



SIMDEGA DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

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January - February 2025

Bishop's Program

March – 2025

- 1-2 : Gangutoli – Diocesan Catholic Sabha Annual Conference
- 03 : Mandar – Medical Check up
- 05 : Samtoli – Ash Wednesday
- 06 : Bishop's House – Visit of SRA Provincial at 10:00 a.m.
- 07 : Samtoli – Rocollection for priests
- 08-09 : Tumdegi – Diocesan Mahila Sangh Annual Conference
- 16 : Pharsabera – Holy Mass for pilgrims at 11.00 a.m.
- 23-24 : Kutungia – Anniversay of Martyrdom of Fr. Herman Raschaert SJ.

April – 2025

- 05 : Samtoli (Siyadohor) – Blessing of Convent and Hostel
- 13 : Samtoli – Palm Sunday
- 15 : Samtoli – Recollection & Chrism Mass
- 17-20 : Samtoli – Easter Tridium and celebration
- 21–28 : Holy Land visit
- 27 : Bindhaintoli – Confirmation by Fr. Ignatius Tete (V.G)

Priestly Ordinations in the Diocese of Simdega: January – February 2025

S.N.	Name	Date of Ordination	Place	Minister
1.	Fr. Ajay Paulus Minj SJ (Ranchi)	12 th January 2025	Piriaponch	+ Vincent Barwa
2.	Fr. Naveen Kerketta FDP	14 th January 2025	Barwadih	+ Vincent Barwa
3.	Fr. Anil Topno (Purnea)	18 th January 2025	Kutungia	+ Francis Tirkey
4.	Fr. Pawan Vikas Xalxo (Hazaribag)	19 th January 2025	Kurdeg	+ Vincent Barwa
5.	Fr. Immanuel Baghwar (Simdega)	9 th February 2025	Dhingurpani	+ Vincent Barwa
6.	Fr. Dominic Dang	15 th February 2025	Banki	+ Vincent Barwa
7.	Fr. Alok Barla OCD	16 th February 2025	Bindhaintoli	+ Vincent Barwa
8.	Fr. James Samad	23 rd February 2025	Gangutoli	+ Vincent Barwa
9.	Fr. Pradeep Soreng (Patna)	26 th February 2025	Tainser	+ Vincent Barwa

January 12, 2025 : Pastoral Centre Purnapani – Demise of Fr. Marcus Bilung

Fr. Marcus Bilung returned to his eternal abode on 12th January 2025. He is buried in the graveyard of Pastoral Centre Purnapani. He was 76 years old. He served the diocese in different capacities as parish priest, school teacher, Apostolic Director and member of faith formation commission. He performed his priestly ministry in Torpa, Samtoli, Dhingurpani, Tumdegi, Kutungia, Muria and Kolebira. May God him eternal rest.

February 8, 2025 – Ongoing formation of priest at SDC – 6-8 February

An Ongoing Formation Programme for Jhaan region diocesan priests was held at SDC, Ranchi from 6-8 February, 2025 wherein 74 members participated fruitfully. Fr. Amrit Barwa , Fr. Arvind Xaxa , Fr. Herman Xalxo, Fr. Ranjit Dungdung, Fr. Rajesh Kerketta, Fr. Gabriel Dungdung, Fr. Edmond Bara participated from Simdega Catholic Diocese.

The first day was dedicated to delving into the identity of priesthood, second day to updating the participants about the canonical aspects of the celebration of sacraments and parish administration as well as about social media, and the third day to assimilating the pastoral leadership as expected by the bishops from their priests.

In his inaugural address His Grace, Most Rev Vincent Aind of Ranchi Archdiocese reminded the participants of their priestly ordination mottos by citing his own “Let Him increase, let me decrease” and his episcopal ordination motto “Abide in my love”. He challenged them whether they had chosen their mottos after deep consideration and reflection and whether they are living their mottos after their priestly ordination.

In the first session Fr John Crasta expounded the topic “Priestly Identity/Roles and its Implementation”. He elaborated it with the heart of Synodality in the light of the Final Document on the Synodal Church. He said the wounds of the Risen Lord continues to bleed in the bodies of many brothers and sisters whose cause we priests are. He spoke on the spirituality of diocesan priests which is based on the Christian spirituality and whose characteristics are the three evangelical counsels: celibacy, poverty and obedience. He advised them to configure themselves to the Good Shepherd. Regular self-renewal for moral and spiritual integrity is needed in the life of priests.

The second session was introspection session guided by Fr Charles Leon, Executive Secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR on “Church Perspectives on Ongoing Formation of Clergy and of Human Dimensions in our Pastoral Life”. He explained that there are two types of priestly formation: Initial (Seminary to Ordination) and Ongoing (after Ordination to Death) formations whose aim is configuring Christ. Its purposes for priests are to make them shepherd leaders, to update their knowledge and to deepen and strengthen their spiritual life. Its rationale is that priests should update themselves and minister to the faithful relevantly and effectively. Priests are categorised into younger, middle aged and elderly priests.

In the third session he gave an input on how priestly life is a journey from Tabor to Calvary after which he divided the participants into eight groups for group discussion on “Previously acquired knowledge and presently lived experience” whereby they made a report on four areas: Personal (Human) life, Spiritual life, Pastoral life and relationship with Diocesan/Deanery Administration presenting the context, challenges and concretization for pastoral responses in all the four areas.

The fourth session was devoted to the topic “Priest and Social Media/Digital Challenges Today” by Fr Justin Tirkey, SJ. He differentiated between the traditional and social media, advantages and disadvantages of social media. He said that the church uses it in three stages: suspicion and rejection, imitation with caution and great sense of mission with critical understanding. There are five levels of social media engagement: observing, following, engaging, endorsing and contributing. There are six levels of participation in social media: watcher, whisper, willing, wailer, warrior and wise. Jesus is the perfect communicator. So let us be connected, rooted and renovated in social media to reform, perform and transform the world. The principle of Christian communication is truthful, loving and inclusive.

In the fifth and sixth sessions, Fr Reginald Furtado, OFM Cap. explained the topic “Celebration of Sacraments and its Emerging Norms” wherein he pointed out a number of malpractices in the liturgical celebrations especially in the Eucharist which are consciously or ignorantly inserted in the liturgy by priests themselves. In the seventh session Fr Emmanuel Kujur explained the topic “Parish Administration – Update of Canonical Implications”. In the eighth session Fr Valerian Lobo spoke on the topic “Pilgrims of Hope” encouraging us to celebrate the Jubilee 2025 with vigour.

In the ninth session Fr Charles Leon explicated the topic “Pastoral Leadership – Power and Care Dimensions in a Pastor” after which he disseminated the CCBI pastoral plan, in the tenth session, especially the section III of the booklet which is all about CDPI. The chairman of VSCR, Jhaan, Rt Rev. Binay Kandulna expressed the expectations of bishops from the priests stating that the roles of the priests in the church are indispensable. They should have a good knowledge of their threefold functions of teaching, sanctifying and shepherding and ought to fulfil their priestly obligation of divine office. Changes after Covid-19 are challenges to priests in witnessing our Good Shepherd. He advised them to imbibe the Christlike servant leadership so as to build the Kingdom of God. Finally, Fr Charles Leon summarised the group discussed resolutions in the form of fruits gathering and action plan for pastoral enrichment and a paradigm shift.

Fr Remis Toppo, the Secretary to CDPI, Jhaan proposed the vote of thanks for the resource persons, organizers, accommodation staff members and the participants for a successful completion of the programme.

February 12, 2025 : Samtoli – Provisional affiliation to Holy Spirit School

A long-awaited dream of having an English Medium School for our own tribal children was fulfilled on 12th February 2025 when CISCE Delhi conferred a provisional affiliation to Holy Spirit School Samtoli. It was a communal efforts, tireless preparation and dedication of Governing Board members and school staff, which brought myriads of smile on the faces of many parents and students.

This great achievement was celebrated by the priests of Simdega Catholic Diocese on 21st February 2025 at the basement of Holy Spirit School. Most Rev. Vincent Barwa addressing to the priests said that it is a day for us to encourage each other and celebrate. We congratulate and appreciate the entire Holy Spirit family for this great achievement. The purpose of opening Holy Spirit School is to provide quality education to our tribal children. Hope this school will carry on to bring manifold blessing in lives of thousands of students.

February 21, 2025 – Pastoral Centre Purnapani – Catechist Seminar

A seminar was organized by faith formation team from 18 – 21 February 2025 at Fr. Cardon's Arts, Culture and Research Centre Purnapani. There were 179 catechists who actively took part in the seminar. Rev. Fr. Paul Tirkey gave the talk on "Homiletics" and prepared them to be better communicators of the Lord.

February 27, 2025: St. Anne's Cathedral Samtoli – Recollection

Lenten season is a time of grace and a spiritual preparation to the celebration of Lord's resurrection. It is time of self-introspection, repentance of sins and coming closer to God. Looking forward to a better preparation of Easter, the priests and brothers had a day of spiritual recollection on 27th February 2025 at St. Anne's Cathedral Samtoli. There were approximately 110 priests and brothers who participated in the recollection.

Rev. Fr. Kurian OCD, guided the recollection. In his talk, he made us to reflect about sin and guilt which lead us to destruction and death. Guilt creates fear: 1. Fear that I will be found. 2. Fear that I will be rejected by others. 3. Fear that someone will retaliate. 4. Fear that God is going to punish me.

But Jesus counteracts sin and guilt from the cross saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing (Lk23:34). Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise (Lk 23:43)".

What we normally do with our guilt?

1. We conceal it (Prov. 28:13).
2. We blame others (Gen.3:12).

3. We wound ourselves.

Revealing our feelings is the beginning of our healing. Jesus wants us to admit, repent and asks for forgiveness.

What does Jesus do with our guilt?

1. He forgives instantly.
2. He forgives completely (Col. 2:13-14).
3. He forgives always (Heb. 7:25).
4. He forgives freely (Ps.32:1-2).

Important Information to communicate to the faithful of Simdega Catholic Diocese

1. With much reflection, discussion and inspection, Most Rev. Vincent Barwa, Bishop of Simdega Catholic Diocese found that the preaching and teaching of the following persons are not according to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Therefore, he has banned the prayers centres and has imposed a penalty (banned to receive sacraments for a year, banned to preach in the diocese of Simdega) to the persons concerned:
 - Anmol Malik (a resident of Talsera, Sawnamara parish, Odisha) and team who run a prayer centre at Barhnijore, Tainser parish.
 - Mr. Nestore Dungdung (a resident of Nongara, Tainser parish).
 - Alma Herenj and team who run a prayer centre at Meromloya, Tumdegi Parish.
2. Vocation camp for Simdega Catholic Diocese is organized at Pastoral Centre Purnapani from 20 – 23 March 2025. Kindly announce it in your respective parishes.
3. Chism Mass will be celebrated on 15th April 2025 at St. Anne's Cathedral Samtoli. All the priests, religious and faithful of the diocese are invited to take part in it. Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 a.m and the oils will be blessed. Please encourage faithful to bring oil for the blessing.
4. Kindly submit the collection of Jubilee flags to Fr. Fabian Dungdung and Holy Childhood collection.