



# SIMDEGA DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

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XXX/III

March – April 2023

## **Bishop's Program**

### **May 2023**

01 : Bano – Parish Declaration

04 : Salgapose – Priestly Ordination : Dcn. Bhushan Bara by Most Rev. Sebastiao Mascarenhas, Baroda Diocese

05 : Khanjaloya – Priestly Ordination : Dcn. David Ekka, Gumla Diocese, at 7.00 am.

07 : Samsera – Priestly Ordination : Dcn. Noas Bilung, Simdega Diocese, at 6.30 am.

10 : Kuruskela – Blessing of School building at 6.30 am.

14 : Gangutoli – Priestly Ordination : Dcn. Sanjeet Samad HGN, at 6.30 am.

15 : Tongo – Priestly Ordination : Dcn. Asim Gregory Minj, Jhabua Diocese, at 7.00 am.

17 : Rengarih – Confirmation at 6.30 am.

21 : Jamtoli – Confirmation at 7.00 am.

23 : Piriapose – Priestly Ordination : Dcn. Arvind Xaxa, at 6.30 am.

25 : Bishop's House – Consultors' Meeting at 9.00 am.

27-28 : Kurdeg – Silver Jubilee Vicariate Catholic Mahila Sangh

31 : Tukutoli – Silver Jubilee of St. Nicolas Catholic Church, at 7.00 am.

## **8 MARCH – SAMTOLI: LITURGICAL FORMATION**

A seminar was organized for all the priests and religious of the diocese on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Parish Hall Samtoli on Apostolic Letter "Desiderio Desideravi" which is based on the liturgical formation of the people of God. There were around 185 priests and religious who renewed their liturgical formation and deepened their God experience.

The seminar began with the Bible procession, lighting of the lamp and a short prayer conducted by His Excellency Most Rev. Vincent Barwa. Fr. Fabian Dungdung then, welcomed all the participants and the resource persons. The first talk "Holy Eucharist: Source and summit of Christian Life" was enlightened by Most Rev. Vincent Barwa. While addressing the participants he reminded the teaching of Vatican II on the significance of Holy Eucharist in the life of each baptized. The Eucharist is the sacrament that makes present in the liturgical celebration of the Church the Person of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity and his redeeming sacrifice, in the fulness of the Paschal Mystery of his passion, death and resurrection. The presence is not static or passive, but rather an active presence where Christ makes himself present with the dynamism of his saving love. In the Eucharist he invites us to accept the salvation he offers us and to receive the gift of his Body and Blood as the food of eternal life. This enables us to enter into communion

with him, with his Person and his sacrifice, and also with the members of his Mystical Body, the Church.

The second reflection “The liturgy: a place of encounter with Jesus “was delivered by Dr. Imlus Tete. His reflection was based on the apostolic letter of Pope Francis “desiderio desideravi”. He explained mainly the thoughts of Holy Father on liturgical formation and gave more inputs on pragmatic exercises and salvific meaning of Sacred liturgy. He emphasized more on full, active and conscious participation in the Liturgy and a need of serious and vital liturgical formation i.e formation for the liturgy and formation by the liturgy. He also clarified the questions and doubts of the participants in a very simple and easy way.

Most Rev. Vincent Barwa as the “moderator, promotor and guardian of liturgy of Particular Church” ( RS. 19 : Redemptionis sacramentum and can. 838}4) gave the following instructions on liturgical celebrations:

1. Practice of washing hands, garlanding, putting batches, applying *tikka* are the part of Tribal culture but it should be done before the Eucharistic procession and not in front of the altar.
2. Entrance dance, Bible Procession dance and offertory dance can be done in a moderate way.
3. The vestment proper to the Priest celebrant at Mass, and in other sacred actions directly connected with Mass is the Chasuble worn over the alb and stole. Concelebrants are requested to put on alb and stole during liturgical celebration and not stole over Cassock.

At the end of their address, the participants had a serious discussion on liturgical formation. They agreed to give liturgical formation and catechism classes in all the schools of Simdega Catholic Diocese. The seminar came to an end by sharing of delicious meal.

### **11 MARCH – RENGARIH: APOSTOLIC SCHOOL BOYS’ SELECTION**

Simdega Catholic Diocese has two apostolic schools namely St. Anthony’s Apostolic School Rengarih and St. Joseph’s Apostolic School Banki. 42 boys along with their parents participated in two days orientation program from 11 to 12 March at Rengarih Apostolic School. They had different programs such as talks, adoration, Rosary, cultural program and Holy Eucharist. Fr. Fabian Dungdung, Fr. Neelam R. Minj, Fr. Francis Xavier Bilung and Fr. Emil Dungdung gave their valuable time for selecting the proper candidates for apostolic Schools.

### **18 MARCH – SAMTOLI: CATECHISM! CATECHISM! CATECHISM!**

One day Seminar on “Catechism Classes in our schools” was organized in collaboration with Simdega Catholic Diocese and CRI Simdega Unit for all the Rectors, Superiors, Parish Priests, Principals, Headmasters and Headmistresses of Inter Colleges, High Schools, Middle Schools and Primary Schools in the diocese. There were 99 participants.

After lighting the lamp followed by short prayer conducted by Ursuline Sisters of Jampani, Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, S.J. briefed the background and introduced the theme of the seminar. Thanks to Rev. Bishop Vincent Barwa for taking initiative to organize this seminar and enlightening the participants by his informative and inspiring talk and taking keen interest in teaching Catechism class in our schools. He emphasized on the importance of teaching catechism to our children. He

also suggested that where ever possible priests and nuns should teach catechism in our schools for better impact. He gave reference of many valuable books related to catechism.

The Shepherd of the diocese explained Incarnational Method of catechism. In this method there are 8 stages namely Human Experience, Christ Experience, Word of God, Personal Invitation, Personal Response, Community Response, Active response and follow up of active response.

After the talk Fr. Emmanuel Barla, S.J. led us to serious discussion and come to specific conclusion. The participants actively participated in the open floor discussion. Finally, it was decided that from next academic session (April 2023) the catechism and moral science will be taught in all the catholic schools without fail within the diocese realizing the importance and demand of time. Rev. Fr. Fulgence Kullu informed that besides prescribed books we should teach more books to widen the knowledge of our students. He also said that same syllabus should be followed for catechism so that it will be easier to conduct exams.

Fr. Sylvanus as president of CRI played an important role in organizing and giving impetus to this seminar. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Shailesh Kerketta for taking care of the meals, special thanks to St. Mary's Inter College and Ursuline School Samtoli for bearing expenses for this seminar. The seminar was concluded with a vote of thanks by Fr. Prakash Lakra, CRR at 1.00 p.m.

#### **4 APRIL – SAMTOLI: IN UNION WITH THE LOCAL ORDINARY**

Chrism Mass was celebrated on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at St. Anne's Cathedral Samtoli. Most Rev. Vincent Barwa presided over the Holy Mass and around 110 priests, 50 nuns and 500 faithful participated in it. Before the Chrism Mass the priests and religious had a moment of prayer and adoration. They reflected on the theme "Obedient to the Point of Death – even death on a Cross" (Phil. 2:5-11). Most Rev. Vincent Barwa guided and prepared them for fruitful confession.

My dear Priests, Brothers and Sisters

I wholeheartedly welcome you all for this recollection at the occasion of Chrism Mass. The reading taken from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2: 5-11 for our reflection and meditation is one of the greatest passages ever written about Jesus Christ. It presents the perfect picture of humility; the humility of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the very essence and image of God who humbled himself to the point of utter humiliation to the very point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus Christ humbled himself to the humanity. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ( 2 Cor 5:21). We must let the humility of Jesus Christ flow in an through us, so that the humanity, the Church: people of faith, hope and love can be unified. God will exalt the men and women who humble himself/herself and work for the unity of the followers of Christ. Thus, **Jesus Christ is our Model**: The Apostle Paul and Philippians received four precious gifts (2:1-4) through faith in Jesus Christ: a) to encourage one another to love Jesus more and more and follow his footsteps b) to console among themselves in

pains and sufferings for Christ Sake c) the unity in Spirit in prayer penance, sacrifices and sharing  
d) humility: offering oneself in obedience for the service of others.

The apostle Paul wants to see a strong unity among the Philippians. And the Unity can be experienced and seen only when they will give up their selfishness and pride, and consider the other person greater than himself/herself. Thus, Paul explains and presents the best model and attitude of Jesus: though he was in the form of God from the beginning and he was God; even being equal with God, he became man and like a servant he humbled himself and became obedient.

The Jewish people considered any person hung on a tree, was under God's curse ( Deut. 21:22). Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming curse for us (Gal. 3:13). Death on a cross was considered a great insult for Jewish people. Jesus Christ has shown the completion of his perfection by humility and obedience till the death on the cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**The completion of the Christian Life:** that, we like Jesus become obedient. We have to grow day by day towards the fulfilment. We must step ahead with care and cautious efforts because God himself is working within us. God's grace should not be misused or useless. It must bear fruits in abundance. We should not grumble and complain like Israelites: "do not harden your hearts as at Meri-bah as on the day at Massah in the wilderness" ( Ps. 95:8). Moses called the place Massah and beri-bah because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord saying, "Is God among us or not"? (Ex. 17:7).

**In the diocese:** we have discussed quite a length about the Synodal Church through communion, participation and mission. We can reflect whether my service to the local Church is genuinely helping its growth: in prayers, spreading the Word of God, celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, Sacraments, service and Charity. As a Catholic Priest and religious, am I sincerely submissive and attuned to the policy of the diocese or congregation in the matter of accountability, finance and building up the communities of Community? Have I surrendered myself totally at the foot of the Cross in obedience and for the love of Christ?

Again, our efforts are directed towards forming Basic Christian Communities or SCC in parishes and villages, but first and foremost, it must be formed in our presbytery and convent. As an ordained priest and professed religious Christ has made us sharers in his priesthood and as the messengers of the Good News. We thank the Lord more intensely than ever for our participation in that priesthood. Even if we live alone, we must be aware that we priest and religious form a communion, that we are "the community" – 'a presbyterium'. It is our privilege to be united in the single goal of building up Christ's Body.

Today, at this Eucharist, we priests are invited to renew our promises we made on the occasion of our priestly ordination. We are going to renew in his name the charity to nourish them with the Word and strengthen them with Sacraments and offer a constant witness of faith and love.

Let this renewal enkindle in us joy, the fervor, the generosity, sincerity to commit ourselves to total fidelity to the Lord and to loving service of God's holy people. as religious sisters, we reflect upon our promises which we call evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. "Of whatever rank or status" you are called to a radical commitment to the values of the Gospel. We thank and praise the Lord for this precious gift.

"We have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood". (1 Pt. 1:2)

### **26 MARCH – PASTORAL CENTRE PURNAPANI: NEW LIFE PREPARATION**

Faith formation team is committed to the formation of new couples. Marriage preparation course was conducted at Pastoral Centre Purnapani from 26<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> April in which 62 couples participated and prepared themselves for a new beginning. These couples were specially prepared for a new and fruitful family life. They were given orientation on spiritual, social, sacramental and family life. We sincerely thank to the faith formation team for their dedicated service.

### **15 APRIL – PASTORAL CENTRE PURNAPANI: JESUS CALLS SEMINAR**

It is important to give guidance to the young people who aspire to become servants in the vineyard of God. Keeping in mind the need of right orientation, three days seminar (15 – 17 April) was organized for the aspirants of religious life. 29 boys and 4 girls shared their religious vocation. They were given a basic and initial formation of religious and priestly life. They were happy and content with this program. 28 boys opted to become priest for Simdega Catholic Diocese. We appreciate the hard work and great responsibilities of each priest of our diocese who inspire young boys and girls for religious life.

### **21 APRIL – PASTORAL CENTRE PURNAPANI: FAITH FORMATION OF VILLAGE LEADERS**

Villages Leaders (panches) are the intimate collaborators of pastors of souls. It is they who become channel between the parish priests and the faithful. They have different responsibilities such as: to conduct the meeting in the villages, to prepare recommendation letters, to mobilize the faithful for spiritual cause, to guide the faithful in right path etc. They also play a great role in the faith formation of the people of God. Therefore, we feel that they should be properly instructed in various sphere of Church's life.

Three days seminar was organized for the village's heads from 21 – 23 April at Pastoral Centre Purnapani. The seminar was initiated with a short prayer and Bible Procession. BCC team of our diocese under the leadership of Rev. Edmond Bara gave their valuable inputs about Basic Christian Communities and its role to spread the Word of God among the people who are still away from the knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

On the second day of Seminar Fr. Anand Baa spoke on "The Eucharist: Source and summit of Christian Life". He encouraged the participants to be regular in the Holy Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration. Then Fr. Simon Nazareth shared his experience on "Alcoholism: a sickness". He tried to explain the participants through his own life story about the consequences of addiction. He also

gave them valuable suggestions to overcome with the clutch of alcoholism. Fr. Henry Lakra shared his concern on legal aid. Our people are so much frightened of the formalities of court. It is because of the lack of knowledge of the laws and legal formalities. It is not that simple but it can be learned through regular practices. We should not be fearful of the court but we need to face it, he said. The second half of the day was dedicated for spiritual renewal which was conducted by Fr. Sebastian Ekka. He gave them spiritual guidance and prepared them for a good confession.

On the third day Fr. Fabian Dungdung gave them instructions on practical responsibilities of the village leaders. He explained them how to write reports and recommendation letters. They were happy and satisfied with the program.

## **29 APRIL – LACHRAGARH: DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SABHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Diocesan Catholic Sabha was held from 29-30 April at Lachragarh Parish. Fr. Ignatius Tete by hoisting the papal flag and lighting the lamp gave the conference its beginning. More than 3500 participants witnessed the day with their presence. They reflected on two topics; Fathers' Role in sustaining the Church and Importance of Eucharist and liturgical celebration in the life of Catholic Church.

The first theme "Fathers' Role in sustaining the Church" was dealt by Mr. Sudhir Dang. During his address, he shared his own experience of being a member of the Church. The Church has done innumerable things for the tribals in Chotanagpur. Whatever we are today is the gift of the Church. But at the same time, we are losing the Christian values, youth is going behind the worldly pleasures, we have become selfish and individualistic. Therefore, we need to be faithful towards our responsibilities to safeguard and support the Church, he said. There were lots of questions and clarifications after the session. It shows that they were very attentive and excited.

On 30<sup>th</sup> morning, Most Rev. Vincent Barwa presided over the Holy Eucharist with more than 20 concelebrants. In his homily, he emphasized on Holy Eucharist and participation in the Holy Eucharist.

The second theme "Importance of Eucharist and liturgical celebration in the life of the Church" was presented by Fr. Fabian Dungdung. While speaking about the Eucharist he stressed more on the real presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine. The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist. He suggested that every baptized should strive to receive it at least once a week. He also shared saying that our participation in the Holy Eucharist should be full, active and conscious.

Liturgy is the official worship of the Church. A celebration is called liturgical celebration when there is the participation of people of God, proclamation of the word of God, which is administered by a valid minister and breaking of bread and wine. In all the liturgical celebrations Christ is present in the form of people of God, Word of God, in the form of Minister and bread and wine. Explaining the apostolic letter of Pope Francis, "Desiderio desideravi" he stressed on liturgical formation. The people of God should have concern on formation for the Liturgy and formation by the

Liturgy. Priests, religious, parents, teachers are responsible to teach children about the liturgy and encourage them to participate regularly in the liturgical celebration.

**NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS IN THE DIOCESE**

Name	Parish	Date	Diocese/ Cong.	Minister
Fr. Valentine Sinduria Sj	Lachragarh	22.04.2023	Society of Jesus, Ranchi Province	+ Vincent Barwa
Fr. Mankuwar Toppo	Barwadih	25.04.2023	Indian Missionary society, Ranchi Region	+ Vincent Barwa
Fr. Bhushan Bara	Salgapose	04.05.2023	Baroda diocese	+Sebastiao Mascarenhas
Fr. David Ekka	Khanjaloya	05.05.2023	Gumla Diocese	+ Vincent Barwa
Fr. Noas Bilung	Samsara	07.05.2023	Simdega Diocese	+ Vincent Barwa
Fr. Sanjeet Samad	Gangutoli	14.05.2023	Heralds of Good News	+ Vincent Barwa

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