students and their parents. The Director of PUS Baruipur shared that parents need to be more active and serious about the education of their children and send them regularly to the centres.

The beneficiaries were very happy to receive Soyabean, Cooking Oil, Masoor Dal, Biscuit, Sattu, Detergent Powder, Toothpaste, Coconut Oil, Sanitary Napkin, Exercise Book, Drawing Book, Pen, Pencil, Pastel Colour and Ration Bag to meet their need of essential commodities.

Capacity Building Training for Adolescent Girls' Group:

The AGG training of WCP project was conducted on the 20th & 21st of September, 2022 at PUS Baruipur. Altogether 30 AGG leaders and the project Coordinator, Supervisor and Animators were present in this training.

In the beginning, all the participants and AGG leaders gave their self-introduction through an ice breaking session. Fr. Saumen Malik, the Director of PUS Baruipur, delivered his valuable message about the



importance of the AGG and objectives of the project, which benefits the adolescent girls.

Mr. Sudip Sardar and Mr. Rajesh Shaw, the resource persons of the training, discussed about the protection of women and child from abuse and violence, gender discriminations and awful effects of underage marriage.

Mrs. Sujata Mandal, through the use of flipcharts, discussed the problems related to adolescent health & hygiene and the physical & mental changes during the said period.

Besides, she explained as to how to maintain adolescent health and hygiene, reason for malnutrition, Iron, Vitamin and other mineral deficiency disorders and specially the reason for anemia due to Iron deficiency in the adolescents period.

Dental Camp for SAD Langalberia Children:



On the 21st of September, 2022, PUS Baruiপুর organized a Dental Screening camp at PUS office premise for oral hygiene of SAD Langalberia Children. Altogether 58 children, from nine centres, who are suffering from dental problems, attended this Dental Camp.

Dr. Abed Ali Khan, DDH (Dental), MD, offered his consultation on Dental & Oral Hygiene diagnosis of the children for their dental problems. He also gave awareness on dental care.

Awareness on Community Health and Hygiene Promotion as Post- COVID-19 Situation:



On the 22nd of September, 2022, PUS Baruiপুর organized an awareness programme on Community Health and Hygiene Promotion in Post-COVID-19 Situation at St. Savio Boy's hostel, Panchamkhanda. The whole community, including the students, were given health awareness tips.

Training of Trainers on Health & Hygiene to Kishori Suraksha Bahini:

On the 22nd of September, 2022, PUS Baruiপুর organized a Training of Trainers on Health & Hygiene for members of Kishori Suraksha Bahini under the project Protection of Girls from Underage Marriage. Mr. Rajesh Shaw was the resource person of the training. He discussed about the different types of abuse and violence against adolescent girls, women and violation of child rights, gender discriminations and awful effects of underage marriage.



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Varieties of Vegetable Seeds and Sapling Distribution:



On the 23rd and 24th of September, 2022, nine varieties of vegetable seeds and sapling of Sapeta and Lemon were distributed among 800 families of the marginal farmers in Namkhana and Patharpratima Block in the District of South 24 Parganas.

The Aim of the programme is to promote Nutrition Garden as post - cyclone rehabilitation towards accessing the vegetable and fruits for themselves and also sell the surplus to add a little earning for better survival.

Report from Ranigarh



On the 18th of September, 2022, a Youth Orientation programme for the youth of Ranigarh Parish had been organised. More than 80 youth in the age group of 18 to 25 years took part in this programme. The day began with the Eucharistic Celebration followed by a workshop based on the theme by Fr. Ramen Pailan. He also elaborated about the opportunities for youth in the present world by increasing faith through youth. He motivated them by setting success stories of other youth. Mr. Raj Bag explained the qualities based on leadership and its importance through his session, Mr. Soumyojit D'Costa took a session on Relationship. This was followed by a workshop by Mr. Atanu Panja pertaining to the ideals regarding miscommunication between youths and its outcome and motivated them to work for Christ and not for themselves. After lunch, Fr. Ramen Pailan gave a concluding session followed by a warm thanksgiving by the Parish Priest and the Parish Youth President.

NEWS FROM PARIBAR JYOTI

Arranging Family Cell at Sarbonandapur, Substation of Morapai Parish: Mrs. Jaya Doloi, a staff of Paribar Jyoti, visited the Catechist, Mr. Soul Mondal for organizing a family cell on September 5, 2022. With the help of the Catechist, a few people came and Mrs. Jaya spoke about Paribar Jyoti's programmes - Marriage Preparation course, Young Couples programme, In-laws programme, etc. Hereafter, she also explained about the Family Cell and its roles and responsibilities. Lastly, they promised to involve more members and take on the roles and responsibilities of the family cell members.

Follow-up Family Cell Meeting at Barelia: Mrs. Jaya Doloi visited Barelia, a substation of Morapai Parish to attend the family cell follow-up meeting on September 6, 2022. The family cell members were inspired by her talk to be part of various activities in their areas. Now, due to the Novena, they were all very busy but house visits went on. They have fixed the family cell meeting on 22nd September at 2.30 P.M.

- Joya Doloi

A One-day Husband-Wife Seminar:



A one-day seminar on the husband-wife relationship was organized by our animator Alorani Sardar at Sardana, Haripur, on September 7, 2022. The people of this area took interest and wanted to know how to live a peaceful family life. The detailed discussion took place in separate groups. The participants came out with many questions and possible solutions, which they felt were good for their married life. Lastly, Mr. Gurupada Dolui and Mrs. Jaya Doloi instructed them. They were very happy. The staff said that the present-day married couples find very difficult to understand each other's needs,

self-acceptance, self-respect and happiness in married life. - Gurupada Dolui

Marriage Preparation Course Sept. 9, 2022: The participants attending the course felt



a bit shy and reserved at first but the ice-breaking, various games and action songs made them open-minded and to become comfortable. After this they freely shared their questions, doubts and experiences. They actively participated in all the group discussions and sharing's. At the end of the course, they shared that "This might be the end of the course but it's

the start of the journey of our married life.”

- John Francis Lobo

Introduction to Basic Counselling Training at KSSR, Krishnagar: The



society of KSSR conducted a basic counselling training course for some selected staff, animators and supervisors of KSSR from 11th to 14th September, 2022, with the help of Paribar Jyoti's Team. The participants urged them to learn counselling and shared that the training has primarily helped them in their personal life. It is also very beneficial for their professional life as it has changed their outlook and approach, they had been following so far. Looking at their interest and understanding, the Society KSSR has invited Paribar Jyoti to give more training in future. - Gurupada Dolui

Family Cell Meeting at Bhanru: Our staff Jaya Doloi arranged a meeting in Bhanru, a Substation of Kalyanpur Parish on September 16, 2022, with the help of the Catechist of Bhanru. The main discussion was on the topic, "How to help broken families to bring back peace". They were told about various programmes in Paribar Jyoti and invited them to attend different programmes to gain different ideas to motivate broken families. The date of the next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 15, 2022. - Joya Doloi

Family Cell Meeting at Ranigarh Parish: The meeting started in the presence of



Rev. Fr. Sirnus Topno and the Family Cell Members with a song and prayer on September 21, 2022. The Parish Priest gave an inspirational speech to the members to organize a few seminars for parents and would-be couples, so that they may understand the beauty of married life. The members discussed and decided to

continue their activity of house visits and have regular meetings. They planned for a couple's seminar in the upcoming months.

- John Francis Lobo

Young Couples Workshop: As usual, we had the young couples' workshop with 10 participants on September 23, 2022. The couples attending this workshop were very interactive right from the beginning, which created a free atmosphere in all the sessions. We were moved by their active participation and clarification. The couples shared their practical experiences during the group discussion. They had many queries on how to handle the different problematic situations which were answered well to their satisfaction by the trainers. Towards the end of the training, they were happy to express that they have never thought of these before. The training would definitely change their lives. - Gurupada Dolui

Young Couples Seminar at Boys' Town, Gangarampur - September 25, 2022: A one day seminar was arranged for young couples, with the help of the Parish Priest of Gangarampur. The Parish priest lit the candle and Father Rector of the Seminary, Boy's Town, shaped a prayerful atmosphere with his prayer. Hereafter, the Parish Priest gave a short introduction and welcomed Paribar Jyoti's team and the participants. The Paribar Jyoti team began the seminar with the song - "তোমাকে ভালবাসা যায় না প্রভু, যদি মানুষকে আগে ভালবাসতে না পারি". Mrs. Jaya Doloi and Mr. Gurupada Dolui started the first session on the relationship between husband and wife as lived by them. Fr. Director spoke on "Marriage - A journey towards God's eternal Love". - Joya Doloi

Family Cell Meeting at Budge Budge:



With great zeal and initiative the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Surojit Mitra and the staff of Paribar Jyoti organized a meeting on September 25, 2022, hoping to construct the volunteers for the Family Cell of the Parish. Looking at the present scenario of the Christian community and especially the situation of their parish, the present members understood that they do need to step forward and do something for their own people. Fr. Surojit Mitra's speech touched their hearts and being motivated, the members discussed and sorted out a few initiatives

through which they can start their activities namely - house visits, contacting families over the phone to participate in various programmes in the Church activities, finding out those who do not come to the Church, adding moral values sufficiently in catechism classes for teens and youth, organizing programmes for their people etc. The parish priest concluded the meeting with a prayer and thanksgiving. - John Francis Lobo

Family Cell Meeting at Gostomath: The



Meeting started in the presence of our staff, Mr. Francis Lobo on September 26, 2022. The Family Cell Members of Gostomath are quite active and regular in their activities and meetings. The members have regular house visits and look into the problems of the families. They also organize seminars from time to time as per the requirement of the people. Being a small area, as a substation, they are in touch with all the families that fall under. After the last seminar on the In-laws, for the positive feedback they got from the people, they are now planning to organize a programme on Parenting for the parents of small children in their area.

- John Francis Lobo

Family Cell Meeting at Raghobpur: This is the first meeting after the transfer of the Parish Priest of Raghobpur Parish on September 28, 2022. The Meeting started in the presence of the new Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Joseph Toppo along with the Family Cell Members. An inspiring speech was given by Fr. J. Toppo. Hereafter, the family cell members explained well all the activities of the family cell and the different programmes they have been doing so far. Fr. J. Toppo spoke about family happiness and expressed that interacting regularly with families to know their life situations would be the most valuable task of the members of the family cell.

- John Francis Lobo

Family Cell Meeting at Keorapukur: In the presence of family cell members, the meeting started with a song and prayer on September 29, 2022. An inspirational talk was given by Mr. Francis Lobo the staff. After having shared their previous activities, they were told to keep a record of those families, who are having problems. In future, they want to organize a programme for the In-laws. - John Francis Lobo



OCTOBER

06	Fr. Surojit Mitra
09	Fr. Subrata Kanji
18	Fr. Ujjwal Mondal
26	Fr. Durlov Bor
28	Fr. Ajay Kr. Lakra, CM
28	Fr. Sunil Lakra, SDB

*Happy Birthday
Dear Fathers*

Priestly Ordination

OCTOBER

11	Fr. Pierre Jacob, SJ
24	Fr. Indrajit Sardar
25	Fr. Pradeep Roy

Congratulations Dear Fathers

In Memorial

Month of October

07	Fr. Lestienne Louis, SJ
20	Fr. Gabric Ante, SJ
21	Fr. Cukale Jozef, SJ
27	Fr. Rosomoy Kanji

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of Oct. 2022

A Church Open to Everyone: We pray for the Church; ever faithful to and courageous in preaching the Gospel; may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

News from Dishari Pastoral Center Small Christian Community:

"He replied, 'blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it' (Luke 11:28). The Word of God is the sole principle of Christian life. The main purpose of Small Christian Community is to live by the Word of God and to carry the Word of God to others. Fr. Goutam Naskar, the diocesan SCC animator, encouraged all the SCC members to conduct regular SCC meeting in their respective places and thereby promote SCC in all the parishes and sub-stations. SCC unit members from different corners of the diocese extended their helping hands for the promotion of SCC. More than 150 SCC meetings were conducted in last two months. Rev. Fr. Goutam Naskar congratulated all the members of SCC units and acknowledged their wholehearted participation for the promotion of SCC in the diocese.



NOTICE BOARD

Priests' Annual Retreat - 2022

This year the Annual Retreat of the Priests will be held in two batches in Sanjivani, Krishnagar. Batch-1: October 16 - 22, 2022 and Batch -2: October 23 - 28, 2022.

This annual retreat is mandatory for all the diocesan priests of our diocese.

Paribar Jyoti

Marriage Preparation Course from 7th October to 8th October 2022
Young Couples Programme from 28th October to 29th October 2022

Bp. Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of October 2022

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
04	Tue			Returns from Rome
07	Fri	09.00 a.m.	PUS, Baruipur	RVA Meeting
09	Sun	08.00 a.m.	Sonarpur	Mass and Confirmation
11	Tue		Bangkok	Leaving for FABC 50 General Conference
31	Mon			Returns from Bangkok