

# FOOTPRINTS

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." IS.52:7*

Volume : 1

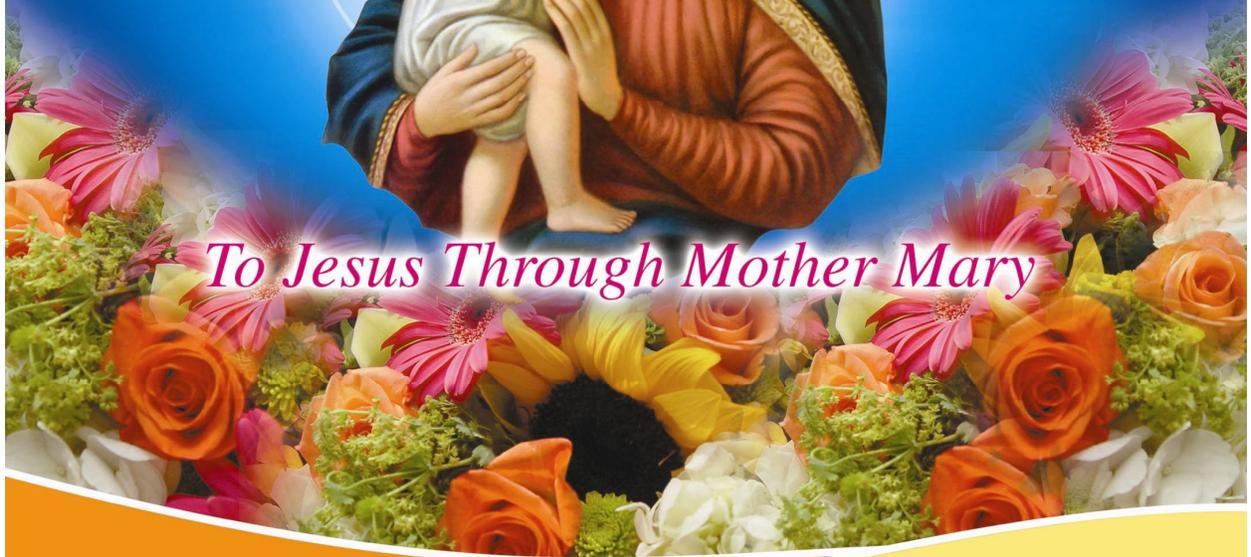
Issue : 3

Itanagar Diocesan News Bulletin

April - June 2010



*To Jesus Through Mother Mary*



## E d i t o r i a l .....

We know that the ‘World Environment Day’, which is celebrated each year on 5th June, is one of the principal means through which worldwide awareness of the environment is communicated to all.

The Copenhagen Summit of December 2009 was supposedly the biggest environmental summit in a decade but it had a murky end. It’s time that we stop pinning high hopes on leaders to save us from environmental disasters. It is the responsibility of every one of us to promote low carbon economies and life-styles, such as alternative energy sources, forest conservation and eco-friendly consumption. We need to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; which will ensure that all nations and people enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

On this World Environment Day, let us examine the state of our environment. Let me highlight some of the more pressing issues the planet faces. Many parts of the world face severe water shortages. About 20 per cent of the planet’s people lack access to safe drinking water and 50 per cent lack adequate sanitation. Weather events worldwide are becoming more frequently extreme. Land fertility is declining. Land degradation is increasing. The rapid growth of urbanization is causing massive air pollution and global warming is escalating. Over 80 per cent of the planet’s forests have been destroyed or degraded; a quarter of the world’s mammal species are at serious risk of extinction.

Deforestation and the effects of global warming are causing millions of people in the world to suffer from water shortages, floods, and other climatic nightmares. Areas which were once lush and green are now hot, dry and deserts.

The world’s population has now passed six billion, and the majority of these people live in poverty. Meanwhile, the share of the planet’s resources being used by the affluent minority is also growing. These two issues – the poverty of the majority and the excessive consumption of the minority – are driving the forces of environmental degradation. The time is running out. If we are to make real progress, the environmental agenda of the 21st century should be one that drives environmental advance to accompany economic and social gains.

Let us consider carefully the actions which each of us must take, and then address ourselves to our common task of preserving all life on earth. We can protect our environment by using bicycles and public conveyance instead of private cars and bikes, planting trees, recycling waste products, saving water and energy and clean-up campaigns. We have the knowledge and the technology to solve many of the environmental evils facing our planet. What we need now is the will to bring about change. Now is the time to act. Let us not wait for 5<sup>th</sup> June to commit ourselves to the protection of the environment.

Let us make everyday ‘World Environment Day’!

Archana Thomas IMP (Institute of the Maids of the Poor)

## Shepherd's Voice

Dear Friends,

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June this year the Catholics all over the world are celebrating the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. This is also called in Latin the feast of “Corpus Christi”. On this day we recall the institution of the Holy Eucharist by Jesus at the Last Supper. This feast is usually celebrated with processions or some other symbolic actions that profess our faith in the presence of Jesus in our midst in the form of Bread and wine. As this feast falls in the rainy season in our region, we hold the processions later in winter when there is no rain.

Though the custom of celebration of this feast dates back only to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, our faith in the Eucharist is as old as Christianity itself. The Holy Mass was celebrated from the earliest times of the church. The Apostles understood better than others the meaning of the command of Jesus at the Last Supper “Do this in memory of me”. Later, when Paul heard that the Corinthians were not celebrating the Eucharist worthily. So, in his letter to them in the year 57, he reprimands them for their abuses. So we have in the letter to Corinthians (1Cor 11:17-34) the earliest evidence of the celebration of Eucharist.

We see mention of the Eucharist also in the ‘Acts of the Apostles’. We all know that the ‘Acts of the Apostles’ is a history of the early church. The history that Luke is writing is the history of the first generation Christians. In Acts 2, 42. Luke says “These remained faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, to the brotherhood, **to the breaking of the bread** and to the prayers.” For Luke **‘breaking of the bread’** is an expression referring to the celebration of the Eucharist.

My dear brothers, I am writing to you about this today because, there are many who question why we always have a Holy Mass for our Sunday worship. Well, we have it, because the first Christians had it. The Apostles had taught them to have it. When they did not attend Holy Mass in a dignified manner Paul scolded them for it. So when we have the Holy Mass we are doing what the Apostles did and what the early Christians did. For the past 2000 years, wherever the Catholic Church went the same Mass was celebrated.

When the protestant churches broke away from the Catholic Church, they did not have priests to celebrate the Mass and so they gave up the practice altogether. Those who like to know which is the true church founded by Jesus on the Apostles, they should look for the Church that is still celebrating the ‘breaking of the bread’ or the ‘Lord’s Supper’ as taught by the Apostles. That is the Catholic Church.

These days some lay preachers, who were once Catholics, are coming around and preaching that there is no need of Holy Mass. Those who say there is no need of Holy Mass have left the Catholic Church. Hence I wish to warn all Catholics against them. Do not entertain them. Such persons should not be allowed to preach in our church. There are also self-made ‘prophets’ and ‘healers’ who come around prophesying the future and promising healing and then as payment for it asking for a donation. Please do not believe in those who come around selling ‘prophesies’ and ‘healing’. They are only trying to make money from simple people.

May the celebration of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ or “Corpus Christi” increase our faith in the real presence of Jesus in our midst in the form of Bread and wine! Let us pray for vocations so that we may have many boys from Arunachal Pradesh coming forward to commit their lives in the service of the Lord by becoming priests. We need them to celebrate the Eucharist. The day should not be far when you will be participating in the Eucharist presided over by your own sons. May God Bless You.

+ **John Thomas Kattrukudiyil**  
**Bishop of Itanagar**

## Ask Your Questions

*Fr. Augustine Kolenchery SAC, the founding Parish Priest of Siyum, is a Pallotine Priest with vast missionary experience in Africa. Before opting to work in Arunachal, he served as the Rector of the Theologate at Ashta. Now he is the Vice-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary. He is also a much sought after retreat preacher. He answers your pastoral questions.*

### **Do Catholics worship Statues and Images?**

There has been accusation that Catholics commit idolatry in venerating sacred images and statues. Idolatry is an adoration rendered to a creature with the conviction that the creature is God. It is forbidden by the very first commandment not only in the Old Testament, but at all times. Catholics do not render adoration to any creature, but God alone. Images are mere representation of the reality. Respect given to a picture or a statue is not idolatry. We honour our deceased parents keeping their photos in a worthy manner. We pay homage to our political leaders and other dignitaries keeping their statues and figures in our halls and parks. No sane person will ever say that we are adoring them as we adore God. We install the statues of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of his blessed Mother, the saints and angels in our churches. Our affection with devotion towards them is expressed from the depth of our hearts even by simply looking at them. Humanly speaking it is a thrill to look at the photos of our beloved people who suffered for us and loved us.

There is a difference between worship and veneration. Worship is a full degree of divine honour given to the living God, the Master of the universe. Veneration is an honour rendered to Blessed Mother Mary, saints or angels because of their closeness to God.

Old Testament forbade making of images and worshipping them. The infinite God who has no form or figure could not be represented in the form of a finite creature. ( Cfr. Ex.20. 4-5; Deut. 4, 25-28; Is. 46, 1-9; Jer. 10, 1-16....). It is not enough to learn by heart some passages from the Bible and quote them. One should make deep study of the entire Scriptures. One may note that in the very Bible which forbade making of statues, commands are given to make figures and keep them. There was an Ark of the Covenant to be honoured and carried in procession. There were figures of the Cherubs placed at the Ark ( Ex. 25, 10 ff). The figure of bronze serpent was ordered to be hung on a pole ( Num.21, 8-9) Jacob, the Patriarch anointed a stone in veneration ( Gen.28, 16-18). How can God contradict himself? The fact is that Bible forbids worship of any creature. No created figure can represent or contain the formless and infinite God. But this formless God took a form at the Incarnation and became man. Thus our invisible and infinite God became our Brother assuming a visible nature. Ever since the prohibition to make figures is withdrawn and an exhortation is given that “ the images of Christ, of the Mother of God and of other saints be kept in places of worship and due honour be given them”. ( Council of Trent).

Here an important point is to be noted. The Hindus may tell us that they too worship the Absolute behind the idols and that they do not commit idolatry. If this is true they are not to be considered idolaters. But the fact is that they consecrate idols (with Prathishta) and install them with prayer asking the deity to come and make its abode in the idol and afterwards they consider the idol to be God and offer adoration to it. This indeed is idolatry. This is the case in most of the temples.

## DIOCESAN OFFICE

### **ARUNACHAL PRADESH CATHOLIC UNION (APCU) FORMED**

**Itanagar:** The Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Union (APCU) was formed in a meeting held at Bishop's House Itanagar on March 13, 2010. Most Rev. Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar Diocese endorsed the decision of the All India Catholic Union (AICU) to appoint Tok Buttum as the president and Taw Tebin as Secretary. APCU will conduct its general body meeting within a year and will affiliate itself to the AICU.

While congratulating the newly formed APCU, the Bishop of Itanagar diocese said, "APCU is a voluntary organization of Christian faithful, formed in order to protect the rights of the church when they are violated by those inimical to the Church. APCU will collaborate with all civil organizations and activists to uphold Human dignity and Civil Liberties".

Tok Buttum reiterated the main aims and objectives of APCU which is to "foster Christian ideals and empower Lay members of Christ's faithful and promote unity and solidarity among Catholics of Arunachal Pradesh."

Taw Tebin, the Secretary pledged that "APCU will be the exponent of Catholic opinion and to make representations to authorities and public bodies in all matters affecting Catholics and safeguard by all lawful means the legitimate rights, liberties and interest of the Arunachal Catholic Community particularly those guaranteed by the Constitution of India."

### **PRE EASTER RECOLLECTION AND CHRISM MASS**

**Itanagar:** The Lenten preparation recollection and meeting for the Priests and Religious of Itanagar diocese was held at Bishop's House, Itanagar on 23-24 March, 2010. It was animated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Manjaly, professor at Oriens Theological College, Shillong. Fr. Tomy Pallely, also a professor from Oriens College, Shillong explained how to celebrate liturgy according to the mind of the Church. The interactive session helped the audience to clarify their doubts about various liturgical practices.

In the afternoon a group discussion was held based on the themes of the talks. After presenting the report of the same, there followed a short meeting which was animated by Most. Rev. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar.

### **APCU HONOURS THE PRIESTS OF ITANAGAR DIOCESE**

The Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Union (APCU) under the able leadership of Shri Tok Buttum, its President, and Mr. Taw Tebin, its General Secretary, honored Most. Rev. Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar and around hundred priests of the Diocese of Itanagar on the occasion of International Year of Priests. After the Chrism Mass on March 25th 2010 at Sacred Heart Church, Naharlagun APCU organized a felicitation programme in which Shri Tok Buttum, the president of APCU expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Priests for their dedication and selfless service for the uplift of the people of Arunachal Pradesh particularly of the poor and the marginalized in the remote areas. The Priests as well as the Sisters present for the function were greeted with mementos and valuable gifts.

## **ACCOLADES**

Hearty Congratulations to Sr. Elizabeth Edattukaran FMA of Auxillium Health Centre, Gohpur, Itanagar on being awarded with certificate of appreciation and cash for her dedicated service towards the uplift of TB patients.

She received the award and the cash from Dr. M. Jini CMO cum vice Chairman, District Health Society, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) Papum Pare District, Naharlagun on the occasion of World TB day organized at Vivekananda Hall on March 23, 2010. Diocese of Itanagar compliments her and extends best wishes and prayers for her future endeavors in the field of health mission. Most Rev. Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar said that Sr. Elizabeth has made the diocese feel proud with her committed service in the field of health.

## **BELOVED 'MAMA' TURNS GOLDEN**

**Tura:** It was a joyful and memorable day, as hundreds gathered in the St. Luke's Church, Walbakre, Tura on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 to offer thanksgiving with Most Rev. George Mamalassery, Bishop emeritus of Tura and Rev. Fr. E.V. George his companion at the Eucharistic Concelebration of the Golden Jubilee of their priestly ordination.

The Golden Jubilee Mass was presided over by Most Rev. George Mamalassery and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. E.V. George, 3 Archbishops 14 bishops and about 70 priests. A large number of sisters, seminarians, nursing students and a few invited parishioners were part of the congregation.

## **ALL INDIA CATHOLIC UNION (AICU) MEETING HELD**

All India Catholic Union (AICU) Executive and Working Committee meeting was held at Divya Vani, Pastoral Centre, Darjeeling, West Bengal from 17- 19 April, 2010. Tok Buttum, the President of Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Union (APCU) and Taw Tebin, its General Secretary attended the meeting on behalf of the Catholic Community of Arunachal Pradesh and discussed a variety of topics for the uplift and empowerment of Catholic Community of India. Most Rev. Stephen Lepcha, bishop of Darjeeling, welcomed the delegates and appreciated the work done by the All India Catholic Union. The meeting was attended by more than hundred executive members of AICU from different States of India.

**Taw Tebin**  
**General Secretary, APCU**

## **AALO DEANERY**

### **MOPIN CELEBRATED WITH TRADITIONAL FERVOR**

SFS College-Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh, celebrated 'Mopin', the festival of the Galos, in a very impressive manner on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 with Shri Bosiram Siram the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, being the chief Guest and Shri. Amjad Tak IAS, District Collector, West Siang Dt. as Guest of Honour. The students dressed in traditional costumes spent the day in dance and song and shared a meal with all.

**Fr. Jose Karipadam MSFS, Principal, SFS college, Aalo**

## **CHARISMATIC RETREAT CONCLUDED**

**Likabali:** The First Charismatic Retreat was conducted at Sacred Heart Church, Likabali. Rev. Fr. Francis Thadathil Provincial of North East Province inaugurated the retreat on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. The retreat was preached by Fr. Ajimon MSFS the director of Cenacle Renewal Centre, Kaying. About 50 people attended the 6 day retreat and renewed their life. The devotees testified that they got healings and experienced God's love and forgiveness by participating in the retreat.

## **TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR CATECHISTS**

**Likabali:** A Catechist Training Programme was organized at Likabali Church from 19 to 21 March, 2010. There were about 40 participants. Rev. Fr. Bosco Kujur, Fr. Stephen Avilhou Metha MSFS and Sr. Roseline Chani UFS animated the group.

**Fr. Stephen Pou MSFS, Likabali**

## **A WORD ABOUT CENACLE RENEWAL CENTRE**

**Kaying:** Cenacle Renewal Centre is a part of the Renewal Movement of the Congregation of Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales. People have been expressing their desire to have a prayer centre for renewing their spiritual life. Consequently the Centre at Kaying was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. John Thomas Bishop of Itanagar on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009.

The name 'Cenacle' is given to the Centre, because it is believed that it is in this place where Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. It is the place where the apostles gathered along with Mary, prayed and waited for the promise of Jesus, the Holy Spirit. The aim of the Cenacle Renewal Centre is to re-live the experience of the first Christian community on the day of Pentecost and to bring about spiritual transformation in the lives of the people.

This centre is open to all irrespective of caste, creed and religion. Fr. Aji Cherian, the priest in charge of the centre plans a number of programs every year according to the convenience of the people in various parishes and villages. Thousands of people have benefited from the retreats preached by him.

## **RENEWAL RETREAT FOR YOUTH**

**Kaying:** A Retreat for Youth was conducted at Cenacle Renewal Centre, Kaying, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 organized by Fr. Aji Cherian. One hundred and twenty eight Youth from three parishes, Kaying, Aalo and Tato attended the five day retreat.

**Fr. Aji Cherian, MSFS, Kaying**

## **A RETREAT FOR MOTHERS**

**Kaying:** The retreat from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 was organized by Fr. Aji Cherian MSFS the Director, Cenacle Renewal Centre (CRC). Sixty seven Mothers from three parishes attended the retreat.

**Fr. Aji Cherian MSFS, Director, CRC, Kaying**

## **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL OF PRIESTS**

**Aalo:** On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2010, Priests of Aalo deanery came together to have a day of recollection at SFS College, Aalo animated by Fr. Augustine Kolenchery SAC. It was a joy for the priests to come together to renew themselves to be more effective in doing the will of God at this part of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Fr. Shaju Ambiyil MSFS, Aalo**

## **BIBLE CAMP FOR YOUTH**

**Yingkiong:** A Bible camp for youth was conducted from the 11-14<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 at Riga, Yingkiong parish in the East Siang Dt. of Arunachal Pradesh. More than 30 youth, from Yingkiong, Kargo and Riga participated in the Bible camp. The programme was an eye opener for all of them as one said "This programme has enriched me to know more about Jesus and Church".

**Fr. Antony Eattikattil MSFS, Aalo**

## **RANI CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS TO HER RAJA**

**Rani (Pasighat):** The Divine Mercy Church at Rani Village celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its Christian faith on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. On this occasion a silver jubilee memorial plaque was blessed and unveiled by Most Rev. Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar diocese, in the presence of Fr. Francis Thadathil MSFS, Provincial North- East India, Fr. Mathew Puthumana MSFS, one of the pioneers at Rani village, priests, sisters from nearby parishes and an enthusiastic and thrilling crowd.

After a short felicitation programme, Tage Kakki, a senior teacher from IGJ. Government High School, Pasighat presented a brief history of Catholic Church in East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. He recalled with fond memories and gratitude the pioneers, Fr. Mathew Puthumana and Fr. Job Kallarackal who dared to step into the East Siang district where there were no Catholic churches or Catholic population. He also listed the names of many lay people, such as Celin Kakki, Ms Bina Doke, Takar Darang, Tarung Siram, Ms. Omem Tamuk and Mathew Ering who weathered all sorts of persecution and oppression with firm determination and undaunted spirit for the spread of Faith in the East Siang district.

## **INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF NEW CHURCH**

**Mirem (Pasighat):** The Catholic Community of Mirem celebrated its Silver Jubilee of their Christian faith with festive fervor and great enthusiasm on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. It was a day of additional merriment and great celebration for the villagers of Mirem as they got a newly built church, inaugurated and blessed by Most Rev. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar on the same day. After the Holy Eucharist the Priests, Religious, dignitaries and the pioneer catechists and other leaders who contributed to the growth of the church were honoured with valuable gifts. The celebration was graced by Kanyom Dabi, Zila Parishad member, Nari 36 Constituency and Nakek Moyong, Zila Parishad member 37 Constituency, Mirem and many other dignitaries.

## **YOUTH CONVENTION HELD**

**Basar:** Holy Rosary Parish Basar conducted the Parish Youth Convention from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Fr. Clement Quadras SVD, the DYD, Itanagar Diocese, along with other three youth Mr. Bosco Taw, Miss. Kago Reema and Miss. Kago Yap from Bandardewa animated the programme. The programme began with flag hoisting by Fr. Clement and Fr. Lukose the Parish Priest, Basar delivered the keynote address.

The Convention focused on the theme "Renewed Youth for Vibrant Church". The program was well appreciated by all the participants. It was organized under the able leadership of Fr. Lukose Kavunkal (PP), Fr. Abraham (APP), Sr. Elsa (Superior), Sr. Augusta and Sr. Yajo.

**Sr. Yajo Joram MSMHC**

**Pasighat:** Youth convention of the Aalo deanery was held from the 22-25 April, 2010 at S.F.S. School, Pasighat. The theme of the programme was 'The Young Apostles of Christ'. The programme was inaugurated by Fr. Clement Quadras, the youth director of Itanagar Diocese. He in his inaugural address insisted the youth to be effective and grow to the full in one's own place. More than 200 youth from the East, West and Upper Siang districts of Arunachal Pradesh were present for the convention. Three days were fully engaged with lots of input sessions, classes on sacraments and varieties of cultural competitions.

The parish wise competition was held on the last day in which the youth of Aalo stood first. At the end of the convention Johny Ragior a youth from Aalo was honored as the 'Ideal' youth. Various classes and activities instilled in the youth a sense of belongingness to the large community of Catholics which uphold faith and morals in the forefront. Mr. Alex, Fr. Belo and Sr. Yajo animated the convention efficiently. This memorable event which was organized under the able leadership of Fr. Simon, the parish priest and MSMHC sisters and many other parishioners was a grand success.

**Fr. Shaju Ambiyil MSFS**

### **MUSIC AWAKENS YOUTH**

**Aalo:** Music Classes were conducted for the youth of Aalo Parish from 25<sup>th</sup> of April to 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. The use of musical instruments like Guitar, Harmonium and Triple Drum were taught them. Around 20 youth participated in the music class. It was a great initiative taken from the part of the parish to foster the musical talents in the young mind.

### **ANNUAL RETREAT CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY**

**Aalo:** Annual retreat for the Parishioners of Aalo parish was conducted from the 16<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. Around 120 people including the people of other denominations and Faith participated in the retreat. The retreat was animated by Bro. Simon and his team from Mumbai. Many of the participants received grace and inner healing from the Lord.

**Fr. Shaju Ambiyil MSFS, Aalo**

### **YOUTH CONVENTION ENABLED ME TO EXPERIENCE GOD**

**Aalo:** My heart throbs with delight and joy because of the great experience of youth convention I had at Pasighat. The three golden days of prayer, classes and interaction with God and friends enabled me to view my life differently. Earlier, I was like a frog in the well, knew nothing about God but now I can proudly say that I have learned and experienced many things about God and his people. The care of fathers and sisters and the warmth of new friends helped me to feel that I am not useless. The convention gave me a drive to go ahead in life to see the wide horizon where in I am able to grow further in my faith in God with my loving friends.

**Kito Ette, Youth, Aalo**

### **YOUTH LEAD THE WAY**

**Aalo:** On the 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 about 25 Catholic youth of Aalo organized a day of work in the field of a poor Catholic family. It was a day of joy for both the family and youth. One of the youth rightly pointed out that 'the work like this will bring a sense of duty, unity and meaningful relationship with each other'. All the youth were happy and contented after the social work and took a firm decision that they will continue to extend their helping hand to the needy people.

The initiative for this noble task was taken by Tajum Koje, Oyi Taki, Anjit & Tage Kami under the guidance of Fr. Shaju and Sr. Flora.

**Johnny Ragyor, Aalo**

## **ITANAGAR DEANERY**

### **LENTEN PREPARATION RETREAT**

**Bandardewa:** A three day retreat was conducted at Dipik village Church, a sub-station of Holy Trinity Parish Bandardewa, from February 21<sup>st</sup> evening to 24<sup>th</sup> evening. Bro. Moses Simon Tuscano, an active member of "Good Shepherd Community Intercessory Group", Vasai led the people into a prayerful experience. More than hundred people including many from other denominations also benefited from this three days' retreat.

**Fr. Clement Quadras SVD, Parish priest, Bandardewa**

### **YOUTH MARCH TOWARDS TRANSFORMING THEIR LIVES**

**Bandardewa:** A convention for the Youth of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bandardewa was held at Bandardewa Parish on 23-25<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. 70 young people participated in the convention. The NERYC team from Guwahati and Sr. Yajo Joram MSMHC from Basar animated the youth. Mrs. Higgio Yame, the circle officer of Bandardewa was the chief guest and Mr. Tok Buttum, the President, APCU and executive member of CCI was the Guest of Honor. Both of them exhorted the youth to care for their life of Faith formation. During the convention the youth were helped through various sessions to learn, to interact, to become confident, and to discover their hidden potentials. They thanked the resource persons and the organizers especially Fr. Clement Quadras SVD for the life transforming youth convention with the motto "Young with Vision Together We March". They committed themselves to work towards making the motto of the convention a reality in their lives.

**Bandardewa:** Music is the soul of life. It adds solemnity to any function. In order to develop the musical talent in children Fr. Clemente Miranda arranged a music class for about 24 budding musicians of Bandardewa and Naharlagun Parish from 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Mr. Briyan Francisco from Mumbai was invited to teach the basics of electronic keyboard, guitar and drum. The participants appreciated this initiative and requested to have more of such classes in future.

**Fr. Augustine P.A. SVD, Bandardewa**

### **A WEDDING AT GOHPUR KEEPING COMPLETE CATHOLIC FORMALITIES**

**Gohpur:** For the first time in the Catholic Church of Gohpur a wedding took place according to the official procedure of the Church. Mr. Tadar Nongki Luke got engaged to Ms. Dango Yasum Agnes at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Gohpur Tinali, Itanagar. After the public announcement of Banns for three consecutive Sundays they got married in the Church on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 in the presence of a large crowd. Sr. Elizabeth Edattukaran FMA prepared them for this great event.

**Sr. Elizabeth FMA, Gohpur**

## **'LANGDANG' REJOICES**

**Sagalee:** The people of Langdang were longing to have a church that would serve as a symbol of the presence of a Catholic Community in the village and also serve as a land mark in the area. They collected stones, chips sand and wood necessary for the constructions. Then they approached the Bishop for help and he willingly helped. The result of their common effort was a beautiful church that was blessed by Bishop John Thomas on Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. During the mass the Bishop exhorted the people to concentrate on building the Community as that is the real Church that Jesus came to establish. The mass was followed by a cultural programme. During this programme, the Bishop expressed his appreciation for the co-operation he received from the Parish Priest, Fr. Thomas Lakra, Fr. Marius and from the catechists and the leaders of the village. The whole function ended on a happy note as all shared a common meal.

**Sagalee:** A retreat was conducted from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 for the youth of Sagalee Parish by Jesus Youth Team from Delhi. It was organized by Fr. Clement Quadras SVD, the Diocesan Youth Director. More than 300 youth attended the retreat. The retreat included powerful preaching by means of Mass media, Holy Mass, Testimonies, Praise & Worship, and devotional Songs. Youth went home with a decision to live by the word of God.

**Sagalee:** On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 about 20 youth from Sagalee parish along with Frs. Thomas Lakra and Bosco Kujur and Bro. Nazareth made a pilgrimage to Kerala, Tamilnadu, Goa and Mumbai. They visited the important religious places in the states and returned after a month refreshed, inspired and enriched by the tour.

**Fr. Thomas Lakra, Parish Priest, Sagalee**

## **HOLY WEEK OBSERVED WITH RELIGIOUS FERVOUR**

**Gohpur:** The Sisters of Auxilium Health Care Centre prepared the faithful of St. Joseph Church Gohpur Tinali, Sacred Heart Church, Batt and Divine Mercy Church, Chimpu for the great feast of Easter.

On **Palm Sunday** the believers took out processions, waving palm leaves and singing Hosanna. Fr. Philip SDB the Rector of Don Bosco School was the main celebrant.

**On Holy Thursday** all three villages gathered at 2 pm for the sacrament of reconciliation. This was followed by Solemn Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by Fr. Philip SDB. After the Eucharistic celebration a meaningful adoration was conducted by Sr. Scholastica. After the adoration a traditional 'last supper' meal was served for all present.

On **Good Friday** hundreds of devotees took part in the 'Way of the Cross' procession. They walked for 3 hours around the villages carrying cross in their hands in honour of Christ's sacrifice for humanity. Along the route 14 stations were set up. People stopped at each station for special prayers. A beautiful Calvary was prepared by the youth of the village in the church compound. When the procession reached the Calvary, Sr. Scolastica concluded the celebration with a prayer.

The Holy Week observation ended with believers celebrating the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. During the Easter Mass a couple tied the nuptial knot, 26 people received baptism and 18 people received First Holy Communion.

**Sr. Jayanthi Basumantary FMA, Gohpur**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Miss Nabam Glory (Martha) is elected as the General Secretary of NERYC (North Eastern Regional Youth Commission). She is the daughter of Mr. Nabam Koda, Pastor of Nirjuli Catholic Church and Mrs. Chapa Anna. CONGRATULATIONS Miss Glory! We wish you all the best as you serve NERYC and represent the Diocese of Itanagar.

**Yuvodaya, Diocesan Youth Association, Itanagar**

## **RETREAT ENABLES YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**Bandardewa:** A retreat for Youth of Itanagar Denary was held at Holy Trinity Ashram, Bandardewa from 17th - 21st May, 2010. Around 250 youth participated in the retreat. The retreat began with welcoming of Jesus Youth Cross through a candle light procession followed by adoration. The Parish Priest Fr. Clement Quadras SVD the Diocesan Youth Director welcomed everyone and briefed the purpose of the retreat. The newly formed Yuvodaya core team trainees planned and worked together for the success of the retreat.

The aim of the retreat was to impart knowledge of the Word of God and to experience inner healing. Majority of the youth experienced inner healing, peace and joy. At the end of the retreat, a good number of youth decided to visit village Churches to form prayer groups and to hold meeting with the youth leaders of different Churches at least once in three months. Thanks to YUVODAYA for giving us an opportunity to experience Jesus.

**Nabam Glory, Gen Sec. NERYC**

## **SEPPA DEANERY**

### **STUDENT SELECTED FOR NATIONAL CHILDREN'S SCIENCE CONGRESS – 2009**

**Palizi:** Mojam Rimo, a Class X Catholic student from St. Xavier's School, Palizi, West Kameng Dist. was selected to represent the state of Arunachal Pradesh at the National Children's Science Congress – 2009, held in Ahmadabad, Gujarat from 26 to 31 December 2009. He shared this honour with nine other students from the state. Earlier he had stood first at the district level Children's Science Congress and fifth at the state level.

**Fr. Vijay D'Souza sj , Principal, St. Xavier's School, Palizi**

### **AWARENESS RALLY BY ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL CHILDREN**

**Hulübro:** A rally was organized by the staff and children of St. Xavier's School, Hulübro to create awareness about the evils of alcoholism, gambling and lack of hygiene. As the slogans "Taas khelna bandh karo"; "Sharaab barbaadi ka rasta hai"; "Hamara basti ko saaf rakho" etc. filled the air, children and the staff including the Principal, Fr. William Pinto SJ and Headmistress Sr. Elizabeth UFC marched on the streets of Hulübro village displaying awareness charts and putting up programs like tableau, songs and speeches. The Headmaster of the local Govt. School was the chief guest and spoke on the importance of awareness of the three social evils. The local headmen and the Panchayat members, who were all present in full numbers, appreciated the efforts of the staff and the children and said that it was an eye opener for them. They also promised to do all they could to try and rid the village of the social evils portrayed during the rally.

**Fr. William Pinto sj, Principal, St. Xavier's School, Hulübro**

## **PARISH DAY CELEBRATED WITH GREAT FERVOR**

**Seppa:** St. Joseph Parish, Seppa, celebrated its Annual Parish day on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. The celebration began with adoration at 9 am, conducted by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Ayilookunnel. This was followed by a solemn Mass presided over by Most Rev. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar, concelebrated by Parish priest Fr. Sebastian, assistant parish priests, Frs. Boniface Dhanwar, Roney Rabha and Priests from nearby places. 20 children received the First Holy Communion. There was a large crowd of people from near and far away villages who attended the Eucharistic celebration with great enthusiasm and devotion.

## **ZIRO DEANERY**

### **YOUTH PROMISE TO LIVE BY THE GOSPEL VALUES**

**Ziro:** The Catholic Youth of Ziro experienced for the first time the 'Jesus Youth Retreat' held on 10-12 of May, 2010.

The Diocesan Youth Director Rev. Fr. Clement Quadras SVD, Bro. Wilson, Bro. Jonnies and Bro. David led the youth to experience the divine presence of Jesus in their life. Many youth testified that they received inner healing. The participants were more than 190. Thanks to the Diocesan Youth Director for having chosen Ziro for this Retreat.

**Fr. Xavier Mushahary, Parish priest, Ziro**

### **FATHERS AND SISTERS RETURN TO PALIN AFTER THE FIRE TRAGEDY**

**Palin:** Nearly about two months after the February 10 inferno, that took 10 lives of innocent kids at Palin in Kurung Kumey district, Arunachal Pradesh, the Salesian Fathers and the FCC Sisters returned to Palin on 10<sup>th</sup> April. The school is scheduled to reopen on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2010. The 12 staff, including the principal was evacuated to Itanagar on the following day of the incident for security reasons. Thanks to the efforts of the Government represented by the Honorable MP Mr. Takam Sanjoy and in the presence of other Political, Civil and Catholic leaders the bodies of the dead children were relocated from the school campus on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

The state government has assured to build a memorial with the names of the deceased engraved on it. Besides the Rs. 20 lakh for the deceased announced by the Prime Minister, and Rs. 20 lakh ex gratia announced by the CM, Mr. Sanjoy, on behalf of the state government announced Rs 10,000 each for the 50 students who lost their belongings and reading materials in the unfortunate incident.

Announcing Rs 5 lakh for the repair of the school building damaged after the aggrieved parents attacked it Hon'ble MLA Mr. Takam Tagar pleaded with the school authority to reopen the school immediately and conduct the annual examinations of its students. Started in 1995, the school now has around 600 students up to Class VII.

### **CHARLING' DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE**

**Charling (Yachuli):** The seven families of Charling village proved that nothing is impossible. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2010 the little Chapel they built all on their own was blessed by Bishop John Thomas in a colorful ceremony. More than 350 people had gathered from the various villages of Yachuli Parish to witness the event.

The People of Charling feel that what they achieved was possible only because of the encouragement and initiative Mr. Taw Tager, the Parish Council Secretary. He along with his amiable wife Taw Yalin not only made substantial contribution to the construction work, but also mobilized funds by speaking to other well wishers. Other individuals who contributed were Shri Taba Peri, JE, PWD Yazali, Smt. Nabam Piju, ASM, Kebi, Shri Toku Tato, Shri Takam Tanik and Smti Chukhu Yaje.

Smti Nabam Piju, ASM Kebi, was present at the function as the chief guest and in her talk she exhorted all to maintain religious harmony. She also gave a further donation of ` 25.000 for the various needs of the church.

Bishop John Thomas Kattrukudiyil in his intervention asked the people to give attention to education especially the education of the girl child. Fr. Joby Sebastian SDB, the Parish Priest and Fr. Nobin MCBS and Sr. Helen MSMHC were responsible for the overall direction of the programme.

### **TRAINING FACILITATES YOUTH TO LOVE THE CHURCH**

**Daporijo:** Faith Formation and Catechetical Training programs were conducted for the Parish youth of Daporijo and Taliha from 7-10 May, 2010 at Daporijo. It was conducted by Fr. Clement Quadras SVD, the Diocesan Youth Director (DYD), and his team. 60 youth from the Parishes Daporijo and Siyum benefited from these programs.

**Fr. Anto Mullanal SAC, Siyum**

