



TEA LEAVES

DARJEELING DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

visit us at: www.darjeelingdiocese.com

2023

Bishop's House, Darjeeling - 734101 INDIA

JUNE- JULY

Bishop's message



"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) Jesus grieved alongside the people because "to suffer with" is the definition of the term "compassion." We devote the entire month of June to learning about and imitating Jesus' compassionate heart in order to become more like him. As Jesus' followers, we should embody the compassionate man. We must strive to be merciful, compassionate, and just instead of confining our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to our personal devotion.

Jesus himself demonstrates for us numerous unconventional methods to exhibit compassion for others. Here are three essential techniques for having compassion like Jesus.

1. Physical Compassion

When Jesus saw the physical needs of others and had compassion on them. *"I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with me three days and have nothing to eat."* (Mark 8:2) There wasn't enough food for the hundreds of people to survive on over the three days that they spent listening to Jesus' teachings. How does Jesus respond? Compassion. Food is such a fundamental human need, and the world's Savior was concerned when this need wasn't being met. Jesus steps in to help and does a miracle. Please notice that compassion was the driving force behind Jesus' miracle. We have frequently concentrated on the miracle of Jesus feeding the multitude while ignoring the minor but crucial aspect of his motivation. Although Jesus' primary mission was to save our souls, he also showed compassion for those in need of bodily care. By attending to others' physical needs, I as well as you can demonstrate compassion. No matter how big the need seems, your compassion should compel you to attend to others' bodily needs.

2. Emotional Compassion

Jesus modeled emotional compassion, but we don't see it because we're in awe of the miracle.

As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." (Luke 7:12-13)

The boy had already passed away at this point, and as you may expect, his mother was utterly heartbroken. According to the Bible, Jesus had compassion on the mother rather than the boy. He felt sympathy for her and the recent loss she had gone through. We all know how hard it is to lose a loved one since we have gone through it. Once more, his sympathy for this mother inspired him to work a miracle. He attended to her emotional need. This may be among the trickiest methods for us to show compassion for others. We must pause; pay attention to someone's needs, and be present with them in order to meet their emotional needs. It isn't as easy as buying someone a pair of shoes or a meal for the holidays.

3. Spiritual Compassion

The good news of Jesus centers on his concern for people's spiritual needs. Salvation is what Jesus came to bring. That is a soul issue. *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Matthew 9:35-38)

Jesus wasn't just carrying out his mission. He was really distressed by the spiritual state of the people he encountered. In this situation, Jesus felt compassion for their spiritual condition because they were being misled. We should undoubtedly be concerned about individuals who have not found salvation if we are to exhibit compassion for others' spiritual needs. But we should likewise be concerned with the spiritual requirements of the rescued. We don't frequently believe we can be of assistance in this or other areas of someone's life. We must therefore maintain relationships with others in order to be able to recognize when they are experiencing spiritual difficulty. The body of Christ is meant to function as this for one another. We ought to be close enough to people to be aware of their spiritual struggles and compassionate enough to support them when necessary.

Jesus provided a compassionate role model for us to follow. He attended to the needs of others on a physical, emotional, and spiritual level. He was concerned about the individual as whole, not just some parts of them. We ought to comprehend biblical compassion holistically rather than limiting it to just one of these areas. Your compassion for others is a sign of your love for Jesus.

+Bishop Stephen Lepcha

Report on Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Maria Pahar ki Rani Church Glenburn, celebrated on 13th May, 2023.

Maria Pahar ki Rani Church Glenburn recently marked a significant milestone with its Golden Jubilee celebrations on 13th May 2023. The grand event, commemorating 50 years since the establishment of the church, brought together a multitude of faithful, Bishop, Priests, Religious (Sisters of SJC, MC) and distinguished guests from near and far, especially from Nepal and Bhutan.

Under the proper guidance of Rev. Fr. Edward Baretto and Rev. Fr. Clement Lepcha (PP), the festivities commenced with a Felicitation program. On this auspicious occasion, Maria Pahar Ki Rani Church remembered the great Pioneers, Lt. Bp. Eric Benjamin, Lt. Dr. Kiran Peter Moktan, Lt. Sir Aiman Francis Xavier and all those great souls who worked selflessly to sow the seed of faith for the greater glory of God. Maria Pahar ki Rani Church Glenburn felicitated Rt. Rev. Bp. Stephen Lepcha on His 25th Episcopal Ordination Anniversary and also felicitated Mr. George Lama Gurubabu for his dedicated service as a Catechist for 36 long years. Similarly, the former Parish Priests, Sr. Superiors and Dignitaries were also felicitated for their stupendous guidance during their stay in Maria Pahar Ki Rani Church Glenburn.

Apart from the felicitation program, The Holy Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Rt. Rev. Bp. Stephen Lepcha along with 19 Priests, to express gratitude to God for the 50 years of church's journey and for its continued prosperity.

The service featured inspiring sermon, angelic Choir, and testimonies from long-standing members who had witnessed the growth and development of the faith. In fact, The congregation was moved by the tremendous sacrifice and life of the great Pioneers; their resilience, and compassion which was clearly highlighted in the Documentary presentation.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations of Maria Pahar ki Rani Church were a resounding success, radiating an atmosphere of unity, gratitude, and hope. It served as a reminder of the church's unwavering commitment to spreading love, compassion, and faith throughout the past five decades. The event left an indelible mark on the hearts of all those in attendance, instilling a renewed sense of purpose and dedication for the years to come.

ELECTION OF THE NEW ZEXCO MEMBERS (NORTH EAST DEANERY)

Date: 27th May, 2023

Venue: St. Joseph's Church, Rhenock



The North East Deanery had organized the New ZEXCO election meet for the year 2023-2025 at St. Joseph's Church, Rhenock. The DYD Rev. Fr. Chrispin Tamang and DYLA Sr. Sira Lama along with fourteen DEXCO members

visited and participated in the election. Two to three representatives from 10 parishes were present. A total no of 67 members were present for the event. The event started with a hymn and welcome address by the Coordinator of North East Deanery, Fr. Alex Lepcha followed by a talk on "Leadership" by DYD. The youth were really enlightened by the talk. The election was carried on after where the eager candidates gave their best to be elected for several posts and fifteen new members were formed and the former ZEXCOs got dissolved. Then we prepared ourselves for the Holy Eucharistic Celebration and a talk was given by Br. Benoy which was enriching and motivating for our youth. Then, the new ZEXCOs had their oath taking



ceremony before the Lord, Priests and youth. The event for the day ended by felicitation of our animator Sir Alphonse from Christ the King Church, Pakyong, then after the youth had their lunch and departed. After the event, the DEXCOs decided to go to Lamapokhari, Aritar to shoot a video for the upcoming event i.e., Environment Day. We roamed around and enjoyed each other's company. We then gathered together for a short meeting regarding the upcoming events after the dinner we chalked out different plans for the coming days. We were thankful to the Almighty for making this event a blissful and successful one.



CCBI LAITY COMMISSION Bengal Regional SEMINAR from May 28th to 31st 2023

Regional Laity Conference West Bengal Chapter

The much-awaited regional conference of the West Bengal State Level Laity Commission was held on May 28th and 31st at Divyavani Pastoral Centre, Darjeeling, it was basically a two day Training (29th & 30th May) programme for lay leaders, initiated by Catholic Conference of Bishops in India (CCBI) and the Theme was *Lay Leadership in the Indian Church*. Five lay delegates from each of the eight dioceses of Bengal (i.e. Calcutta, Baruiপুর, Darjeeling, Bagdogra, Krishnanagar, Asansol, Jalpaiguri and Raiganj) were invited to the conference by Mr. Sameer Lahiri, Regional Secretary of West Bengal. However, instead of 40, a total of 15 delegates from four dioceses turned up at the venue to deliberate on issues concerning Laity. On the second day, 20 lay leaders from Darjeeling, the host diocese, joined in the deliberations for the first half of the day and made the session livelier.

Post Vatican II declaration, subsequent to the Holy See and higher authorities of the Catholic Church, it has been repeatedly emphasized on the importance and role of the lay Christians for their spiritual and all-round development of the Church. In the Nineteenth century, the designated role of lay people was insignificant limiting to Pray, Pay and Obey. Today with increasing education and professional expertise, ordinary Catholics have come out of their shell and are effectively contributing to the church in all spheres of spiritual, social, economical, and cultural growth.

Mr. Rajen Bannerjee from Darjeeling, Mr. Dilip Rozario and his team from Kolkata, Mr. Sameer Lahiri and his team from Krishnanagar, and Mr. Biswajit Mukherjee & his team from Baruiপুর, eloquently expressed their views to ensure better functioning of laity organizations, all were thoroughly motivated and remained alive. Two lively youths from ICYM, Calcutta, Ms. Akansha Kerketta & Leo Kundu enlivened the sessions with their well-thought-out views and Action Songs. The entire event was held under the auspices of Rt. Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha of Darjeeling Diocese. His homilies during each day's Eucharist were very lucid and meaningful and exhorted the common people to be always positive. He further stated that the role of lay people in the Church must be committed without seeking position and popularity but with the dedication of a Servant Leader. The Bishop besides hosting the Convention announced that all expenses for the entire event would be borne by Darjeeling Diocese, proving once again his exemplary generosity. The entire participants appreciated the contribution of Mr. Rajen Bannerjee's unprecedented logistical arrangements and event management which would be forever remembered by all who attended the seminar. There have been many such discussion camps of lay leaders in the past and there will be more in the future but it remains to be seen how many more such conventions need to be organized to make the church realize that without laity empowerment and its spontaneous participation, the Catholic Church will not grow in the spirit of the Vatican II whose recommendations have not been implemented by the Church Hierarchy even after 50 years. Soon there might be demand for Vatican III!

- Sir Rajen Banerjee

PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP STEPHEN LEPCHA at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim.

His Lordship most Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha had two days of pastoral visit at St. Paul the Apostle parish, Tadong, Gangtok on 8th and 9th July 2023. After his arrival on the 8th afternoon, he had meetings with the Parish Priest, Assistant Parish Priest, Purush Dal, Naari Sangathan, Parish ICYM, Holy Childhood and Council of BEC Animators. They presented their annual reports and also the general report of the Parish concerning various social and pastoral works carried out by the parish. After the presentation of the reports, His Lordship appreciated the works of the parishioners and encouraged them to continue the good works. He also insisted that the parish needs to be vibrant and self reliant. Then he visited Holy Cross Convent at Tadong for a short meeting with the community followed by Holy Mass. On Sunday 9th July, the faithful celebrated the Parish Feast Day. On this auspicious day His Lordship celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the faithful of the parish. During the Holy Eucharist, eight children received the sacrament Holy Communion; eight more children received the sacrament of Confirmation and 21 children were inducted to ICYM. After the Holy Eucharist a short programme was organized to felicitate His Lordship on the occasion of the completion of his 25 years of episcopal ordination. A souvenir was presented to him with a congratulatory note. During this programme the children of the parish performed dances. A short video about the visit of His Excellency Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to Sikkim was released during the programme.

-By Mahindra Gurung.

Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Darjeeling ICYM commemorated Environment Day Date : 24th June.



On 24th of June the youth of Immaculate Conception Cathedral Darjeeling under the guidance of Fr. Richard Lepcha gathered together for a cause as per the instructions of the Diocesan Youth Commission. A cause to put forward the words of Pope Francis " Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment" into action.

A tree plantation drive was organised and we planted 50 saplings which was brought from Pokhribong. A clean drive was also organized around the parish area to make our parish clean and a plastic free zone. We ended our clean drive by cleaning the grotto. It was a splendid day and we all were blessed to be able to do something for our mother earth.

-Simran Pradhan

June-Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



*In sacred flames, the Heart divine
A love so pure, it intertwines
Christ's Heart ablaze, for me and you
Not romantic, fleeting, Real love true*

*In depths of me heart, a scared fire burns
A beacon of love that forever yearns
My response of repentance and reparation
My humble way to honor His affliction*

*My deepest desire for our heart to beat as one
Endless love, hearts entwined like wreath worn
All that matters in my life is You now
In this eternal embrace, forever I shall bow*

By Kinley, SJ
June, 2023

For a latest videos visit us at :
youtube : darjeeling divyavani prastuti
For all publications, videos & Media
visit us at :
<https://www.darjeelingdiocese.com/media/>

Report on CDPI Meet for the Young Clergy:

-Fr. Francis Lepcha

On June 26, 2023, Bishop Stephen Lepcha arranged and hosted the CDPI meeting in Divyavani Darjeeling for the young clergy of the Darjeeling diocese. Fr. Charles, the resource person, was knowledgeable and well-equipped. Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind accompanied him and introduced him to the priests.

The CDPI was created specifically to assist diocesan priests across the nation in developing a better appreciation for and efficient execution of their priestly ministry. All of the priests were made aware of the situation in the diocese, parishes, congregations of believers, and places of working by this special session. We must act responsibly and sincerely today in order to improve the world tomorrow, while the present is getting harder and harder by the day. More importantly, the seminar emphasized how crucial it is to operate in accordance with the mission and vision.

The meeting started at 9:15 and lasted until 2:45. We all sat in different groups, shared, and generated various opinions, which made the discussion more pertinent. Each priest in attendance agreed that the workshop was beneficial. Fr. Ronee Thikatri, the president of CDPI of the Darjeeling diocese, gave thanks at the conclusion of the meeting when the Bishop Stephan Lepcha had finished sharing his insightful message.

Pastoral Updating Programme

A three day refresher course was held at Pushpika Pastoral Center, Kalimpong from 4th -6th July for Parish Priests and Assistant Parish Priests. Excluding a few who could not attend due to their urgent ministries almost all Diocesan and Religious Pastors and Co Pastors attended the programme. The topics dealt were a revisit on the faculties, Child Protection Policies, Liturgical norms, Financial policies, Marriage cases, Parish Administration and Spirituality of Shepherding. While Mr. Tej Thapa was the resource person for Child Protection Policy all parochial matters were dealt by the Bishop, FR. Swid Singh and FR Edward Baretto respectively. It was a good and relevant workshop for all attendees. A heartfelt thanks to the Pushpika Team and the St. Augustine's School for the arrangements and sumptuous meals.

Kindly Communicate!!!

Tea Leaves is the medium through which the individual parishes, communities and institutions can share with others, about the activities and events of your areas of work. So please send in the reports of your initiatives and programmes to:

Fr. Alex Gurung, Fr. Richard Lepcha,
Darjeeling Diocese Communication Commission, Bishop's House, Darjeeling
E-mail : lepcharichie12@gmail.com, Mobile : 70295 19723 • alecgurung@gmail.com, Mobile : 96418 72925

Published by Darjeeling Diocese Communication Centre on behalf of Diocese of Darjeeling. Editorial Board : Fr. Alex Gurung, Fr. Sanjok Rai & Fr. Freddie Lepcha
Printed & Designed at PEETSAR GRAPHICS, Darjeeling - 734101 [98320-33006]