

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

The GALILEE OF OUR LIFE



We pass through an era that has brought in different approaches to one's own belief in God. Though there are believers who have firm faith in the divine, no matter what he/she goes through in real life, there are also people

who rationalize and come to the conclusion that, even if God is there as the Almighty, why should one bother much about Him/Her if this God is not bothered about human miseries, especially of the innocent ones. To such critics, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the apt answer. The believers of the risen Christ have the right mindset to see a God who walks with them, even in their untold miseries and becomes a partner in all one goes through and finally leading His faithful to his own Eternal Glory. ".....Where I am you may be also" (Jn.14/3).

St. Paul says, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain"-(1 Cor.15/13-14). In fact, according to theologian Bultmann, the resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the meaningfulness of Cross (suffering). The same God-man, who reached His Glory through hardships, leads us to the same Glory through our own painful situations. This risen Christ is the starting point of Christian *kerygma* and leads the faithful to real conversion, giving them the strength to confess, "My God and my Lord". Each of His disciples was able to meet with Him at different points of their life and so could carry this Good News forward. Unless one meets with this risen

Christ, one cannot meaningfully proclaim him to the world.

It is interesting to note that when the disciples, disappointed to the core, thought that after the death of Jesus on the Cross everything was over and a time had come to pick up the old boats and nets, the risen Jesus tells the women, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; they will see me" (Mt.28/10; Mk16/7; Lk. 24/6). This only means that Galilee, a symbol of catastrophic failures, hardships, or the dark night of the soul, is the beginning for a renewed life or a vibrant new life, seeing His presence in the present. The Lord goes before us in everything we do in life, and that is surely, we will find His presence that is the hope of our life.

The Paschal Mystery of dying and rising to life is the norm and paradigm of Christian life (Jn.12/24). "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Mt. 16/25). A disciple is the one who is willing to follow his Master's suit, willing to die daily and rise to life; the Master's constant inspiration is the force behind this achievement. Without dying to self, that is, without seeing the crucified and risen Christ as the life's motivation, a transformed life eludes us. We need to make a resolution to get back to the Galilee of our life courageously and meet the resurrected Jesus who still bears the marks of crucifixion; we need to leave our tombs to experience the risen Lord, that too in the Galilee of our life. It is there we realize, "It is good for us to be here". Amen! Alleluia!!

+Sebastian Kallupura
Bishop of Buxar

WEAVING

The month of March marched through the final stages of Lenten practices, only to let the power of the Risen Lord to renew in Spirit those who underwent purification and conversion. Leading our people in their pilgrimage must have added new vigor in the pursuit of our own goal.

The deanery meetings as well as the reflection that followed during the meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council make one feel the pulse of the diocese. If the expected satisfaction is still elusive, we will do well in freeing ourselves from the vicious circle of the blame game and concentrate on "What I can do?" to improve the situation. In fact the Pastoral Letter of the Bishop provides the needed guidelines and practical suggestions. The declaration of the Year of the Youth, being a big step forward, concurring with the spirit of the Universal Church, should give us all sufficient motivation and direction in our future activities. The Committee appointed for the purpose will show us and all concerned the way forward.

This issue carries in the form of an interview the success story of a Catholic family. Sharing this oasis can inspire many a family. Sasaram and Kochas show us the way as to how to be socially involved, standing for a cause along with people of every caste and creed.

The initiative taken by Calicut diocese and the Congregation of Missionaries of Charity coupled with hopeful increase in the number of candidates, the Lord's special concern for our mission is obvious.

The result of the annual catechism examination is another indication of the faith level in the diocese. An analytical study of the data will call for revival in the faith formation. If reports on adult catechism are missing, what does it mean? The action plans of the parish to be reported to the Bishop by 10 May will show us the way for the future. Hope the diocesan summer catechetical camp for Stds. VII & VIII will have full attendance. Each parish is to have its own Bible Utsav during summer holidays.

Now that the year of youth has started on 15/04, hitherto the focus of our ministry is to be "Youth". "Young men, you are strong and the word of God remains in you." (1 Jd. 2:14)

Almost every SG issue carries death reports, announcing that the inevitable has happened – one era or a chapter has come to a close. It is a wake-up call to fill the vacuum created. Our diocese needs more and more men and women catechists to carry the baton of Jagdish Master.

Once upon a time "Jeevan Pravesh" team used to visit our schools to provide the much needed education on sex, morality and life orientation. Since years have passed without such a programme for our teenagers (Stds. IX/X) in our schools, attempt is made to revive the same and more schools will be beneficiaries of the same. It is so hard to find resource persons to form such a team. Any takers?

JA

I. MAJOR EVENTS!

Mission Linkage Program:

The Latin Diocese of Calicut in Kerala has decided to adopt Buxar Diocese for the Mission Cooperation in the field of evangelization. Such a step was taken by the diocese of Calicut at the SCC Mission Meet organized by the Latin dioceses of Kerala last year. As a prelude to the mission venture, four priests from Calicut visited our diocese from 10th to 14th April 2018. The team visiting the

parishes obtained firsthand experience of our mission, feeling the pulse of the diocese. In their

meeting with the Bishop different venues and possibilities of mission cooperation were laid bare. Now the team will apprise the Bishop of Calicut on all pertinent matters and then take concrete steps to make Buxar a part of the Mission Trust of Calicut diocese. A WELCOME MISSIONARY VENTURE INDEED!

The Bishops of the Hindi Region Meet:

On 18-19 of April the Bishops of the Hindi Region had their annual meeting at Delhi Archbishop's House to discuss matters concerning the promotion of Catholic literature in Hindi. It showed

a special concern for the translation of the Liturgical and Para-liturgical literature as well as the Papal Documents to Hindi. To be authentic to the original, the group has decided that all liturgical or Para-liturgical books and the Papal Documents can be published in Hindi only after obtaining the approval of the *Catholic Hindi Sahitya Samiti* of the Catholic Bishops of Hindi Region, based in Allahabad and its president being the Catholic Bishop of Allahabad.

Chrism Mass :

The whole diocese was represented at the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral Church on the 27th of March, as it was held (4:00 – 6:00 pm) soon after the conclusion of the meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The life and ministry of priests was focused upon and the importance of Presbyterium was experienced and reflected during the event.

The diocese is much indebted to archbishop William D'Souza SJ., who took the trouble to reach Buxar and officiate the Chrism Mass, as Bp. Sebastian was indisposed.

Priests' Recollection:

As per schedule the priests gathered at SD in the evening of 13/3 to participate in the recollection that concluded by lunch on the 14th. This time Fr. Alwyn D'Souza SJ from Ara led the group into deep reflection on "Repent and Believe in the Gospel". It set the right mode to lead the people through the season of Lent.

Possible Arrival of MC Sisters Gathers Momentum:

On 22nd of April, four Missionaries of Charity Sisters, led by the Regional Superior of Ranchi Region, Sr. Sebastiano MC visited Bp. Sebastian at the Bishop's House and made plans to begin the MC Ministry at Ara. Initially, from the month of June 2018 four sisters will start their ministry at Ara, temporarily staying in the old hostel building there. Though the group will be in Ara, serving the people according to its special charisms, it will be initially attached to Patna City community. The sisters, thereupon, will eventually discern the nature of their future ministry at Ara on a permanent basis. A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR DEAR SISTERS.

Hope Instilled:

"I alone cannot change the world. But I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples", said Mother Teresa. Interfaith meeting was

observed on 11th March commemorating International Women's Day highlighting the power of women, their rights and role in the society. ICM Sisters (PRAGATI) at Kochas, working under the Diocese of Buxar (BUDSSS), collaborating in partnership with Caritas India through "Roshini Programme" are bringing ray of hope to the young girls and women of Mahadalit's community. About five hundred women & young girls gathered at St. Joseph's Catholic School Harnathpur, Kochas. Shree. Manoj kumar (BDO of Kochas block) was the Chief Guest. Women and children performed spectacular programme on this special occasion. Indeed it has instilled hope in them.

ICM Sisters Kochas

The cry of Abel rose to heaven and God answered



Words fail to describe the horror of young Asifa's week long ordeal and horrible

death at the hands of her rapists. In solidarity with the whole of humanity world-wide Navjeevan Health Centre, organized a candle light march from our campus to post office Chowk, Sasaram on 17th March. 'WE WANT JUSTICE' was our cry. More than eight hundred people participated in it. Navjeevan health Centre sisters/staff and our collaborators, Doctor friends, medical representatives, president of 18 private schools in Rohtas and principals, teachers, GEMMS pastors Reuben and his faithful, Sr. Assunta and her collaborators, Fr. Stephen and parishniors, Sr. Florice ICM and her social workers from Kochas and many others just rushed in to join the march as we walked through the busy street. It was a touching experience to feel united in one common purpose of condemning this evil of child rape. Our efforts will continue till this sort of crime is stopped.

Sr. Dr. Prema Devraj, SND

2. SEMINARS/CELEBRATIONS

Priests' Council

On the 21st of April, Priests' Council of the Diocese had its meeting at Sewa Dham, Buxar. The Council made concrete suggestions to improve the pastoral life and mission of the diocese with special focus on youth ministry. Matters bearing on the life and mission of priests were discussed in length.

Diocesan Finance Commission:

The Diocesan Finance Commission had its meeting on 30th April to finalize the annual budgets and fix the salary scale of the employees.

Diocesan Pastoral Council:

The members of the Buxar Diocesan Pastoral Council met (11th meeting) at Sewa Dham on 27 March 2018 to deliberate on Implementation of the Diocesan Perspective Plan and on Youth Ministry. The house was briefed by both deans, Frs. Charlie Issac and Stephen Raj SJ on the situation prevailing in each deanery considering the implementation of DPP, based on the deanery meeting held, preceding this meeting. Fr. Louis Prakash SJ, who headed the committee to evaluate the functioning of hostels in the diocese and to propose recommendations presented the findings of the committee. Since youth ministry emerged as one compelling issue today in the context of DPP and the forthcoming Synod on the Youth in October 2018, the Council took it up as the main agenda. Fr. Christu Raj, the Diocesan Director of the youth presented, along with the a few youth, the present scenario of the youth and youth ministry prevailing in the diocese. The reflections shared by Fr. Anand of Varanasi diocese (special invitee), based on his many years of experience in the youth ministry, called for a paradigm shift in our mind set on the youth. He said: "They may look rough and tough, like the outer skin of a jackfruit, but they are very tender and affectionate inside"!

Group discussion based on the pertinent questions proposed helped the whole process more participative and practical too. The presentation of each group's findings was followed by common discussion on the important points that emerged. The main thrust focused on the need to be more serious about implementing the five year plan of the diocese (DPP) and on dedicating one year specially for the youth. Hence, all said in one voice that 'Year of Youth' is to be declared in the diocese.

Being true to the nature and function of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the important recommendations that emerged from the common discussion on the agenda of the meeting were codified and presented to the Bishop for his consideration.

Bishop's Endorsement:

As per the custom, Bishop considered the findings and recommendations of the Council; and endorsing the salient points, wrote on 09 April a pastoral letter to all the faithful. At the very outset he expressed his deep concern over the not so satisfactory situation in implementing the DPP. He called upon all concerned to go in full swing in doing each one's part to make things happen as per the plans proposed. Highlighting the importance of a healthy family, he reiterated the need to work on the following:

- Parents to spend quality time with their children
- Foster friendship and transparency among the family members
- Develop the habit of sharing, evaluation and planning in the family to make it a domestic church
- Make the family participative, making the children responsible
- May the family be an abode of God. Bible, daily family prayer etc. cannot be emphasized enough

Youth Ministry: Bishop recalled that the purpose of the youth ministry is to organize the youth making them the true leaders of the nation. Some practical suggestions to achieve this goal:

- Every parish to have an active lay youth animator
- Organize every year at least three youth training programmes in the parish
- Have three days of annual youth convention
- Organize retreat, pilgrimage etc. to foster the spiritual growth of the youth
- Have youth organizations like Jesus Youth, YCS etc.
- Have one publication only for the youth
- Diocese to contribute to a youth fund, if established in the parish with the cooperation of the parishioners
- Have one Sunday in the month set aside for the youth

The church wants to accompany the youth in their challenges and hard situations. May the youth, being the children of God, make their life a success and help others to do the same. This year the diocese will focus all its energy on the youth ministry and all the commissions, along with the parishes, will make all possible programmes to involve the youth and cater to their needs. The youth are specially invited to organize themselves and cooperate with the plans in the diocese at various levels. To this end, Bishop declared that

FROM 15 APRIL 2018 TO 15 APRIL 2019 – TWELVE MONTHS – WILL BE THE YEAR OF THE YOUTH.

This one year will be OF THE YOUTH, FOR THE YOUTH AND BY THE YOUTH.

The committee, headed by the Diocesan Director of the Youth, Fr. Christu Raj, proposed by the Council is endorsed by the Bishop to give the lead in making the Year of Youth fruitful through activities at parish, deanery and diocesan level. Each parish is to do it through core-team and parish council meetings and its report is to reach the Bishop by 10 May.

Vocation Promotion

Fr. Anand and Bro. Bikas were in Rourkela vocation camp to invite boys to join Buxar diocese, while Dn. Manoj did the same thing at Khunthi. A few boys have signed up, while matric results are awaited. The vocation camp organized by Fr. Charlie in Buxar on 03-05 in May could supply more candidates too. Harvest is plenty, but

Life Orientation:

The students of Stds. IX & X in Ara and Dumraon had the opportunity to participate in two days of workshop on sex related topics, life and career orientation, thanks to the team from Patna consisting of Fr. Andrew James SJ, Sr. Mary James HC and Sunil Kumar. The students of other schools also will be in the coming months provided with the same opportunity.

Marriage Preparation Course:

Boys and girls from the parishes gathered at SD participated in the intensive residential marriage preparation course on 20-25 March. The main resource persons were Frs. Sushil Sah SJ (Patna), James Amakatt, Sr. Neel Kusum SMI. Dr. Sr. Prabha CJ dealt with sex related issues. Due to unknown reasons the attendance was very thin and therefore another opportunity is to be provided during

Dashehra holidays (15-19 October), soon after the Marriage Convention (14 Oct.). Thanks to all concerned in being partners to form Catholic families.

Monfort Feast Celebrated:

Bp. Sebastian, priests, brothers and sisters from the neighborhood gathered at the residence of Montfort Brothers, Buxar to greet and intercede for the brothers on the occasion of the celebration of the feast of St. Montfort. Bishop on behalf of all expressed deep appreciation for the selfless service of the brothers to the marginalized. The happy news is that they intend to very soon open a new Centre in the diocese.

3. NEWS MAKERS

New Assignments:

- Fr. Binoy, Asst. Education Director
- Fr. Anand, Asst. BUDSSS Director & Director of Vocation Promotion
- Fr. Arogya G., Regional Coordinator, Bihar for Prison Ministry India.
- Fr. Francis Mattathilani, Diocesan Consulter & Finance Committee Member
- Fr. Akshay IMS, Diocesan Consulter & Finance Committee Member

New Leadership:

- Fr. Donald Miranda SJ, Jesuit Provincial, Patna
- Sr. Annie CSS, Superior General of Samaritan Sisters
- Sr. Anita CSS, Asst. Sup. General.
- Sr. Doris D'Souza AC, Provincial Superior, Patna

HEARTY CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL

Gratitude:

The diocese will ever remain grateful to the generous contributions of:

- Fr. Charlie Issac, Director of Vocation Promotion
- Fr. Joe Vadassery SJ, Provincial & Diocesan Consulter
- Fr. Francis Quadros, Diocesan Consulter & Member, Finance Committee
- Sr. Rose Cornelia CSS, Superior General
- Sr. Lily D'Souza AC, Provincial Superior, Patna.

BEING GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE MISSION, WE WILL ACOMPANY YOU ALL WITH OUR PRAYERS.

Seminarians:

Seminarians from different locations have reached the diocese at various points of time for their summer vacation, which will be spent in the diocese. They have been posted in the parishes to experience the life and spirit of the diocese. On 11-14 of May a gathering of all of them is arranged at SD and the diocesan priests will meet them on the 14th.

Laicization: Ashok Kumar has been given dispensation from the priesthood. We wish and pray for God's blessings in his new status.

4. VARIA

RESULT OF THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATECHISM EXAMINATION 2017-2018

Std. IV

Prince Kumar	Amulya	1st
Shyam Sunder Kumar	Chenari	2nd

Std. V

Chitaranjan Kumar	Amulya	1st
Sugandha Kumari	Amulya	2nd
Savita Kumari	Piro	3 rd

Std. VI

Sonamati Kumari	Dumraon	1st
Anmol Kumar	Ara	2nd
Naina Kumari	Shahpur	3rd

Std. VII

Karina Kumari	Dumraon	1st
Sandeep Kisku	Chenari	2nd
Nishant Kerketta	Ara	3rd

Std. VIII

Sushma Kumari	Dumraon	1st
Neha Kumari	Shahpur	2nd
Roshan Kumar	Chenari	3rd

Std. IX

Ajit Kumar	Itarhi	1st
Subhanam	Itarhi	2nd
Naina Kumari	Itarhi	3rd

Cash Awards:

1st = Rs. 500.00/ 2nd = Rs. 300.00/ 3rd = Rs. 200.00
[CONGRATULATIONS to all those who appeared in the examination and to the toppers. Each parish will do well by awarding all the toppers at the local level in each class. The pattern at the diocesan level of this year will be followed in the coming years. Annual examination will be conducted for all the students from Std. I to X. In this year, students of

Stds. I to III and X did not appear. Results of IV could not be considered for the third prize! Hope in 2018-2019 the situation will improve. Text books [Stds. I to X) as well as non-detailed book for lower classes are available at SD.]

FAITH: AS STRONG AS ROCK

(Interview of Sanjeev Master (Buxar Parish) by Fr. James Amakatt)

J.: Masterji, what do you do?

S.: At present I am the HM of Government Middle School, Itarhi. Earlier, I was for 13 years at Block Resource Center, giving training to Government teachers.

J.: Tell me something about you and your family.

S.: I am 54 years old and when I was 25 my father died. We are four brothers and three sisters and being the eldest in the family, I had to take care of my younger ones. Now one brother of mine is a doctor, another one SDO and the third one a teacher, while two sisters are teachers and the third one a nurse. One of my sons is a doctor and the other one is in the final year of MBBS, whereas both of my daughters are teachers. Except my sons all the above ones are married to Catholics.

J.: Amazing! How did you manage to take all your family members to this level?

S.: It is all due to my uncompromising faith in my Lord, who is the Master of my life and the head of our family. Our family is what it is today due to the education and guidance we received from the Catholic Church. All of us studied in Catholic school, staying in the hostel. Our parents had strong faith in Jesus. My wife Sushila, also a teacher, was a big support to me in bringing up all the siblings, giving them proper education and guidance.

J.: Once one of your brothers told me "Our Bhaiya" (elder brother) is everything to us. We will do anything for him". They seem to be very grateful to you. What is the secret?

S.: In fact there is no secret. My wife and me loved them and did whatever we could to educate them as much as they wanted. God helped us in this process, also to get suitable life partners for them. All of them are living a happy married life. It is a great joy for me that we could do it.

J.: How did you manage to have only Catholic marriage in your family?

S.: First of all, my dear father wanted it to be so! He had arranged my marriage, though he could not see

it through, as death took him away. It was our family decision, that come what may, none will enter into a non-Catholic marriage. With this determination, we worked towards this goal and still are at it.

J.: Did not non-Christian parents of girls entice you with high dowry?

S.: Certainly. In fact there was no end to it, even trying to influence me through my friends. As soon as I came to know that the proposal was from a non-Christian, with an emphatic 'No', I did not entertain the topic and said my brother is not thinking of marriage now.

J.: How did you face the demand for dowry in the case of your sisters/daughters?

S.: Since I had made up my mind not to demand any dowry for my brothers, and now my sons, it was very difficult for me to face high demands from the boy's side. It is in fact the Catholics who demand high dowry. Thus pushed to going from pillar to post, to have only Christian marriage, was nothing less than a herculean task. At times I was haunted by the fear that I may have to end up with non-Christian marriage. I was, on my own, ready to give the maximum for the happiness of my sister/daughter.

J.: When you had no demands from the girl's party, were they not surprised?

S.: Yes, they were! One even said, "If you had asked for, I would have given a four-wheeler". Whatever they were ready to give to their daughter without any compulsion was OK with me. All of them were job holders and after marriage they were able to purchase vehicles of their choice. I think that is the way it should be.

J.: When you turned your face on demands, what was the reaction of the other party?

S.: All of them turned away except the ones who agreed to marry my sisters/daughters. However, I had the lurking fear, if the girls will get the love and respect they need or perpetual harassment. Thank God, my fear was misplaced. All of them are happily married, as I did give without any compulsion.

J.: What is your message for those who think 'Catholic marrying only a Catholic' is not a practical idea?

S.: Since I did it and intend to do it in the future, I have the courage to propose Catholic marriage as a practical and even a MUST to all the Catholic

brethren. I have seen that families governed by dowry system do not have the real peace. Attachment to material things cannot purchase happiness. It will not make your "Bahu" a daughter. I was not even keen on going through the 'gifts' received at marriage. If you do not demand, it brings in a lot of freedom and happiness.

Happy Birthday !

May

09 Fr. Jogesh P.

June

01 Fr. Vijay Bhaskar

01 Fr. Prathap Dalai

02 Fr. Francis Quadros

12 Fr. Anil Benet

20 Fr. Mathew Katta SJ

Ordination Anniversary !

May

14 Bp. Sebastian (Priestly)

14 Fr. James A.

15 Fr. Charlie Issac

June

21 Bp. Sebastian (Episcopal)

Upcoming Events at Sewa Dham !

- Vocation Camp 03 – 05 May
- Catechetical Camp
Std. VII May 18 – 27
Std. VIII May 29 – June 05
- Women's Convention 7-10 June
- Media Education Seminar 15 Evening - 20 June

Prayer for the Sick:

After having another treatment in Lucknow to flush out pancreas-stones, Bishop Sebastian had a bout of chicken pox, confining him to total isolation during the whole Holy Week. Not wishing to lag behind, Fr. Amalan followed suit and remained in isolation for about 12 days and nights. However, on 25/4 he was in flying colors to celebrate his birthday. Thanks to Bro. Francis Lal who turned out to be the hero in both cases, for he nursed with perfect dedication the duo afflicted with chicken pox and himself remaining immune! If he were not to be there as the shield, many more perhaps would have fallen prey to the virus. Thank you, Bro. Francis – our "Lal".

- Fr. Mathew Katta SJ, getting treatment in Patna for sugord eye related ailment need our prayers

Obituary:

- ❖ **Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara's** picture standing with lit candle in front of S. H. Cathedral, Delhi on 18.04.2018 along with 30 Bishops from the Hindi belt for a cause 'JUSTICE FOR ASIFA' went viral. After this final public appearance – he was fond of being part of such events – he had his last supper with Nuncio and the bishops and went to bed for his eternal rest. His mortal remains were laid to rest in Nagpur Cathedral Church on 23/4. Hindi region is much indebted to him, one of the founders of the Conference of Bishops of Hindi Region. Being 40 years a bishop, he was a model of church leadership in the mission area. May he continue to inspire us. RIP.
- ❖ **Anthony (77), the elder brother of Fr. Francis Mattathilani**, after prolonged heart ailments, went for his eternal reward on 16/04. As Fr. Francis could not be there for the funeral, he went home later for a few days. Hearty condolences and prayers for the family members and the deceased. RIP.
- ❖ **Jagdish Master (Buxar)**: Joseph Jagdish Master (77) spent his last days in his village Magadh and died on 22/3. The funeral Mass on the following day was offered by Bp. Sebastian. Frs. Francis Mattathilani and Francis Quadros were, among other priests and huge crowd, present on the occasion.

As a young man, withstanding the temptation of lucrative job, Jagdish responded to the call of the Lord to be a catechist. He loved the Church, stood by the Church and dedicated his whole life for the mission, not counting the cost. At the end of his life he, along with others, realized that he had made the right choice and God blessed him abundantly for the same. It is to be noted that two days before his death Bp. Sebastian and Fr. James A. visited him in his village, prayed with him and blessed him, as he was waiting for the final call from the Lord. Though he was unable to speak, he looked very alert, trying to move his lips joining in the prayer.

As a catechist he has turned out to be a legendry figure. We miss him. RIP.

Fr. James A.

Special Feature

YOUTH: Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in October 2018, to the Youth, its theme being "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment". It is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the Post-Synodal apostolic exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia'.

Archbishop Christopher Pierre said: "The upcoming Synod and the preparation for it provide a window for us to learn from young people to listen to them to be with them and to help them discover God's plan for them. Our presence will remind them that they matter; that they are part of the family; that they belong. Rejecting the throw away culture, we will give them reason to hope by assuring them that we are on the journey with them".

"You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the Church, and you are my hope" St. John Paul II.

One of India's biggest challenges today is managing its youth. Population experts tell us that there is a net addition of 18 million to the population each year, 460 million Indians today are between 13 and 35 years of age and 333 million of them are literate. Another commonly cited statistic is that 70% of India's population is below the age of 35 and that 80% of them are literate. They are a digital generation and we are migrants into it! They talk a language many of us do not understand. They are: a generation ever new, accustomed to diversity by virtue of their socialization, qualified by the phenomenon of religious switching and multi-tasking.

What to do? Reach out to Unchurched Youth* Have fun with them* Make our liturgy youth-friendly* Introduce Bible as youth's companion* Be faith models and icons* Make them agents of change* Be an effective listener* Provide sufficient space for feedback.

Bishop's Programs:

May

- 2 Ordination of Deacon Manoj, Buxar Cathedral.
- 5 Golden Jubilee of Sr. Anatolia, SRA at Kudra.
- 8 BCC Diocesan team training at Navjyoti, Patna .
- 12 – 13 Itarhi parish Marian Novena.

JUNE

- 7 – 10 Diocesan *Mahila Sangh Sammelan*, Buxar.
- 12 – 14 Canon Law Seminar, Patna Navjyoti.
- 21 Mass at Cathedral, Bishop's Episcopal Anniversary.
- 21 Dhansoi School Blessing.

