



THE BRIDGE

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A Newsletter From Archbishop's House

32, Mother Teresa Sarani (Park Street), Kolkata - 700 016

Editorial 

They walked away from Jerusalem

The Story of Emmaus is very touching. The two Disciples, one of whom was called Cleophas, were walking away from Jerusalem. They were on their way to Emmaus a distance of 7 km. This gesture of walking away speaks so much about the frustration and desperation of the two disciples. They had witnessed the events surrounding the death of Jesus. They were horrified by what Jesus had to suffer. They were even there, when the news came that the tomb was empty and that Jesus had been appearing to some persons.

Yet the two disciples of Emmaus were downcast and were on their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As they walked along they were sharing with each other the sad events. Then Jesus walks along with them as a stranger and asks them, what the topic of their conversation was. They answered together: "The events". Jesus asks: "What events?" The two disciples are shocked. They said; "Are you the only one who does not know about Jesus of Nazareth, of how he suffered and died, of how it is reported that he is alive."

The stranger then begins his own story and explains how all the events were part of Salvation History. The death and suffering of Jesus were necessary; they too were part of the story of salvation. As it was getting dark when they reached, the two disciples invited Jesus to enter their home. Then at supper, Jesus took the bread and broke it, and the disciples' eyes were opened. They recognized Jesus.

What a transformation in the lives of the two disciples! They suddenly understood. They realized that their hearts were burning, when Jesus was speaking and explaining the Scriptures. Their spontaneous gesture was to return to Jerusalem immediately; here they tell the story. However in the meantime, others too have seen Jesus.

This story of Emmaus is very fascinating. An elderly nun ailing and in bed met a young sister, who was feeling low, and depressed. The elderly nun enquired about the cause of her depression. She then said to the young sister: "Whenever you feel low remember Emmaus". The young sister was surprised and asked why. The elderly sister said: "At such times Jesus is walking at the side of us, as he did with the two disciples on their way to Jerusalem."

During this Easter season, we are all invited to share the joy the Risen Christ. We are reminded that Jesus walks with us daily, especially when we do not experience his presence. May the story of Emmaus encourage us along our pilgrim journey!

Foundation Day of Proggaloy



Proggaloy, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, celebrated its foundation day on April 14, 2012. Fr. Pat Walsh sj., Rector of Morning Star College and Fr. Mark began the celebration with a Prayer Service and the traditional 'Lighting of the Lamp'. Fr. Anthony Rodrick, the director of Proggaloy, extended a Welcome to all present. The Cultural Programme (with dances, songs and skits) was organized by the Religious communities in Barasat. It was an enjoyable evening with Mr. Gilbert as Master of Ceremonies. Proggaloy conducts various pastorally-oriented training sessions, programmes, meetings, conferences, youth camps, and retreats. If you wish to avail of the facilities for such needs, please contact Fr. Anthony Rodrick, Director.

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Regional Youth Council Meeting

The Regional Youth Council Meeting was organized by the Council of West Bengal and Sikkim on April 14, 2012. The members were Fr. Sukumar Sarkar, Chairman of the (RYC), Youth Directors of the dioceses of West Bengal along with the REXCO and DEXCO teams. The meeting included details regarding the upcoming REGIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION which is to take place at St. Xavier's School, Durgapur, from May 30 to June 2, 2012. The Convention expects to draw about 750 participants. The theme of the convention is 'Transformed by faith, transforming the world'. The thrust is on networking, gender parity, employability and caring for the earth. The sessions of the convention will revolve around these issues. To focus attention on the spiritual background of the event, Taize prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist will be part of the program. To encourage the youth for the work they have done, a girl and boy from each diocese will be given the Regional Youth Award. Talent will be expressed with music (including instruments) and a congenial Camp Fire will be organized for entertainment and mirth!



United Christians Easter Rally



The United Christians of Kolkata organized an Easter Rally on April 8, 2012 starting at 3.00pm, Park Circus Maidan. About 5,000 people had gathered in proclamation of "Christ is Risen from the Dead". Fr. Sunil F. Rozario, Archdiocesan Director of ECUMENISM & DIALOGUE, coordinated the proceedings. At the very outset he said "this peace gathering is to show our solidarity and faith- witness for our persecuted brothers and sisters all over India." Fr. Andrew Simik, the

Pro-Vicar of St. Paul's Cathedral gave the Welcome speech. Rt. Rev. Ashoke Biswas, Bishop of Calcutta (Church of North India) and The Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza (Archbishop of Calcutta) extended their Easter Greetings to the people assembled. The 'Apostles' group from St. Teresa's, conducted a Prayer Service. The grand finale of Easter Rally was a Dance Drama on the Resurrection directed by Mr. James Lingram. It was a public witness to the great act of our salvation.

NABABARSHA GET- TOGETHER



On the auspicious occasion of Nababarsha, Mr. R. K. Pachnanda IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, organized a 'Get Together' on April 20, 2012 at 6.p.m. at PAC Tent (opposite: East Bengal Club, on the Maidan). Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal graced the occasion. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza was honored to glad-hand the dignitaries present: Religious Leaders, Police Officers, State Ministers and others. His Grace, Archbishop Thomas was accompanied by Fr. Dominic, Fr. Moley and Fr. Anthony Paul.

DRAW ME AND KEEP ME CLOSE TO YOU



On 21st April 2012 nine novices of Daughters of the Cross of the Kolkata Province, professed their First Vows during the Eucharistic celebration with the theme "DRAW ME AND KEEP ME CLOSE TO YOU". His Excellency, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, was the Celebrant at a special Liturgy at St. Vincent' Home, Kidderpore. Sr. Mary George, Sr. Lucia Kujur and the Staff of the Novitiate have been instrumental in

the formation of these young novices. Through prayer, history and example the charism of the Daughters of the Cross was evident. The day concluded with an enjoyable Cultural Program. Sr. Vianney, FC, the Provincial, announced the placements where the newly professed were assigned.

ST. PETER'S HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTED ITS ANNUAL PROGRAM

The Annual Program of St. Peter's High School (90, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata) was held at St. Teresa's Church Hall on April 10, 2012. Present for the event were Rt. Rev. Henry D'Souza (Archbishop Emeritus of Kolkata), Fr. Tony



Fernandez (Provincial of the Kolkata Province of the Society of Pilar), Frs. Moloy D'Costa, Gregory Monteiro, Albert Sahayaraj, Tapan Khan (School Secretary), Devraj Fernandez, Ms. Maria Fernandez (Vice Chair of the West Bengal Minority Commission), Shrimati Shikha Mitra (MLA), Shrimati Indrani Banerjee (Councilor), Abhijeet Chatterjee (Asst. Engineer, Borough VI), P.K.Misra (Benefactor & Wellwisher of the School), Ustad Nurul Hassan (Sufi Vocalist from Lucknow) and a host of others. The Welcome Song, "AGUNER PARASHMANI CHHOAO PRANE..." by the School Choir set the tone for the evening. This was followed by Lighting of the Lamp and a Welcome Address by the Headmaster, Fr. Peter Anthony. In his address, Fr. Peter said that the school caters to students from the socially backward and economically weaker sections of society and every endeavor is made to afford the almost 500 youth some footing in the challenging world of today. For many, they are the first generation in their family attending a school.



The Cultural Program began with Abhibandana, a medley of dances which took the audience on a journey through the different states of India. The students performed the Bihu dance from Assam, Holy Ustav from Rajasthan and the Bhangra of Punjab ending with West Bengal Durga Puja's Bisarjan. All the dancers then combined to pay tribute to the Motherland with "VANDE MATRAM". The evening fittingly ended with a special performance of song by the well

known Sufi Vocalist, Ustad Nural Hassan from Lucknow. The performance was truly outstanding. Rt. Rev. Henry D'Souza, in his address appreciated the children and the staff for their splendid performance and encouraged the students to work hard as they inculcate human values and become honourable citizens of this great country. Mr. Robin Poti, the Prefect of the school proposed a Vote of Thanks. Fr. Xavier Kujur, the Assistant Headmaster, was an excellent host for the guests and a respected disciplinarian during the evening. As very appropriate, the evening concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

PRISON MINISTRY

On Good Friday, Alipore Central Jail was visited by the Lay Missionaries of Charity along with two priests, an MC sister and eight MC brothers. They carried the hope of Jesus beyond the prison bars into the hearts of the prisoners. A full and meaningful Good Friday service was conducted and many inmates experienced the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Individual confessions were heard and some non-christians also used the opportunity to share their misery and relinquish their feelings of guilt. An outstanding drama was staged by the non-christian detainees with costumes, music and song depicting the journey of the passion of Christ. The prisoners who took different parts all had a conversion of heart as they performed. Many shared their personal testimonies.

5th year Bible School Inauguration



God has truly blessed the Bible School at Archbishop's House, Kolkata. Now in its fifth year, the gathering included men and women of all ages. Archbishop Emeritus, Lucas Sirkar, enthroned the Word of God fittingly to the accompaniment of music and the inspirational movement of dance. Fr. Dominic led the Pledge Prayer, reported on the 2011-2012 and outlined the syllabus of 2012-2013. Mr. Eugene welcomed those present and commended the good work of Fr. Dominic, the Director, as well as Mr. Charles Sassoon, the Coordinator. Fr. Pat Walsh, on behalf of Fr. John Romus, the dean of the Theology Department (Morning Star College), announced the good news that the College, at a recent Faculty Council, resolved to offer a One-Year Certificate Course in Biblical Studies. This Course is affiliated to the Pontifical University in Pune. His Grace, Archbishop Lucas Sirkar graciously awarded the Certificates to the Class that completed the one-year Course. The finale for the gathering was an expression of gratitude from Mr. Alex which led all present to share refreshments and fellowship.

Come and Labor in His Vineyard!

The Vocation Day for the City Deanery was organized on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at the Church of Our Lady of Dolores, Boitokhana. Some 56 boys from Class 9 up to College joined the meeting. Fr. Gregory Monteiro, the Vocation Director, welcomed the boys and briefed about the purpose of the day. Fr. Saroj



Roy CSsR and Fr. Devraj Fernandes took sessions on "Readiness to respond to God's Call" and "the ministry and spirituality of the Diocesan priests." Archbishop Thomas D'Souza celebrated the Holy Eucharist and appreciated the enthusiasm and the eagerness of the boys to discern their Vocation. Fr. Moloy D' Costa took care of the days need.

For Midnapore deanery the Vocation Day was on the Good Shepherd Sunday 29th April 2012 at St. Paul's Church, Kamarchowki. Some 40 boys from the whole deanery gathered on Saturday 28th April evening to reflect on their Vocation. Mr. Lawrence Adhikari, Br. Alfred SDB, Frs. Shyam, Gregory and Peppin, and Sudhir Tudu, were resource persons for the Day. They, while sharing their own experiences of Diocesan Priests,



emphasizing their own call, explained the manifold ministries in the Archdiocese. Narrating his own Vocation, Archbishop Thomas in the Holy Eucharist exhorted the boys "to be the hands and feet of Jesus to work for His Kingdom." The presence of Frs. Vincent, Philip and Neethi added extra joy to the day. Three boys have expressed their desire to join the Seminary. Kudos to Midnapore deanery for taking the lead once again in Vocation!



IPL T20 Punjab IX Captain, Adam Gilchrist, visits St. Peter's High School

In observance of the Bengali New Year, on April 14, 2012, the students of St. Peter's High School were gifted with the visit of the Captain of Kings XI Punjab and Team Mohali, Adam Gilchrist (popularly known as Gilly). The school children were indeed pleased with the visit. They extended Gilly and his family a warm welcome with traditional song and dance. This was much appreciated by Gilly and family. Gilchrist addressed the student body and encouraged them to study well. He spent about an hour and a half mingling with the students and visiting their classrooms.

ARUNODAY DAY

The Jesuit Pre-novitiate at Barasat celebrated Arunoday Day on April 10, 2012. This was to conclude the academic year and to celebrate the Feast of the House, Arunoday, as the rising sun, the feast of Easter. On this occasion the life and death of Blessed Miguel Augustine Pro, Jesuit priest and martyr of Mexico was portrayed in a drama by the pre-novices and candidates of Arunoday. The play was written by Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, Jesuit Provincial of Kolkata Province, and was directed by Br. David Paulraj under the guidance of Fr. Joseph Kulandai, the Director of Arunoday. Present for the occasion were His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, as the Guest of Honour, Frs. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, Patrick Walsh, Anthony Rodricks, Dean of Barasat, and about 200 Women Religious, Priests and Brothers residing in and around Barasat and Barrackpore and Jesuit Fathers and Novices from Kolkata.



The ceremony began with the singing of the Sanskrit Hymn Vande Satcitananda and then followed by other classical and folk songs. This accompanied a skillfully orchestrated dance directed by Sr. Ghor, a Helper Sister. Concluding the program, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza commended the talents of the Brothers in depicting the faith that was nourished in the family of Miguel Pro. His love for Christ and the love for his people was evident. Such qualities must be assiduously cultivated in our formation days so that they become the firm bed rock of our priestly and religious life.

The Program concluded, as providentially planned!!, with a cooling rain that brought some relief to the dog days of intense heat!

JOYFUL BELLS TOLLED IN MOST HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Despite the vengeance of the beginning summer heat, April 19, 2012 was a joyful occasion for the Bethany Sisters. The bells tolled for the 10.00 a.m. Liturgy at the Cathedral as 23 young Sisters made their First Profession. Fittingly, they sang 'Ecce Ancilla Domini'.

His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, shared an inspirational homily encouraging the young Sisters to concentrate on the interior life of virtue for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Like any bride on her wedding day, the 23 young Sisters offered to their spouse, Jesus, the evangelical vow of poverty as their dowry, the evangelical vow of chastity as their wedding gown, and the evangelical vow of obedience as their wedding ring. Sr. Noeline B.S., the Provincial Superior received their vows in the name of the Church for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany.



Parents, family and relatives were somewhat overwhelmed to see the zeal that was evident in their offer of themselves to the service of the Master. Visitors from cooler regions of India felt the 'warmth' of the Kolkata sun. However, nothing stood in the way of relishing the spiritual moments in the dedication of these young Sisters. Many thanks to Fr. I. Peter Arulraj, Pro-Vicar of the Cathedral, and his helpers for the special arrangements that the joy-filled occasion demanded. Following the Eucharistic Liturgy were well-spoken felicitations and then a festive meal to satisfy the appetites of all present.

CHRIST THE KING'S PARISH WALKED TO CALVARY

Against all odds – the flashes of lightning, the roaring of thunder, the heavy sheets of rain, the small pieces of hail, nothing could stop the parishioners of Church of Christ the King Parish from carrying out their annual Good Friday procession. About five hundred people including sisters, seminarians and priests waded through the flooded streets of Jannager – Crematorium – Beniapukur -Linton – CIT – Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road – Orient Row- Park Street, pausing for a few minutes at each station along the way, marked by a Flex that held itself bravely against the fury of the wind as a mute reminder of Jesus' Passion.

The crowd included children and youth who led the procession, shivering in the pelting rain and hail with merely a T Shirt displaying the theme of the Walk "Mother most Afflicted". With drenched trousers they did the brave march. There was no turning back that day. And then there were senior citizens who 'jittered' bravely through the entire Walk. The capacity of an umbrella to provide shelter increased from two to four people that day. Rain accompanied the entire procession till the Concluding Prayer. And then the rain stopped! Actually!

All along the stretch of the procession it was heartening to see our Hindu and Muslim friends distributing hot black tea and juice. Some even threw water on our feet as we came out of the musky flood water collected in the streets.

The prayers got louder trying to beat the loud claps of thunder and the strides got wider. In spite of the rain and the mess all returned safely to the Church feeling cleansed of their sins. The Lord had a purpose for the rain. Yes, Mary our 'Mother Most Afflicted' was on the journey with us. The road to Calvary must have been painful, sorrowful and devastating for the Mother of the Saviour.



Liturgical Seminar



The Liturgical Commission, on April 19, 2012, organized a Seminar for Religious Women of different Congregations. This was at Archbishop's House from 10 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

Fr. Dominic presented the dynamics of the Seminar. Great emphasis was given to the Art of Celebration which is integral to the successful implementation of the Editio Tertia of the New Roman Missal.

He announced that the "Sing to the Lord" hymnal is currently being revised by Fr. Jacob, sdb. It will include new Liturgical Music. The Mass hymns will be soon recorded on a CD. Thereafter it will be distributed to Parishes and Religious Houses of Men and Women.

Fr. Arul Doss, Professor of Liturgy, Morning Star College, explained the celebration of the Eucharist in detail: (a) Introductory Rite (b) Liturgy of the Word (c) Liturgy of the Eucharist and (d) Concluding Rite. It was a very interactive session with lot of queries and requests for clarification. This was the second phase of the Liturgical Seminar for Religious Sisters.



BIRTHDAYS

PRIESTS WHO CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH :

- 15** Anthony Rodrick
- 19** T. G. Kuriakose
- 24** Neethi Das

ORDINATIONS

- 03** Sebastian Asirvatham
- 06** Cyril Fernandes
- 07** I. Peter Arulraj
- 07** S. Irudaya Raj
- 07** Michael Adesar
- 07** A. Ambrose
- 07** Alphonse Murmu
- 08** George Anthony
- 08** Samuel Bilung
- 09** Joy Cyprian D'Souza
- 10** P. Mark
- 11** Patrick Rodrigues
- 11** Henry Saldanha
- 11** Joseph D'Silva
- 11** John Rudolf D'Souza
- 11** J. Hermil D'Souza
- 13** T. G. Kuriakose
- 17** S. Albert Sahayaraj
- 19** Stephen Tapan Khan
- 19** Gregory Monteiro
- 20** Neethi Das
- 27** Victor David

Forth coming Events;

- 1) Catechetical training programme in Bengali for Catechists at Proggaloy, Barasat on 21st May 2012.
- 2) Vocation Day at Proggaloy Barasat on 13th to 15th May 2012

"A Sound Mind in a Sound Body"



We at Archbishop's House believe, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.' So as a form of relaxation and in-house entertainment, Archbishops Lucas Sirkar

and Thomas D'Souza together with Frs. Hansel D'Souza and Dominic Gomes regularly play a game or two of DOMINO after dinner. And guess what ... time and time again! the Emeritus Archbishop

wins the game. Now that Archbishop Lucas Sirkar has retired to Bandel, we miss his snicker and smile when he wins. May God bless him in his days of relaxation.

Perhaps other residences and presbyteries may wish to start a common recreation like this! It brings in harmony, drives sin away and restores tired minds and bodies! (Almost sounds like the Exultet!!).

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza's May 2012 Programme

01	Tue	08.00 a.m.	St. Joseph Worker Church, Bongaon	Holy Mass; Confirmation
02	Wed		ABH	
03	Thu	04.00 p.m.	ABH	Laity Commission meeting
04	Fri	05.30 p.m.	Prabhu Jisur Girja, Kolkata	Mass for the people; Confirmation
05	Sat	09.00 a.m.	St. Xavier's College Chapel	Holy Mass for CLC
		11.00 a.m.	Loreto Convent, Entally	Final Profession Mass
		06.00 p.m.	Stella Maris Church, Garden Reach	Holy Mass; Installation of new PP
06	Sun	09.30 a.m.	Fatima Shrine, Kolkata	Mass for the People; Confirmation
		12.00 noon	St. Aloysius School, Howrah	Holy Mass : Vocation Camp
		06.00 p.m.	St. Xavier's Chapel, Kolkata	Wedding Jubilee Mass
07	Mon		ABH	
08	Tue		ABH	
09	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Sacred Heart Church, Kharagpur	Deanery Meeting
10	Thu	10.30 a.m.	DSA Convent, Kamarchoki	Jubilee Mass
11	Fri	05.00 p.m.	"Navjeevan", Gobra	Foundation Day
12	Sat	10.00 a.m.	St. Joseph's Convent, Chandannagar	Holy Mass : Golden Jubilee of Srs.
13	Sun	10.00 a.m.	St. Ignatius Church, Ekbalpore	Holy Mass : Confirmation
		06.00 p.m.	St. Teresa's Church, Moulali	Mass for the people
14	Mon		ABH	
15	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Proggaloy, Barasat	Vocation Camp
		07.30 p.m.	To Raiganj	
16	Wed	05.00 p.m.	Bishop's House, Raiganj	BRBC Meeting
17	Thu	09.30 a.m.	St. Joseph's Cathedral, Raiganj	Holy Mass : Bishop Alphonsus' Episcopal Ordination Jubilee
18-	Fri -			
19	Sat		Bagdogra Diocese	Visit
20	Sun	04.30 p.m.	ABH	Meeting of CCWI
21	Mon		ABH	
22	Tue		ABH	
23	Wed		ABH	
24	Thu	04.00 p.m.	St. John's Church, Sealdah	Final Profession Mass : MC Src.
25	Fri	05.00 p.m.	Nitika, Don Bosco	Holy Mass : Jesus Youth
26	Sat	10.30 a.m.	Auxilium Convent : Dum Dum	Final Profession Mass
27	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Our Lady of Vallankanni : Pinnic Garden	Mass : Confirmation
		04.45 p.m.	to Guwahati	
28	Mon	08.30 a.m.	Bethany Provincialate :	Golden Jubilee Mass
		06.25 p.m.	Guwahati to Kolkata	
29	Tue	04.30 p.m.	ABH	Catechetical core team meeting
30	Wed	05.45 p.m.	St. Anthony's, Market Street	Flag hoisting
31	Thu		ABH	