

DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

The Catholic Diocese of Jamshedpur

Vol. 23 No. 1

Private Circulation Only

JAN - FEB 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of Peace and Joy!



We are in the 73rd years of life of freedom that our forefathers brought forth after a long struggle and at the cost of their lives. Often, we do not realize the value of something until we lose it. We have lavished ourselves with undemocratic and unconstitutional ways of living, giving ways to corruption, right after the 1st generation of independent India.

Many of the people today are in a bad situation and if we do not tackle the problems, we may have to face worst situations tomorrow. Perhaps the reason for the situation today is our indifference and our inability to respect and value freedom, democracy and constitution in our own administration and social life; thus, we are victims of our own creation.

But let us not loose heart for in history and creation we have seen similar or worse that have given birth to new order. And today, within this chaos we are witnessing a glimpse of new order, a ray of hope in different parts of the country.

Let us rise and come out of our secure and comfort zones to be part of the change for a new order for which our fellow country men are already on the street.

As Church, we have the responsibility to contribute to our mother land for its integrity, harmony, prosperity and peace. It has to be done through our ministries, services and life of witness in our mission and work places. This responsibility must be carried out by all, clergy, religious and laity.

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. (Romans 13:12-14)

We are to salvage the integrity of our nation that our democracy and constitution enshrines. Together with our work, let us continue to pray for our mother land and our state of Jharkhand; for 'Great things are wrought by prayer than this world ever dreams of'. It will certainly bring change in time.

May God bless you all!

+Telesphore Bilung, SVD
Apostolic Administrator

DIOCESANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Diocesans today are at the crossroads of different pastoral choices. It is a historical moment in time to choose between the traditional and the contextual. Even to strike a balance between the old and the new requires conscious decision-making. No diocesan can remain indifferent to the context because it is vibrant, new, varied and often very complex. It is not just happening within the parish limits but extending beyond the ecclesiastical territories.

Since the people face the brunt of these happenings, responses cannot be postponed. Take for instance, the recent happenings in the Indian context. Protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) or the rise in prices of the essential commodities, which warrant immediate and scientific responses. Soaring prices of onion and the nationwide agitations against National Register of Citizens (NRC) are not simple matters to be ignored. They are vital issues, related to economic planning and political ideology.

If a Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues belittle the points of view expressed by the Opposition Parties on the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) and dub their concerns as ‘the language of Pakistan’ (The Hindu, December 12, 2019, p. 13), isn’t a matter of serious concern?

If a Finance Minister, (Nirmala Sitharaman) while the Parliament was seriously discussing the rise in prices of the essential commodities, commented that she is not from a family where garlic or onion-eaters (December 05, 2019), what does she communicate to the nation?

Pastoral context, therefore, is wide-ranging. The urgency, and naturally, the complexities associated with the pastoral context, press the diocesan clergy from beyond the borders of the parish or the diocese. Regional, national and global occurrences affect the pastoral milieu and call for immediate responses.

How we respond depends on the choices we make! ‘The Pastoral Guide for Diocesan Priests in Churches Dependent on the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples’ (Rome, June, 1989) proposes the following: ‘For a fruitful pastoral ministry in liberation, human development and justice, priests should strive to acquire a thorough knowledge of the Church’s Social Doctrine, guidelines and pastoral options. They should be close to their people, when they are oppressed by the rich and powerful, with bonds of solidarity and unity; conscientizing them so that they do not submit passively to situations of social injustice. Pastorals should not give up in the face of difficulties inherent in this type of work’ (No.9) (An extract from Prophetic Voice, CPCI Bulletin, Jan-2020)

“YuvaJamghat” in Catholic Charities, Sundernagar



Yuva Jamghat was held in Catholic Charities Jamshedpur on 11th to 12th January 2020. There were more than 300 junior youth gathered for the *Yuva Jamghat* from 75 villages of East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Saraikela Kharswan Dist. Adolescents came from Charbandia, Burigora, Keraikela, Khutpani, Tonto, Maluka, Saraikela Kharswan, Sini and Amda.

The Chief guest was Mr. Ravi Sanker Sukla, D.C of Jamshedpur. Guests of Honor were BDO of Jamshedpur and Chief Manager Environment and Sustainability, Jusco, Mr. Gaurav Anand.

The purpose of the *Jamghat* was to empower the youth for nation Building. *Jamghat* stated with cleaning the surrounding as part of *Sawach Bharath Abhiyan*.

Program started by lighting of the Lamp by chief guests. followed by prayer dance by adolescent girls of Comai Burigora. Soon after Fr. C.R Prabhu welcomed the guests and all the participants. The participants, then were divided in three groups and had lots of fun, programs. Street play was done on different issues such as Human Trafficking, Education, Sanitation, Save the Girl Child, Education of the Girl Child and Road Accident.

In the evening a beautiful cultural program was put up by the participants.

D.C in his message explained the main feature of the preamble of constitution of India, namely freedom equality and justice for all. All the participants greatly appreciated the program and requested to hold more such programs. (Fr George Ekka)

St. Xavier's English School & Junior College, Chaibasa

After a rigorous academic schedule and lots of extra classes, it was time for us to assess the result of our hard work, so our school conducted 2nd terminal exams for the students of Std I to XI from 4th November to 18th November.

A school is there because of the children. The children are the heart and soul of any school. Without them the schools can't exist. So, to celebrated childhood, our school chose 20th November as Children's Day instead of celebrating it on 14th November as on 14th November we had exams going on. Teachers put up a beautiful program that included 'Maha- Arti', an elaborate prayer service, dance items, songs and some magic shows. Children enjoyed a lot as all the teachers dazzled them with their mesmerizing performance.

Though Xavier's Day is celebrated on 3rd December every year, our school celebrated it on 4th December. It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of a legendary figure, our Patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier. We had some cultural programs, speeches and P. T. display on the occasion.

Our school had organized a study tour for the students of Std V to XI from 7th December to 12th December. Students were taken to Hyderabad which is full of heritage monuments, beautiful lakes and parks, museums, along with being one of the leading technology hubs of the nation. Global icon and landmark of Hyderabad- Char Minar, World's largest film city at Ramoji, Asia's largest artificial lake- HussainSagar Lake, the magnificent fortress complex Golconda Fort, one of India's National museums- Salar Jung Museum and the delicious cuisine there won the hearts of all who visited there.

After the tight schedule of studies, students need leisure time to get relief from studies. And what can be better than a day out to some place? School picnic is one of the best ways to provide relaxation to the mind of students as well as teachers. It adds spice to our life. So, our school made arrangements for picnics for different classes on different days. Our students had lots of fun there.

On 21st December, we celebrated Christmas in all its joy and happiness. There were dance items, skit, Christmas carols, etc., to entertain us and to spread the message of love and joy among our children. With this happy spirit our school closed for the winter break. (Sr. Sheetal UMI)

MIXED MARRIAGES/DISPARITY OF CULT MARRIAGES

1. What is the difference between a mixed marriage and a disparity of cult marriage?

A *Mixed Marriage*, which is also known as a *Mixed Religion* marriage is, in the strict sense, one that is contracted between a baptised Catholic and a baptised non-Catholic. A *Disparity of Cult* marriage is one that is contracted between a Catholic and an unbaptised person.

2. What is to be done in mixed marriages/disparity of cult marriages, if the non-Catholic party is unwilling to allow the children to be brought up as Catholics?

The Catholic party is bound to sign the usual promises but for good reasons the dispensation can be granted if, in the judgement of the Local Ordinary or his delegate, there is no danger of the Catholic party losing his/her faith and there is the founded hope of a happy marriage.

3. Is it permissible to celebrate a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian during Mass?

No, a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian cannot be celebrated during Mass. Even a marriage between a Catholic and a baptised non-Catholic cannot be celebrated during Mass without the due permission of the Local Ordinary, as per the *motu proprio* “Determining Norms for Mixed Marriages” issued by Pope Paul VI on March 31, 1970.

4. In the case of mixed marriages, is it permissible to give communion to the baptised non-Catholic party?

The provisions of Canon 844 §4 would apply to mixed marriages: if in the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop or of the Episcopal Conference, there is some grave and pressing need, Catholic ministers may lawfully administer communion to other Christians not in full communion with the Catholic Church, who cannot approach a minister of their own community and who spontaneously asks for communion, provided that he/she believes in the Real Presence and is properly disposed. These cases must be referred to the Diocesan Bishop for his permission.

5. Is double religious ceremony permissible in marriage?

Canon 1127 §3 clearly states that it is forbidden to have, either before or after the canonical celebration, another religious celebration of the same marriage for the purpose of giving or renewing matrimonial consent. Likewise, there is not to be a religious ceremony in which the Catholic assistant and a non-Catholic minister each performing his own rite, ask for the consent

of the parties. However, there is no law forbidding a civil marriage before or after the Church marriage for reasons of obtaining passport, visa, etc.

6. If a dispensation from the Canonical Form of marriage is to be granted, what is necessary?

At times, for good reasons, the baptised non-Catholic party insists on having his/her marriage celebrated only civilly or in a non-Catholic Church. In such a case, it is possible to grant a dispensation from the Canonical Form of marriage – (Canon 1127 §2)

When applying to the Local Ordinary or his delegate for dispensation from the Canonical Form of marriage, the priest concerned must, in the first place, find out from the non-Catholic party the reasons for the same. Without proper and grave reasons, a dispensation from the Canonical Form cannot be granted.

If the parties belong to two different dioceses it is for the Local Ordinary of the Catholic party to grant the dispensation. The dispensation, however, should not be granted without consulting the Ordinary of the place where the marriage is to be celebrated.

All the marriage papers should be kept in the files of the parish to which the Catholic party belongs.

The parish priest of the Catholic party should ask the Catholic party to obtain his/her Marriage Certificate and this should be registered in the parish Marriage Register with the remark that, with due dispensation from the Canonical Form of marriage, the marriage was celebrated in court/Church on (date) at (place).

7. If a Catholic party was married to a non-Catholic party civilly or according to any other religious rite and the non-Catholic party is unwilling for their marriage to be blessed in the Church. What is to be done?

In the case under consideration, where a Catholic party marries a non-Catholic party without obtaining dispensation from the Form of marriage, it is still possible under certain conditions to have the marriage rectified by retroactive validation (cf. Canons 1161 & 1165). The Catholic party concerned should be referred to the Local Ordinary or his delegate.

8. In the case of a Mixed Marriage or a marriage of Disparity of Cult, if one party belongs to one diocese and the other to another diocese, what is to be done?

It is the duty of the parish priest of the Catholic party to see to it that all the preparatory documentation for the marriage is carried out. It is the parish priest of the Catholic party who should apply for dispensation from the impediment of Disparity of Cult or for permission for Mixed Marriage, following the normal requirements.

The parish priest of the Catholic party should then write to the parish priest of the place where the non-Catholic party resides, to ascertain the free state, fill in the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form and to send all the required documents back to him. In the process of collecting this data, the parish priest should also instruct the non-Catholic party about the purposes and essential properties of marriage, which are not to be excluded by either contractant. It is, however, recommended that the parish priest of the Catholic party himself instructs and fills in the P.N.E. Form of the non-Catholic party.

If the marriage is to take place in the diocese of the non-Catholic party, then the parish priest of the Catholic party should complete the dossier of the Catholic party and send the same to the parish priest where the marriage is to be celebrated.

9. If a Catholic party who has contracted civil marriage wants to have his/her marriage celebrated in the Catholic Church, how should one proceed? Should the Civil Marriage Register be filled in and signed by the parties? Should the Civil Marriage Certificate be sent to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages?

If a Catholic party has contracted civil marriage with another Catholic party, their marriage would be civilly valid but canonically invalid. Hence, the normal procedure for marriage between two Catholics is to be followed. However, with regard to the signing of the Marriage Register, the couple needs to sign only the Church Marriage Register.

As far as the Civil Marriage Register is concerned, the parish priest must enter the details of the civil marriage on it, i.e., the names of the couple, the date of marriage, the Act under which the marriage was celebrated, etc. However, he is **not to send** this civil marriage certificate to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

With regard to the serial number of such marriages, one should number it as follows: If the serial number of the previous entry in the Marriage Register is 21, then this marriage should be given the serial number 21A, and not serial number 22. In this way there will be no break in

the numbering of the civil marriage certificates sent to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

If a Catholic party has contracted civil marriage with a non-baptised person and now wants to get married to the same party in the Catholic Church. If they have contracted marriage under the Special Marriage Act or Indian Christian Marriage Act, follow the normal procedure for disparity of cult marriages, that is, apply for dispensation from the impediment of Disparity of Cult in the usual form and follow the normal procedures for such marriages.

With regard to the signing of the Registers the same procedure as in the case of a Catholic marrying a Catholic is to be followed.

If the marriage has been contracted under the Hindu Marriage Act or in any other Religious Act, the presumption of law is that the Catholic party has been converted to Hinduism or to any other religion as the case may be. In this case the Catholic party must be told to make an Affidavit stating either that he/she had never intended to be converted to Hinduism or any other Religion, or, (if the party had actually converted and given up the Catholic Faith), that he/she wants to reconvert and be received into the Catholic Church, as the case may be. After this, he/she must first be received into the Catholic Church. This would involve absolving the person concerned from any censures he/she might have incurred. Then, the normal procedure for disparity of cult marriages is to be followed.

10. If two non-baptised persons married civilly or according to their religious rites and if a civil divorce has been obtained and the party now wants to marry a Catholic can this marriage be allowed?

Such a marriage cannot be allowed unless the person who has been civilly divorced also obtains an annulment or dissolution of his/her marriage because the Church recognizes the marriage but not the civil divorce. The case should be referred to the Local Ordinary or his delegate.

APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR' ENGAGEMENTS

(As of January 22, 2020)

January, 2020				
22	WED	10 AM	Village Chapel Blessing	Charbandia
23	THU	AM	St. Joseph's School, New Block Blessing	Charbandia
24	FRI	PM	Unity Octave – Prayer Meet	Golmuri

25	SAT	PM	Graduation Day – Mercy School of Nursing	Baridih, JSR
26	SUN	AM	Confirmation, Infant Jesus Church	Sonari
27	MON	AM	Jubilee Celebration	Ursuline Convent, CKP
29	WED		Archbishop's House	Ranchi
30	THU	AM	Blessing	Jhinkpani
February, 2020				
01	SAT	PM	Addressing the Mahila Sangh	Sungernagar, Patel Bagan
02	SUN	AM	Confirmation, St John De Britto Church	Tepasai
04	TUE	AM	Deans' Meeting	B.H, Golmuri
6-7			Meeting with the Catechists	Divya Bharati, Chaibasa
09	SUN	AM	Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Petrus Guria	Cathedral, Golmuri
11-21			CBCI General Body Meeting	Bangalore

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Date	Name
January	
04	Sameer Soreng
11	Raju Felix Crasta
21	Selva Raj
28	Gyanprakash Topno
February	
09	Johny Vithayathil
14	Alex Dodrai
20	Augustine Kullu
21	Vernon D'Souza
22	Camille Hembrom
23	Cyprian Lobo
25	Junas Purty

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am glad to inform you:

Rev. Bro. Sameer Ekka will be ordained deacon on 1st February, 2020 at St. Charles' Seminary, Nagpur.

Rev. Bro. Petrus Guria will be ordained deacon on 9th February, 2020 at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Golmuri, Jamshedpur.

Let us keep them in our valuable prayers.