



# Tea Leaves

DARJEELING DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

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2018

Bishop House, Darjeeling - 734101, INDIA

February

## Message from the Bishop's Desk:



The Holy Father in his Lenten message for 2018 has referred to the Gospel of Matthew 24:12, "because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold." my dear brothers and sisters we are living in an age where it wouldn't be wrong to say that the love of many has grown cold. There is hatred, jealousy, violence, greed, disloyalty and disharmony in every part of the world. Perhaps in our own homes and hearts too. However in spite of this human coldness we are loved unconditionally by a Father who "gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting." John 3:16. This Lenten season beckons each one of us to rekindle the fire of love in our hearts and to turn to God who is ever merciful. Unless we rend our hearts we cannot experience the joy of Christ's resurrection. This season should enable us to walk one day at a time with Jesus by whose blood we are cleansed and made anew. We should spend more time in prayer so that we can hear God speaking to us. Almsgiving in the form of service or even a kind word or gesture towards another will bring us closer as a community. It helps us to overcome greed when we care about our fellow beings out of love. Fasting awakens is spiritually and "makes us more attentive to God and our neighbours. It revived our desire to obey God who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger." (Pope Francis)

I therefore call upon you to make this Lenten season a meaningful time to reflect and prepare ourselves for Easter. I reiterate the words of the Holy Father as he urges the members of the Church "to take up the Lenten joy with enthusiasm, sustained by alms giving, fasting and prayer. If at times the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew. "God bless you!

+Stephen Lepcha

## Small Christian Communities Training Programme



Bishop Stephen Lepcha has declared 2018 as the year of SCC in the Diocese. To emphasise on the importance of Small Christian Communities in building up our Christian faith the bishop has formed a Diocesan Resource Team with members from the five deaneries and under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Pius Marcus and Rev. Sr. Veronica Ranger. The Diocesan Resource team members have begun training for SCC representatives from all the parishes in their respective deaneries. The training for Darjeeling-Kurseong deanery is being held every weekend at Divya Vani Pastoral Centre, for Kalimpong it's at Pushpika. Likewise trainings are being conducted at Pedong, Namchi and Tadong too.



PIX of the month



Grotto at Turuk

## Youth Leadership seminar for Dexcos and Zexcos

### Venue: Puspika Pastoral Centre, Kalimpong

The Diocesan Youth Commission under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Michael Singh, the DYD and Ms. Jyoti Subba, DYLA, collaborated with the Dexcos had organized 'The Youth Leadership Seminar' for the new Dexcos and Zexcos of the five deaneries. It was held at Puspika Pastoral Centre, 8th mile, Kalimpong from 17th to 18th Feb 2018. The Total participants were forty five.

On 17th Feb. at 11 am we all gathered in the conference hall and the inaugural session conducted by Mr. Anjan Mangar followed by the lighting the Lamb by Ms. Jyoti Subba and Mr. Alfonse. The scripture was read by Miss Mamta Alina Gurung and short prayer by Miss Claudia Lepcha. The First session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Edward Boretto. He enlightened the youth with his topic, 'the youth apostolate in the parish is not mere part but part of the whole'. He said, 'The youth should spread the kingdom of Christ for the glory of God. Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha interacted with the Dexco and Zexcos. In his short message he said that 'with Jesus we are hero, without Jesus we are Zero'. In the third session Fr. George Lepcha divided the delegates into different groups for the ice-breaking session and gave each

group a topic to discuss. After the group discussion, under the guidance of Fr. Camrus Rai, each representatives of the Deanery presented the report. After the short break, the newly appointed Zexcos and Dexcos introduced themselves and shared about their experiences of youth ministry. In the evening the youth delegates spent the hour in adoration and confession. The day ended with the mesmerizing cultural Programme and group presentations after the dinner.

On 18th Feb 2018, the day started with the Morning Prayer on the theme, 'you are the chosen generation'. First session was conducted by Fr. Urgen Thomas Sada on the topic, 'Reliving a renewed youth vision in Parish'. After the breakfast, The Second session was conducted by Fr. Michael Singh and the action Plan for the year 2018 was prepared. At the end the new Zexcos were given opportunity to share their experience and the evaluation of the seminar was done.

The two days Youth Leadership seminar ended with the celebration of the holy mass by Fr. George Lepcha, the coordinator of Darjeeling- Kurseong. Thanks to Diocesan youth commission.



### Oh what a Merciful Lord!

*The Crown of thorns,  
The scourged flesh,  
The pierced side, the drawn nails,  
On a Cross for all to see,  
The Son of God took it all for me.  
Grace abounding, mercy overflowing,  
Forgiveness unceasing,  
Love abiding  
For a sinner like me.  
Laid in The tomb cold,  
The mystery of the stone rolled,  
Eternal life and Salvation bestowed  
All for a sinner like me.*

### BIRTHDAYS in April 2018

Fr. Singh Swid Narendra	- 02 April
Fr. Banerjee Francis Xavier	- 02 April
Fr. Lepcha Alexis	- 07 April
Fr. Rai Anup	- 16 April
Fr. Crasta Walter	- 23 April

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## **Darjeeling Diocese Diocesan Youth Commission Diocesan Youth Activities 2017-2018**

1. Seminar on Lectio Devina: The Seminar on Lectio Devina (The Divine Word of God) was held at two deferent venues, 1. St Paul's Church Tadong on 30th March 2017 where ninety youth delegates from North-East and South-West Gathered to know THE BIBLE-the holy word of God. 2. Another seminar was held at Divya Vani Pastoral Center, Darjeeling on 31st March 2017, where the hundred youths gathered participated. The main Resource person was the Secretary of Proclamation Commission of CCBI. Youth Commission expresses heartfelt gratitude to Rt. Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha for providing us such a able resource person. Fr. Stephen Lepcha, The dean of North east Sikkim Deanery, Fr. Alex Gurung, The director and all the Deanery Youth Coordinators, Dexco and Zexco members respectively.



2. Youth summer camp: The Youth Summer Camp for the youth of South-west Sikkim deanery was organized by the Deanery youth commission at St. Teresa's School, Salleybong from 2nd to 5th July 2017. The two hundred youths gathered for this event. Mrs. Mala Sherpa, Social Worker and laity faithful spoke on faith aspect. Mr. Suman Gajmer spoke on leadership, Fr. Michael F. Singh on Proclamation and evangelization. The events also had games, singing competition, cultural program, mass and confession. Thanks to Fr. Camrus and Zexco team of South-West Sikkim Deanery.
3. Dexco Election: The New Dexco Election was held on 28th Oct 2017 at in Relly Road Hall, Kalimpong. There were twelve representatives and eight nominated youth delegates form five deaneries. The following members were elected as the new executives, Simon Lepcha, President, John Rai-Vice president, Abhisak Lepcha-Secretary, Juliana Rai-Joint Secretary, Valentine Lepcha-Treasurer, Santa Samuel Rai-Ass.Treasurer, Emmanuel Thapa-Male representative, Claudia Lepcha-Female Representative, Gaurave Singh-Technician, Samuel Rai-Spoke person, Elena Gurung-Advisor, Anjan Mangar-Advisor, Remond Rai-Advisor.
4. Pedong Deanery youth convention: The deanery youth convention was held at St. Joseph's Church, Gitdubling from 3rd to 6th Jan 2018. There were around 345 youth delegates from 12 parishes of Pedong Deanery. The theme

of the Convention was, 'Know Christ and make Him known'. The convention was full of exciting programs; spiritual activities, Inter parish Bible quiz Competition, cultural items. The following areas were covered during the session; 1.The catechism, 2. Know about the Church, 3. Career guidance. The youth also actively participated in Holy Eucharist, Confession and Taize prayer. The Inter parish Quiz and Dance competitions were also held and the winners were given prizes. It was a huge success because of the active participation of youth delegates and well organizing ability of the deanery youth coordinator, Rev. Fr. Urgen Lepcha and the Zexco team.



5. Kalimpong Deanery youth Convention: The three days deanery convention for the youth of Kalimpong parishes was organized by the Deanery youth commission of Kalimpong Deanery at St. Josephs School, Pareng (a remote place near the border of Bhutan) from 11th to 14th Jan 2018. There were about hundred and seventy youth delegates (170). The theme was, 'Know Christ and make him known to others'. The following session were given to the delegates; 1. Youth and Identity by Rev. Fr. Michael Singh, DYD, 2. Know about SCC By Mr. Denish Lepcha. Besides these there were group activities, Cultural Programe and Inter parish valley ball and throw ball competition for the delegates.
6. Darjeeling-Kurseong Deanery Youth Convention: Under the leadership of Fr. George Lepcha and Team, another convention for the youth of Darjeeling and Kurseong deanery was held at St. Robert's School, Darjeeling from 18th to 21st Jan 2018. There were 160 youth delegates from different parishes of Darjeeling and Kurseong. The theme of it was, 'Know Christ and make him known to others'. The following were the topics dealt by different resource persons; 1. Christo-centric youth by Rev, Fr. Michael Singh, DYD, 2. Know the Scriptures by Fr. Kevin Mktan, 3. Charismatic movement by Fr. Peter Lingdamoo and 4. Substance abuse by Mr. Bhutia. Besides the sessions, the convention consisted of Cultural Programe, group activities, Inter parish singing competition, Taize prayer, confession and the daily Holy Mass.
7. South-West and North-East Sikkim Deanery Youth

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## Diocesan Youth Activities .....

Convention: The combined Deanery Youth Convention was organized by the Zexcos of South-West and North-East Sikkim deanery at Namchi Public School from 26th to 28th Jan 2018. The total delegates were hundred and seventy. The theme of the convention was 'Stand for Jesus'. The following subjects were dealt with during the convention; 1. ICYM and Me by Mr. James Rai, former Diocesan Youth President. 2. Know Christ and make him known to others by Fr. David Yozan Rai. 3. Youth and Vocation by Fr. Robin Kalikotey. The convention also had group activities like football and throws ball competition, cultural items, confession and the Holy Mass. Thanks to community of Namchi Public school, the donors and Zexcos of both the deaneries.



The entire convention was a huge success; we could touch the heart of Eight hundred and fifty five (855) young people of our diocese. I would like to thank the Almighty God for his blessings and his guidance through our young and energetic shepherd, Rt. Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha, the chairman of Diocesan Youth Commission, Vicar General, Chancellor, Deans and the Deanery Youth coordinators, Fr. Marcelino Lepcha, Fr. Camrus Rai, Fr. Urgen Thomas Sada, Fr. Stephen Lepcha and Fr. George and the Zexco members of the respective Deaneries. I can't forget those institutions who allowed us to use their entire facilities as the venue for the conventions; the Principal of St. Joseph's School, Pareng, Headmaster of St. Roberts School, Principal and community of Namchi Public School, Principal of St. Joseph's School, Gitdubing. Finally I would like to thank those generous donors, who helped us financially and in kind. May the almighty God bless you all and bless our diocese.

## FR. CHARLES MUKHIA MERIT AWARD - 2017 Conferred to Chelsea Agrawal



9th Fr. Charles Mukhia Merit Award Conferred to Chelsea Agarwal in the Investiture Ceremony & General Proficiency Award Day organised at St. Francis' School, Jorethang on 10 March 2018. She was School topper in ICSE board Exam-2017. Chelsea who is presently studying in Rajasthan couldn't attend the ceremony. On behalf of Chelsea, her parents Mr. Shankarlal Agrawal & Mrs. Pinky Agrawal received the Award. The Said Award was instituted by School in memory of its founding Principal Late Fr. Charles Mukhia. Earlier, in the investiture Ceremony School's Prefects, Captains & Vice Captains of different houses took the oath which was officiated by Fr. Fintan Moktan Principal, St. Francis' School. On this special ceremony Mr. Ugen Tamang an enterprising, dynamic and energetic youth leader and recipient of prestigious Awards viz, National Youth Icon Award & Sikkim Samman Award was invited as the chief guest to encourage the students in their learning process. Mr. Ugen Tamang presented proficiency Awards to all meritorious Students of junior & Senior Sections. Mr. Ugen who is a Junior Fellow of Research in Anthropology addressed the Parents, Teachers and Students. His deliberation was very encouraging, inspiring and enriching.

## 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 :

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