



## Shepherd's Voice

### RENEWAL FOR A REVIVAL

Once again we are in the season of Lent, a time for renewal of each one of us, our families and communities. By renewal we mean setting priorities in life. For this we need to follow the example of the Lord himself who spends time in silence and prayer to sort out and focus on the life-giving stream. He sheds all those things that hamper the flow of life and moves ahead with the stream. Man does not enjoy life or live in the fullness of life by wealth or status or prestige but by the Word or God's stream of life. So the Lord is asking us in a very special way these days to be attuned to the Word, the Word made flesh.

Once with Jesus and his word, we realize the meaninglessness of carrying the useless burdens that prevent our journey forward as messengers of the Good News. So let this season be taken seriously as a God-given chance to shed away the troubling burdens we carry in life. The Lord says, 'unless you deny yourself, unless you renounce certain attachments, may be certain things, may be certain temperaments, certain attitudes, certain prejudices etc. etc. that keep us internally and externally bonded, you will not experience the freedom of God's child.' So the significance of this season is to sort out the accidentals in life which are needed to be put aside or uprooted!

Here we need to accept Jesus "the way, the truth and life". It was his continuous and consistent surrender to the Father that brought the greatness of the 'beloved son of God'- awareness to him. "Into your hands I commend my spirit", "not my will but your will be done"- this had been the tune of his life. Shall we walk his line of life?

+Bishop Sebastian Kallupura

**Bishop's Programme**

### March

- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with *Manos Unidas* Personnel
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bhojpur Deanery Meeting, shahpur
- 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting with ICM Provincial
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mass for the Marriage Preparation course
- 14<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Consult, Buxar
- 19<sup>th</sup> Blessing of Amolia Convent
- 20<sup>th</sup> Priests' Meeting on Liturgy, Buxar
- 21<sup>st</sup> One day programme on the new English Missal, Koath
- 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Claretians
- 28<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting

### April

- 29<sup>th</sup> -April 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Week, Kudra
- 11<sup>th</sup> Diocesan level celebration of Consecrated life by religious (Carmel Convent), Buxar
- 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Bhagalpur diocesan Golden Jubilee celebration
- 15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Retreat for Bettiah Diocesan Priests
- 25<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee of Fr. Charles, SDB, Itarhi

## 1. Major Events

BRBC: Bihar Regional Bishops' Conference bifurcated from BIJHAN in its first ever meeting at NJN, Patna on 27 Nov. 2014 made a few important decisions.

1. NJN and R. Bharati will be the property of BRBC.
2. Office Bearers:
  - Chairperson – **Archbishop William D'Souza SJ**
  - Secretary General – **Bishop Sebastian Kallupura**
  - Commissions & Chairpersons:
    - Justice, Peace & Development, Labour, SC ST, Family & Laity, SCC, Communication – **Bishop Sebastian Kallupura**
    - Education & Culture, Health, Theology, Doctrine, Women & Prison ministry– **Archbishop William D'Souza SJ**
    - Christian Life & Canon Law – **Bishop Cajetan Francis**
    - Ecumenism & Proclamation – **Bishop Kurian Valiakandathil**
    - Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy & Religious – **Bishop Angelus Kujur**

- Youth – Fr. Lawrence Paschal SJ

### **Sisters' Gathering:**

A get-together was arranged for the Religious Sisters at the Bishop's House on 4 January, 2015. About 40 Sisters took their time off to celebrate the joy of sharing in various ministries of the diocese. On the occasion Bishop offered a special mass and shared lunch with them. He also offered them gifts as an expression of gratitude for their collaborative efforts.

### **Christmas and New Year Get-together:**

Priests of the diocese came together on January 8 to celebrate Christmas and New Year get-together. Preceding the gathering there was a recollection directed by Fr. Jacob, OCD. On this day, all the priests present took a decision to spend a day of prayer on the last Friday of every alternative month.

### **Golden Jubilee of the Cathedral Church**

January 14 was a great day for Buxar Parish as it celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Church. A large number of faithful came to celebrate the 'Golden Moment'. A solemn Jubilee Mass offered by our Bishop and the parishioners put up a very impressive cultural programme. Veterans shared their experience covering the last 50 years since the construction of the Church by Fr. Edmund Burk, SJ.

Priests and Religious from the parish were special invitees on the occasion. On this very auspicious occasion, foundation stone was laid for a shrine in front of the Church. Congratulations to the Cathedral Parish Priest, Fr. Anil Benet.

### **Seminar on Education:**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, from 10am to 3pm, a seminar was organized at Sewadham, Buxar for the religious and priests of the diocese on the theme "Challenges to Pedagogy Today." The seminar was well attended by about 50 priests and religious from both the deaneries. The resource person of the day, Fr. Joe Arimpoor sdb from New Delhi led the participants into a highly interactive session on "Nine Principles of Preventive System of Education." The seminar was organized by the SDBs of Itarhi in collaboration with the diocese as part of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the birth of Saint John Bosco, the founder of the Salesians.

### **First Death Anniversary:**

Frs. Jose P., Francis M. and James A. from our diocese joined the memorial mass for late Archbishop Benedict J. Osta, SJ on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January at Kurji. Masses were

offered for the departed soul in our parishes too. Generous contribution towards a scholarship fund established in the name of late Archbishop are welcome. Please contact Patna Archbishop's House.

On January 15 bishop offered memorial mass in the Cathedral Church for the **repose of the soul of Sr. Savio**, SSH on her first death anniversary. Sr. Elsitia SSH, the provincial was present at the occasion.

### **Don Bosco Feast Celebrated:**

The 31<sup>st</sup> of January marked the feast of Don Bosco. The festive mass, well attended by the Catholic children of the School and parishioners of Itarhi was presided over by Fr. Francis Mathathilani, dean of Shahbad. A *Preetibhoj (Agape)* and screening of a film titled "Johny" followed.

The 'Sisters of Disciple of Jesus' had a day of celebration on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January commemorating the feast of St. Don Bosco, their Patron Saint. A special Mass was offered by our Bishop and a delicious dinner followed.

### **Workshop for Principals and Secretaries:**

To build a better and cooperative relationship with the parents who are indispensable stakeholders of education, a one-day workshop was organized by the Education Director of Buxar diocese, Fr. Josey Mathias, SJ., on 7<sup>th</sup> February at Sewa Dham, Buxar. The focal point of the workshop was "**Parenting Skills**" in two parts: **(a) Knowing the School** – its mission and vision and the kind of formation we impart with Christian ethos. **(b) Parenting Skills** - in consonance with the mission and vision of the school and parents accountability to the school. Fr. Norbert was the chief resource person assisted by Fr. Josey Mathias, SJ.

There were 32 participants from all the schools of the diocese. Thanks for the warm hospitality extended by Fr. James Amakatt and Fr. Anil Benet.

Fr. Josey Mathias, SJ

### **Multi Religious Prayer Summit**

Fr. James represented the diocese of Patna at a Multi Religious Prayer Summit on 14-15 February 2015 organized by the Pontifical Council (PCID), CBCI and the diocese of Varanasi, its theme being Celebrating Diversity of Religions to Foster a World of Peace and Love. Its purpose was to celebrate 50 years of *Nostra Aetate* in India.

### **A New Grotto for Our Lady of Carmel at Koath:**

Koath Mission has a new grotto of Our Lady of Carmel built at the side of the main entrance-gate. It was blessed by BP. Sebastian on February 19, in the presence of many Carmelites, Priests, religious and people of the diocese. *Kudos* to Fr. Augustine OCD, who worked for it relentlessly

and even damaged his index finger in the process. Congratulations to Fr. Jacob, OCD whose vision made this 'place of devotion' a reality. With the spirituality based programmes to be conducted in Koath, the place is to turn into a centre of God experience.

### **Annual Day**

On 21st February, St. Joseph's School, Itarhi was blessed to have the august presence of Shri. Udhay Narayan Chowdhari, Speaker of Bihar Assembly as a Chief Guest for its annual day programme. The encouraging words of our dear Bishop *Swami* on the occasion regarding the upgradation of the school will remain long in the minds of the students.

### **CRI Meet:**

A meeting of Buxar Unit of CRI was held on February 21 at Pragati Multi-purpose Hall in Kochas. "I want to say one word to you and this word is 'Joy'. Wherever Consecrated people are, there is always Joy". This inspiring quote of Pope Francis was a point of reference for the gathering. As many as 22 "joy-filled" Religious men and women representing different Congregations working in Buxar diocese participated in the meeting.

Fr. Susai Raj, SJ the resource person enlightened the group with his deep reflections on Consecrated Life- "Apostolic Religious Life as *Nishkama Karma*". The participants returned with conviction to follow religious life and serve God through a life of integrity and dedicated ministry.

Sr. Florice, ICM

### **Award for the Best performance in TB Control:**

It is with a deep sense of JOY and GRATITUDE to God that I share this beautiful momentous event of Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 when all the TB patients we have treated over the years in Sasaram, Bihar with the healing touch of Jesus the compassionate Healer affirmed our dedicated and effective service to them. The Memento and Certificate of excellence I received from the Chief Guest, Mr. Satyendra Jain Health Minister, Delhi is the visible symbol of this acknowledgement. **Sr. Prema Devaraj, SND**

### **A Day of Fast & Prayer:**

On February 27 as many as 14 Priests from the diocese gathered at Buxar Cathedral and spent the day in fasting and praying for the diocese and the entire Church. Fr. Mathew Kattathara, SJ led the prayer. This was the first prayer meeting after the decision taken on the day of priests' Christmas get-together at Buxar.

### **International Women's Day:**

About 500 women gathered in front of *Sewa Dham*, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March to celebrate International Women's Day. Among many others Bishop addressed the crowd. On this occasion **WEE** Women Empowerment

Entrepreneurship, a marketing linkage of SHG was inaugurated by Chief Guest Meena Singh in the presence of Ms. Sandhan Pandey while Bishop blessed a new Bolero pick-up van for the above purpose.

Mr. Prabodh, Project Coordinator

## **2. News Makers**

**Sr. Leoba, CJ** celebrated her Golden Jubilee at Chirag on 17<sup>th</sup> of January. A good number of religious joined the jubilee mass offered by our Bishop.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February **Sister Alka, SND** at Chenari celebrated her Silver Jubilee. Sr. Alka spent almost all the years, as a sister with the rural poor, empowering them. Congratulations Sister. Our prayers are with you.

**Fr. Charles Lobo, SDB** is in his **Golden Jubilee Year**. On Ash Wednesday while going to a village for mass he was knocked off his bike by a pick-up van. He escaped with minor injuries. Soon after that he was able to join his friends and relatives on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Are all these golden gifts? Nay more! Itarhi parish will very soon celebrate the golden occasion very solemnly.

**Fr. Bijoy** too had a similar accident, but to save a dog!

**BISHOP SEBASTIAN:** Our Bishop returned to the diocese on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February after attending the CCBI meeting in Bangalore. After 10 days he went for his regular checkup in Hyderabad hospital. Since the stones are not fully flushed out of the pancreas he is advised to take more medicines. Let us pray for his full recovery.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January Bishop's feast was celebrated in a simple manner at Buxar.

**DISCIPLES OF JESUS:** Fr. Joe D'Souza the founder of 'Disciples of Jesus' was kind enough to send two brothers and two more sisters to help out in our parishes. Bro. **Cosmos** is at Piro, while Bro. **Polycarp** is at Kudhra. Srs. Kamala and Shanti are assigned to stay in Anandpura village in Amulya parish. Most welcome to you brothers and sisters!

### **Ordination and Felicitation:**

**Fr. Maneesh Dayal, OFM Cap.** was given a warm "swagat" in Itarhi parish on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This second priest son of the parish was ordained on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February at Catholic Church, Patna City, by our dear Bishop *swami*. On 17<sup>th</sup> February he had his first Mass in his own village, Vishunpura, attended by a big crowd. Fr. Maneesh's consecrated life has certainly inspired many a minds of the young.

## **3. Varia**

### **Visitors' Column**

The Claretian provincial and team from Ranchi visited our diocese from 15 to 18 February. The Provincial has agreed

to start a house at Nuaon (some 15-20 km from Buxar on Chausa-Mohania road) very shortly. Welcome Fathers. Fr. Deosahay, the first Claretian to work in the diocese (BUDSSS) must have had a pivotal role to play in the process! Thank you.

**Provincial's Address:** Provincial

Claratian Provincial House, Bharati Nagar, Tambaram,  
Tamil Nadu. Ph. No. 09444444614

**Logos Global Bible quiz**

Before the registration for the Logos Global Bible Quiz in June, 2015 the study of the following books from the Bible is to be on: 1. Numbers 1-10 2. Proverbs 1-9 3. St. John 1-12 4. Jude

**Note:** For further details please contact the Parish Priest.

**Exposure programme for the IBC Animators**

Staff of IBC (Italian Bishops' Conference) and the Social Ministry director had an exposure to Kolkata from 6 to 9 Feb. 2015. The group during their exposure visited several prominent places in the city. The group performed a nukkard Natak on social theme at Gandhiji Prem Nevas Leprosy Centre Titagarh, where over 300 patients enjoyed the performance. Kudos to Fr. Deosahay, Cmf, the director of the Social Ministry in Buxar diocese.

**Seminarians:**

The 11 Major and 7 Minor Seminarians are doing well in their respective places. The visit of Fr. James to the ones in Varanasi and Nagpur boosted their morale. They will be in the diocese in the months of May and June for summer holidays. Bro. Jitender, doing his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of philosophy will return to the diocese to do his regency.

**4. News at a Glance:**

- Bro. Geo Pulickal, SJ died on 04.02.2015 in Jaipur. He served Catholic School Ara for a year. R.I.P.
- All the Catechists, including Don Bosco Sisters, working in the diocese had a Christmas get-together on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January at the Bishop's House, Buxar. Bishop's message and Eucharist for them on the occasion was accompanied by *agape* and gifts.
- The XIII National council of CDPI was held in Nagpur on 24 to 27 February 2015, its theme being Effective Ministry to the Families in the Light of synod. Fr. James represented our diocese.
- Bishop and the Bishop's House personnel are housed in Sewa Dham (SD) from the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. It in fact coincided with the three day programme of the ICM provincial and her team meeting with the sisters from the North Zone. If you are in need of board and lodging in SD, please call on Fr. Amalan, the Administrator.

- Our Catholic High Schools at Dumraon and Buxar had to offer the facilities to conduct Inter and Matric Exams imposed by the district authority. This was so at the expense of rescheduling the internal school exams and of losing school days for students.
- Frs. Dominic Amalan and Bhasker took time off from their ministries to visit their family members at home. They came back rejuvenated & energised after a month of holiday.
- Shahabad Deanery met at Shahpur on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March while Rohtas at Kudra on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.
- The ICM Sisters at Kochas have taken up the responsibility of starting a school at Kochas, for the diocese. They will be responsible for the academic matters of the school for the next 5 years, while the diocese will manage the rest.
- **Applications for Nursing:** +2 students can apply to KHFH from 01 March to 15 May 2015. GNM Pass can also apply for Post Basic Nursing Course. Applications are invited for ANM course too. Contact Ph. 0612 / 2274727. Website: [www.kufjiholyfamilyhospital.org.com](http://www.kufjiholyfamilyhospital.org.com)
- Applications for GNM & ANM courses in Tripolia Nursing School are available from 10 March to 30 April 2015. Contact TSSH - Nos. 09472034517 / 09430511600

**Forthcoming Events:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> March, Priests' meet on Liturgy, Buxar
- 28<sup>th</sup> March Diocesan Pastoral Council, Buxar
- 30<sup>st</sup> March Chrism Mass, Piro
- 11<sup>th</sup> April, Consecrated Life Celebration Churamanpur Convent, Buxar
- 16-17 April, workshop on 'The New Catechetical Directory' at NJN, Patna. 10 participants from Buxar diocese can attend.
- 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> June Vocation Promotion Seminar, Buxar
- 25 May - 3 June, VII class Catechetical Camp, Sewa Dham

**Transfers:**

- Sr. Amala, CJ from Dumraon to Darjeeling
- Sr. Pushpita, CJ from Itarhi to Dumraon
- Sr. Lucy, CJ from Gulni to Itarhi as principal
- Sr. Bela, SND from Chenari to Tilaya

**New arrivals:** Sr. Prasan SND, Mary Kandula (Good Samaritan, Buxar) and Fr. Anish SDB to Itarhi which is to be the first love for him as a Priest.

Diocese is deeply grateful to Srs. Amala CJ and Bela SND for their dedicated service in the diocese. We whole

heartedly welcome Srs. Lucy, CJ, Prasan, SND, Sr. Mary, CSS and Fr. Anish, SDB to be part of the diocesan family.

***Manos Unidas***

Ms. Africa Marcitllach and Eva Torregimeno from *Manos Unidas*, long time partners in our ministry, were kind enough to visit different Centres in the diocese on 2-5 March.

They were much pleased with the services being rendered and are hopeful of more assistance in future.

Ref. page	Incorrect	Correct
3/2	Daughters of St. Ann	Sister of Mary Immaculate

27/2	Fr. Vincent Francis SJ	Fr. Lawrence Paschal, SJ
31/2	Provincial OCD	Delegate Provincial
31 add 7		Provincial (CMF)Claretian Provincial House, Bharati Nagar, Tambaram, TN. Ph. 09444444614, E-mail: vincyancescmf@gmail.com