Bros. Silas and Marius ordained deacons on 16.06.16.

Dns. Dominic Zeliang and Peter Solo with Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop, Guwahati & Fr. Isaac after the Diaconate Ordination at Oriens Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong on 17.06.16.

Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General, praying during the Public Memorial Service for Eno Isak Chishi on 30.06.16.
Dear Friends,

Greetings and prayers! I am writing these few lines during the last leg of my visit to USA. First of all I thank all of you for praying for me, for my intention and mission. On the whole the mission was successful and I hope it will also be fruitful. I am grateful to Fr. Carolus, who shouldered the responsibility in my absence and to all of you for the collaboration and teamwork. Many events have marked the last two months, in our diocese and in the world.

First of all I thank God and am grateful to many people who helped in the passing of the **St. Joseph Catholic University (Nagaland) bill**. It is a giant and decisive leap forward in our educational apostolate and I am sure that through this university we will be able to serve better and make our people, especially our youth, more skilled and equipped to face the future. I specially thank our Chief Minister Shri T. R. Zealiang and all his colleagues for the unanimous passing of the bill and Mr. Francis’Solo for doing all the ground work. We are grateful to the two Congregations, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) and the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (MMI) and to their founder Rev. Fr. Arulraj, for coming forward to establish and run the university from their own resources. It will be a great service not only to the people of Nagaland, but also to the region, nation and the world.

We also mourned the passing of a great leader in the person of Eno Isak Chishi Swu, Chairman/Yaruiwo of NSCN. One can say that today we are facing greatest poverty of good leaders, with moral and religious convictions rooted in Christian and religious values. We pray for emergence of visionary, moral and upright leaders who are open to ideas and ideals of equality, fraternity and brotherhood, who can think globally and act locally. In this context for the Christians in India, August 15 marks two important celebrations. The Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven and Independence of India. These twin celebrations remind us of one great truth of liberation. India’s soul has been craving for liberation from falsehood to reality, from darkness to light, from death to everlasting life. Today what we need to celebrate is not so much our independence rather our dependence on one another at all levels, which only can lead us to true liberation both in body and spirit.

Another sad thought that runs through my mind as I write these few lines is the senseless and brutal killing of innocent people that we have witnessed in different parts of the world – Nice in France, in Dallas and other cities in the US, in Germany, Turkey, in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Syria and many other places. These sad events may lead us to despair and distress. One cannot but feel shudder at the way Fr. Jacques Hamel, in Rouen in northern France was brutally killed while celebrating the Holy Mass. Are not these the result of a decadent and deteriorating civilization that is steeped in hedonistic, secular and materialistic ideas with scant respect for God and his reign and devoid of moral and religious values, a time comparable to the abominations of Sodom and Gomorrah. The first reading of the 17th Sunday reminded us of how Abraham pleaded with Yahweh to spare the city for the sake of the good people. We need to continue to pray and act like Abraham to spare our world of total decadence and destruction.

During the last week of July about 1.5 million Youth from all over the world will gather at Krakow, in South Poland, who will be joined by Pope Francis, braving the threat to life experienced throughout the world. The possibility and potentiality of social media would make the event truly global, and even those not present physically can take part actively in this unique Youth gathering. We are happy that four youth from our diocese is joining the rest of the youth in Krakow and I wish them a safe and fruitful participation in the World Youth Day, an event to remember for the rest of their lives.

Lastly, the month of September reminds us of Teachers’ Day. “A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart.” Teachers are those rock stars and game-changers, who are the motivating factors behind success. They encourage us to reach for the skies, fearlessly and passionately. We admire these role models for all the knowledge they share, and love them for their ability to touch our hearts. They love what they do. Teachers care for us as much as our own parents do, and it is because of them that a school becomes our home away from home. They believe in us when we lack confidence and are unsure of our own capabilities. They inspire us to deal with whatever challenge comes our way, and for that we are indebted to them for life. I take this opportunity to thank all the teachers, particularly those in remote areas who love to teach and live to teach, so that the lives of the children are enriched and envisioned.

Bishop James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland

Sharing: August - September 2016
**Dear Readers,**

Looking ahead to the days in the months of August and September one is reminded of some important events and celebrations. Some notable ones are the Independence day of India (15 August), which coincides with the feast of the Assumption of our blessed mother, the Teachers’ Day (5 September) and the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

In our Indian culture, we call teacher *the Guru*. ‘Gu’ means darkness and ‘Ru’ means light; which when put together it means “a person who takes you out of the darkness in order to see light”. The primary and main aim of an ideal teacher is to prepare the student with the vision of leadership, through motivated educational system. It is said that Mothers bring children to this World, where as the Teachers bring the World to them. A teacher carries out multiple roles. A Teacher is a leader, who is always dynamic and believes in change and have the capacity to prepare future leaders and develop in them the skills that they may need to succeed in the future. A Teacher is someone who understands the human aspect of living and not just someone who is all about academic standards or just following the national curriculum. His/she leads… encourages… supports… walks… listens… helps… loves… infuses optimism and gives hope to person. A Teacher is the one who feels proud of her children and always ever ready to extend hands for them. A Teacher offers not just the time of the day at school – rather offers the life to the children. Therefore, it is to acknowledge the great contribution that the teachers do, that a special day has been dedicated to honor them. I take this chance to salute all teachers, for the way in which you give yourselves each day in the classroom, serving and instructing. I pray to God to bless you with wisdom, peace, endurance, and understanding. May the light of your example shine upon all whom you teach and instruct.

A remarkable feast that we celebrate is the feast John Mary Vianney on 4 August 1859. He is venerated in the Catholic Church as a saint and as the patron saint of parish priests. St. John Vianney would often say: “Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: If you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that.” I wish the diocesan priests and the parish priest a very happy Feast.

Celebrated every year on August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay. This feast gives us a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin’s passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts.

We will be celebrating the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14th September. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is about Transformation. The Cross can transform our life in so far as I allow Christ to walk with me, through the ups and downs, the challenges, the uncertainties that come my way. Without Christ the cross cannot transform. The Cross is meant to be in the middle of life, a unique reflection of the people who created it, for the purpose of transforming the lives of those who gaze upon it. May the Cross of Christ inspire all of us to face the everyday challenges of our life as the followers of Christ.

Other important feasts celebrated in the Church are, The Transfiguration of the Lord (06/08/16), St. Lawrence, (10/08/16), St. Clare, (11/08/16), Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary & Independence Day, (15/08/16) Queenship of Virgin Mary, (22/08/16) St. Bartholomew, (24/08/16), Nativity of our Lady, St. Chong Hasang, (20/09/16) St. Matthew, (21/09/16), St. Vincent De Paul (27/09/16), Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels (29/09/16) and St. Jerome (30/09/16). All these feast days of holy men and women remind us of the holy life they lived and in turn encourage us to embrace life of holiness.

We also have the birthday of Bp. Emeritus Jose Mukala (19/08/16) and the 5th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our Bishop James Thoppil (08/09/16). We pray for God’s continued choicest blessings upon them.

- Rev. Fr. Toretkiu Thomas

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**SHARING**

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(For private circulation only)

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### BISHOP’S PROGRAMME

**August - December 2016**

| August 2016 | 03 | Return from USA – Dimapur: Vianney Day Celebrations |
| 04 | Vianney Day Celebrations; Golden Jubilee: Medical Mission Sisters |
| 05 | Dimapur; To Kerala |
| 06-15 | Kerala |
| 16-18 | Shillong: Visit to Oriens |
| 19 | Kohima: Blessing new School Building, Jotsoma |
| 20 | To Kiphire |
| 21 | Jubilee, St. Dominic Church, Kiphire Village |
| 22-23 | Pungro |
| 24 | Kohima: Consulters’ Meeting (9.30 am, Kohima) Church Blessing at Phuchama (4.00 pm) |
| 25-26 | Kohima |
| 27 | Kohima: Finance Committee Meeting (2.30 pm) |
| 28 | Kohima |
| 29-31 | Dibrugarh: Animation for Priests |

| September 2016 |
| 01-10 | Kohima |
| 11 | Chiephobozou - Chiechama |
| 12-18 | Guwahati – NE Regional Meetings |
| 19-23 | Bhopal: CCBI Catechetical Commission Meeting-Chennai |
| 24 | Kohima – GB, St. Joseph’s College, Jakhama |
| 25 | Kohima |

| October 2016 |
| 01-03 | Kolkata: Indian Celebration of the Canonization of Mother Teresa |
| 04-07 | Nongstoin: DFNEI |
| 08 | Kohima: Jubilee of St. Mary’s Cathedral Hr. Sec. School Feast |
| 09 | Dimapur: Holy Cross Parish Feast |
| 10-12 | Kohima |
| 13 | Kohima |
| 14 | Kohima: Meeting of the Regional Animators & Commission Heads |
| 14-18 | Second Vocation Camp |

| November 2016 | 16 | Mission Sunday |
| 17-28 | Kohima |
| 29 | Kohima, Finance Committee Meeting (2.30 BHK) |
| 30-31 | Kohima |

| December 2016 | 01-02 | Kohima |
| 03 | Kohima: Finance Committee Meeting (2.30 pm, BHK) |
| 04 | Nerhema: Golden Jubilee |
| 05-08 | Kohima |
| 09-11 | Porba, Razeba, Zhavame |
| 12 | Dimapur: 5.30 pm Senate Meeting; Dimapur: Priests’ Meeting; 5.30 Monthly Recollection |
| 13 | Dimapur: Consulters’ meeting (9.00 am, BH, Dimapur) |
| 14 | Viswema: Golden Jubilee cum blessing of the new Church |
| 15 | Tizema Jubilee |
| 17 | Kohima |
| 18 | Dimapur: Holy Cross Parish Youth Jubilee |
| 19-23 | Kohima |
| 24 | Dimapur – Mid-Night Mass |
| 25 | Kohima |
| 26 | Kohima |
| 27 | Chumukedima: NAP Church Jubilee |
| 28 | Lozaphuhu: Ordination: Deacon George Vekhupa |
| 29 | Pungro: Ordination of Deacon Obed |
| 30-31 | Kohima |
St. Paul Institutions, Phesama Celebrates the Feast of St. Ignatius

July 29th was a special day for St. Paul Institutions, Phesama, not just because of the anticipated feast day celebration but also because the school inaugurated its new staff quarters. The new staff quarters was blessed by Rev. Fr. Arul SJ, the Regional Superior of the Kohima Jesuits and was inaugurated by Mr. Balasius Minj, one of the senior most staff members of the school. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Anand SJ, the Rector of the institute, thanked the Superior General of the Society of Jesus for funding the project. He also thanked the staff for their unflinching commitment to the institution.

The inaugural program was followed by the Eucharist with Fr. Thomas Toretkiu as the main celebrant. During his homily Fr. Thomas stressed the importance of being disciples of Christ and not just believers in Christ. The mass began with a word of welcome by Fr. Felix, the Principal of the Institute. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a well prepared variety entertainment prepared by the children of the school and the Jesuit candidates.

On 30th July, the teacher trainees of St. Paul Institute of Education presented a musical, Annie. This first show, which was a fund raiser to help raise funds for the new hostel building being constructed by the Southern Angami Catholic Youth (SACYA), saw a crowd of over five hundred people. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Medoneisa Marcus, President, ACYA praised the efforts of the youth and thanked St. Paul Institute for supporting them through this venture. The Khuzama CYA performed a special number on the occasion, which was much appreciated. The musical Annie was performed again on 31st July for the general public.

– Fr. Anand Pereira SJ

SJC Cultural Programme for NAAC Peer Team

St. Joseph’s College, Jakhama organized a cultural programme for the NAAC Peer Team, Prof. MohdIqbal Ali (Chairman), Prof. Sushil Kumar Dutta and Dr. M. Edwin Gnanadhas, who are on three day visit to the College at its Indoor Stadium on July 27.

The cultural programme showcased different talents of the college students and included welcome speech by campus hostellers, Principal's address by Rev. Dr. Fr. Sebastian, Powerpoint Presentation by College Lensmen, Cultural dance by Zeliang tribe and Sumi tribe, medley by Metamorphis, Traditional Couple Show accompanied by College Choir, Dance by SJC Dance Club and vote of thanks by President of Students’ Council.

Prof. MohdIqbal Ali also released a book published by SJC entitled ‘Arena of Mind’. The programme was chaired by Mr. Kholi Paul and Miss Kalivi Catherine Chishi.

– Correspondent

‘Learning Together the Catholic Social Teaching’

The Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) organized a three day workshop under the theme “Learning Together the Catholic Social Teachings” for the lay leaders of the Church in the Diocese of Kohima from...
21st to 24th July 2016 at Mt. Tabor Retreat Centre, Kohima.

Lay leaders from various parts of the Diocese of Kohima from across the state attended the workshop. The Principles of Catholic Social Teachings are drawn from the Holy Scriptures. The principles of Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family, Community and Participation, Solidarity and God’s Creation, Care for God’s Creation, Rights and Responsibility, Option for the poor and vulnerable and the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers were the core points of discussion during the colloquium. Presenting the core values of Catholic Social Teachings, the resource persons called upon the Catholic community to understand the underlying meaning and value of life and dignity of human person and to uphold its value and purpose and be instrumental in enabling others to live life to the fullest.

The themes and principles of the Catholic Social Teaching affirm that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and are equal and have the same rights and duty to participate fully in all aspects of human development and enjoy in equal measure its benefits including governance. Community exists only to serve the good of human beings, families and communities. The principle of Option for poor and Vulnerable teach us to emulate God by showing a special preference for those who are poor and weak just as Christ came to redeem the sinners. As members of human family, we are to put the needs of society’s most poor and vulnerable members first. Christians are called to live our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation and to be stewards of that creation.

Understanding the need for the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Kohima to live lives in accordance to the teaching of Christ and to commune with one another as charted out by Catholic Social Teaching, participating lay leaders agreed that the message must reach every Catholic member in the Diocese. With reflections and intuitive examination on the needs of the Naga society, the leaders of Catholic Church also framed out the Catholic Social Principles in the context of Kohima Diocese to guide the Church in our every day life to protect the health of people and to protect the health of the planet.

The Catholic Social Teaching, which is known as best kept secret of the World, was enlightenment to many leaders who attended the workshop. The Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) will be undertaking many more of such workshops to spread the message contained under the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, to keep the Naga society in the right perspective in the face of perplexities and confusions.

- Johnny Ruangmei

SACYA Organized Orientation Programme for Catechism Teachers

One day orientation programme for catechism teachers of Southern Angami Region was organized by Southern Angami Catholic Youth Association (SACYA) under the theme “Making a difference with the heart and mind of Christ” on Sunday 24 July 2016 at Kidima Parish Centre.

Main Celebrant of the programme, Parish Priest Reverend Father Thomas Muttathil offered special prayer for the catechism teachers. He prayed for guidance, direction and strength to lead children to live a good moral life.

The Parish Priest in his homily said that the love of God was glorified through His people and called upon the congregation to receive the grace of peace and harmony from God.

Resource person, and vocation promoter of Ursuline Franciscan Congregation (UFC), from Tabor Proincialate, Dimapur Sister Neiketunuo Catherine Thakro deliberated on the topic and urged the faithful to pray for more people to join the salvation ministry.

The participants also shared their experiences and expressed the need to respect elders, impart love, to live a holy life, to encourage others and remain close to God and receive the grace and blessing in return.

Earlier, invocation was pronounced by local catechist Krovito George, welcome speech was delivered by SACYA president Kenongol Mark and the programme was chaired by SACYA music secretary Metekuolie Francis.

Representatives from Southern Angami Catholic churches took part in the programme. Sharing the love of God, group discussion, self appraisal followed by fellowship interaction were the highlights of the daylong programme.

- Correspondent

"True patience is grounded in wisdom & compassion." - Allan Lokos
The Bosco Club consisting of 18 members along with Assistant Professor, Br. Dominic Ralte, animated the inmates of St. Joseph’s Children Home with a variety of entertainment and motivating items on Saturday 23 July, 2016. The programme began at 10:00 am with sessions on gratitude, obedience and love conducted by the students. The Children home houses around 50 orphans of different age groups and different tribes. Currently they are taken care of by two priests and three nuns.

The animation programme also included party games, sing-songs and short motivational talks. Emphasis was given on moral lessons on abuse of drugs and alcohol. The programme concluded with a short prayer service in which the children are made aware that they are truly loved by their heavenly Father.

Fr. Manoj the assistant director expressed his gratitude towards the students for bringing great cheer and joy for the children and told them that they are most welcome at any time.

A press release stated that the purpose of the outreach programme is to show solidarity towards the less privileged section of the society and give the message that they are equally important, talented and important part of the society.

- Correspondent

More than 3,400 college students on Tuesday 19 July were enlightened on National Food Security Act and Lokayukta in an awareness programme organised by Alumni Association of St. Joseph’s College Jakhama, Nagaland at the college indoor stadium. Alumni Association St. Joseph’s College Jakhama president Meyiesul Thapru and Secretary Medonuo Pienyu stated that National Food Security Act to be implemented in all the districts in Nagaland as per the Act and failing to establish Lokayukta in Nagaland was simply encouraging corruption in the state especially in public sector.

Addressing the mammoth gathering, main speaker of the event NVCO president and advocate Kezhokhoto Savi deliberated on the main features of National Food Security Act.

He pointed out some of the features as: statutory acknowledgement of hunger and malnutrition and making the right to food a legal entitlement; almost doubling the people covered under PDS scheme 38% to 67% of the population; strengthening and expansion of the Public Distribution System, from a situation of it being dismantled to the fair price shop and the ration system being there to stay; although not universal, it is the first step towards moving away from the poverty line based divisions of APL & BPL; the material entitlements will now be universal.

Savi said all states in the country were bound to implement the Act within 365 days i.e. by July 5, 2014. However after a delay of nearly three years, Nagaland State on June 27, 2016 has finally launched the same. He said the Act would cover 78.83% of the rural populace and 61.98% of the urban populace in the state and that the Act addresses the problem of hunger, poverty and undernourishment in the country.

An anti-corrupt activist Savi also said that the present legislators in Nagaland State Assembly simply avoid Lokayukta to check them and some may even be punished. He said the recent shortest Nagaland Assembly session simply asked the state governor to give another tenure to present the committee report on Lokayukta which was constituted last year. Savi said Lokayukta was to be established in Nagaland so as to punish the corrupt public servant including politicians and also amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income. He informed that the main objective of Lokayukta was to curb the menace of corruption prevailing within the State. The programme was chaired by the alumni association president and the closing remarked was presented by the college vice-principal Fr. Anthony.

- Fr. Anthony Rozu

A two-day summer camp for Catholic children was held at St. Joseph Parish, Chumukedima on 16 July and 17 July. The camp was held for Classes 3-12 children both from St. Joseph’s Church, Chumukedima and St. Antony’s Church, Tenyiphe. A total of 160 children participated at the camp. The children were divided between classes 3-7 and classes 8-12 under the theme ‘Know God,’ ‘Know Life’ and ‘Deepening Your Faith’ respectively.

- Fr. Anthony Rozu
The children had intensive yet enjoyable learning about the Catholic faith during the camp. The topics dealt for the seniors were as follows; The Seven Sacraments, The Liturgical Year, The Creed, The Holy Bible and The Ten Commandments. The topics for the juniors were, We Share God’s Love for Creation, Ways to Say Thank You, Jesus and Mary, Our Loving God, Jesus Forgives, We Pray as Jesus Did, The Works of Mercy and Jesus Loves the Little Children. What made the programme more interesting was the inclusion of video shows, coloring, word search, jumble of words, fill in the blanks, collage, songs, and music and party games.

The camp was animated by Rev. Fr. Loyola Antony from St. Peter’s Parish, Kiphire with the assistance of Rev. Fr. John Lichoi from St. Joseph Parish, Chumukedima, Bro. Luke and Bro. Peter from Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur. The Sisters from SABS, CMC, and Sisters of Charity congregations also helped to animate the children through their songs and party games.

The camp came to an end with the celebration of the Holy Mass. After the Holy Mass, Rev. Fr. Sajan Joseph, the Parish Priest thanked the resource persons, mothers from Tenyiphe and Chumukedima for food arrangement and specially thanked the children for positive response.

- Fr. John Lichoi

New Church Building Foundation Laid in Kidima

The Director of Eden Garden, Khuzama and the pioneer of Catholic faith missionary in Kidima Village, Rev Fr Raymond D’Souza SJ laid the foundation stone of the new Catholic Church and was blessed by Fr. Thomas Muttathil on Monday 18 July 2016 in the presence of Village leaders, Community, FSMA Sisters and school children.

Fr. Raymond D’Souza SJ expressed gratitude to the community members for the second church building that the first was built in the year 1992 and started for second building.

The present new building started due to the enthusiasm of the people through encouragement of Parish Priest Fr. Thomas Muttathil.
**NEWS - Diocese**

Fr. Raymond also offered intercession of our Mother Mary and Saint Francis Xavier the patron of the church and all the saints for the new church. The Parish Priest of Kidima Fr. Thomas Muttathil speaking on the occasion urged the faithful people to ask for financial aid and guidance to put trust in Jesus who is the Master and Saviour of the world.

- Correspondent

**ACYA Trekked to Southern Dzukou**

As per the year plan, the Angami Catholic Youth Association, Kohima had one day trekking to Southern Dzukou as proposed to experience the oneness with nature on 9th July, 2016. The amazing beauty of the nature was experienced by 65 youth. Each one had a packed lunch and shared among all after having reached the Peak. Rev. Fr. George Rino, applauded the participants and said that to get to know each other better and bring positive change in the growth of the Church. Bro. Leo Chasie and ACYA President Mr. Medoneisa Marcus added more joy through their presence.

- Miss Silvia Kevidenu

**Fathers’ Day Celebrated at St. Xavier Parish, Jalukie**

St. Xavier Parish Jalukie joined the world wide celebration of Fathers’ Day on 19th June 2016. The celebration began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Anthonysamy, parish priest and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Augustine Keretta, Rector of minor Seminary. After the Holy Mass a short felicitation programme was organized by the Youth (CYA) followed by a grand meal sponsored by the Mothers’ Association. One of the highlights of the days programme is the football match played between the fathers along with the priests of the parish and the CYA. A large number attended to witness the thrilling match. The match had gone in favour of the fathers team with an aggregate of 4-3 goals. The team manager Mr. Luke Daiho, D. Abraham & Mr. John Ngintui Served the refreshment.

- Mr. Jerome Ningpi

**BAMS Conduct Science Exhibition**

Bishop Abraham Memorial School (BAMS), Phek conducted science exhibition at the school campus on July 12. The exhibition was witnessed by the School Managing Committee, public leaders, and headmaster of schools, students’ parents and well wishers.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Mr. Murohu Chotso, Deputy Commissioner, Phek lauded the School for organising such extracurricular activity which is a good beginning for the students to become a man and woman of Science so that the society will be uplifted from the backwardness. He pointed out that we lag behind economically and socially because of inadequate knowledge of Science. Therefore, he encouraged the students to take extra initiatives in learning science in order to pursue engineering, medical and other technological studies after their higher secondary studies.

During the Inaugural programme, Mr. Edward Nuvesayi, Catechist of St. John Bosco Church, Phek invoked God’s blessing and Sr. Marina, Headmistress of the School proposed vote of thanks.

Fr. Patrick Neikhalo, Principal of the School, in his introductory speech said that the exhibition was organised with an aim of encouraging the creative potential of the young minds to develop. Fifty students participated in the science exhibition.

Various Science projects such as windmill, hydro-power, solar energy, energy salt water, water harvesting, water cycle, global warming, volcanic eruption, etc were presented by the students of different standards during the exhibition.

- Sr. Marina MSMHC
Thirdly, Man is a moral and believing animal. All human beings seem to have a natural capacity for religious faith and desire to behave according to a moral code that distinguishes right from wrong. Catholics have been privileged to have time tested principles of moral living taught by Jesus and handed over to us through Scripture and Tradition. Christian faith is not a set of ethics or doctrines. It's not a group of theories about social and economic justice. All these things have their place.

All of them can be important. But a Christian life begins in a relationship with Jesus Christ; and it bears fruit in the justice, mercy and love we show to others because of that relationship. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets” (Mt 22:37-40). Without a passion for Jesus Christ in our hearts that reshapes our lives, Christianity is just a word and a legend. We need to prove our love by our actions, not just in our personal and family lives, but also in the public square. And that includes our social and business relations, as well as our politics.

Christians individually, and the Church as a believing community, engage the political order as an obligation of the Word of God. Christians can’t ignore those implications and still remain faithful to their vocation as a light to the world and salt of the earth (Mt 5:14-16).

As I was gathering my thoughts, I listed all the urgent issues that demand our attention as Catholics: poverty; unemployment; crippling political scenario; abortion; our obligations to the disadvantaged; questions of conflicts and peace; attacks on marriage and family life that flow from this confusion; the erosion of freedom of conscience and the list is endless. In this scenario, the way we lead our public lives needs to embody what the Catholic faith teaches — not what our personalized edition of Christianity feels comfortable with, but the real thing; the full package; what the Church actually holds to be true. In other words, we need to be Catholics first and public creatures second. The only king Christians have is Jesus Christ. The obligation to seek and serve the truth belongs to each of us personally. The duty to love and help our neighbour belongs to each of us personally. We can’t ignore or delegate away these personal duties to anyone else or any government agency.

More than 1,600 years ago, St. Basil the Great warned his wealthy fellow Christians that “The bread you

The seeds of this article sprung up in my mind in the context of what is happening in the society at large. One can easily notice that there is a chasm between the faith professed in the Church and the faith practiced in public. I might say, instead of complimenting each other, they are colliding each other.

For Christians, the three virtues that should shape everything that we do both privately and in our public lives are; faith, hope and charity. Faith gives meaning to our life. Hope casts out fear and enables us to love. And the love of God and other human persons – the virtue of charity – is the animating spirit of all authentically Christian action. By love, I mean love in the Christian sense; love with a heart of courage, love determined to build justice in society and focused on the true good of the whole human person, body and soul.

Human progress means more than getting more stuff, more entitlements and more personal license. Real progress always includes man’s spiritual nature. Real progress satisfies the human hunger for solidarity and communion. So when someone tell us to move “forward,” we need to take a very hard look at the road we’re on, where “forward” leads, and whether it ennobles the human soul, or just aggravates our selfishness and appetite for things.

One thing needs to be very clear that we can never accept a separation of our religious faith and moral convictions from our public life and engagements. If does happens then it would amount to living two different lives, worshiping God at home and in our churches; and worshiping the latest version of Caesar everywhere else. That turns our private convictions into lies we tell ourselves and each other.

Secondly, a religious faith sincerely believed and humbly lived serves human dignity. It fosters virtue, not conflict. Therefore it can be vital in building a humane society. If there is violence and division in the society in the name of religion we have failed to comprehend the basic teaching of our religion. If we look down upon another human being who is not up to your status or who does not belong to our group, it is against the basic principle of the Bible, ‘God created human person in his own image and likeness. [Gen 1:27.]’ It is the duty of every Christian, therefore, to uphold the dignity of each person and work for building peace. It is unfortunate that plenty of violence — terrible violence — has been done in the name of God by believers from every major religious tradition. As Christians, how can we turn this table of violence and division of our society?
possess belongs to the hungry. The clothing you store in boxes belongs to the naked.” St. John Chrysostom preached exactly the same message: “God does not want golden vessels but golden hearts,” and “for those who neglect their neighbour, a hell awaits with an inextinguishable fire in the company of the demons.” What was true then is true now.

All of us who call ourselves Christians share the same vocation to love God first and above all things; and to love our neighbour as ourselves. We all citizens of heaven first; but we have obligations here on earth. We are Catholics and Christians first. And if we live that way — zealously and selflessly in our public lives — our state will be the better for it; and God will use us to help make the world new.

St Joseph Catholic University (Nagaland) Bill 2016 Passed in Assembly

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) today passed St Joseph Catholic University (Nagaland) Bill 2016.

The Bill was introduced in the Assembly on July 12 by Parliamentary Secretary of Higher and Technical Education Mr. Deo Nukhu and passed by voice vote today.

The main objective of the University is to provide high quality and industry relevant education in the areas of accounting, financial analysis and management.

Mr. Nukhu said that the University will stress on Business Management, Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Agriculture, Architecture, Law Education, Medical Sciences and related areas approved by the University.

The University establishment will be taken up by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators, DMI, Foundation, Nagaland.

The Bill was brought to the House following a letter written to the Chief Minister T R Zeliang by Most Rev. Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima on January 7 requesting to pass the Catholic University Bill. In his letter, the Bishop stated that the Catholic Church in Nagaland has been on the forefront in providing quality education, particularly at primary, middle, high and higher secondary levels at an affordable and accessible ways to the people in every nook and corner of the state. He further said that at present, the Catholic Church runs 125 primary / elementary schools, 57 high schools, 27 higher secondary schools, 4 degree colleges, 1 teachers’ training institute, 1 B Ed College and 1 MSW college.

Before the passing of the Bill today, Mr. Deo Nukhu explained to the House that the state requires more private universities so as to facilitate the students.

He also said that building educational institute is a major economic investment for improving human resource development.

– Morung Express
Physical Education Course Conducted at GSS

The Physical Education Course on Yoga and Taichichong (Martial Arts) was conducted by Fr. Thomas Toretkiu for the Brothers of Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur from 5-8th July, 2016. 75 Brothers benefited from the course. While instruction Thomas said that the physical benefits of yoga include: Increased flexibility, Increased muscle strength and tone, Improved respiration, energy and vitality, Maintaining a balanced metabolism and control of mental, Cardio and circulatory health, etc. In the instruction of Tai Chi Chuan or Tai Chi is a widely practiced Chinese martial art. In his training he said that it consists of a series of postures combined in slow, smooth, graceful movements and is considered a low intensity exercise that is claimed to develop balance, coordination, and help maintain discipline, strength and emotional health.

- Fr. Philip Yanpvuthung

Salesian College Organizes Seminar on Religious Tolerance

To promote peace, unity and brotherhood, the department of Philosophy and Religion of Salesian College, Dimapur organized a seminar on July 16 under the theme “Religious Tolerance: Challenges and Prospects.” The seminar highlighted on the issue of religious tolerance, co-existence and freedom of expression.

At the programme, keynote speaker Rev. Fr. Nobby George SDB, Vice Principal, Salesian College, Sonada said that historically India has been a country that has given birth and nurtured a number of world religions.

He said that India stands as an example to the world as a country of tolerance and religious freedom. However, he said precaution has to be taken as some fundamentalist forces could become sources of religious divisions.

Assistant Professor Rev. Br. Jerry, presented a paper on “Harmony in Religious Pluralism: A Panikkarian Perspective” which emphasized the need to discover the integral union that lies hidden among various religions of the world. The students of Philosophy honors also presented four other papers.

Salesian College, Dimapur principal, Fr. Policarp Xalxo SDB also exhorted the participants to take a step forward from mere toleration of other religions and begin to love and respect the good values that are present in them. More than 200 students participated in the event. The programme followed interactive session with the speaker wherein the participants could put forward their queries. Later, participants in general expressed their satisfaction and returned with a firm resolution to put in to practice the lines of action emerged in the discussion.

- Correspondent

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.”

~ Dalai Lama
Retreat for Priests and Sisters Held at Mt. Tabor, Kohima

His Grace Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi animated the Priests Annual retreat for the Diocese of Kohima from Monday 11 to Saturday 16 July at Mt. Tabor Retreat House Kohima. 40 priests attended the retreat. While Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX, Secretary General, Catholic Bishop’s Conference of India conducted the retreat for sisters from 20-25 June, 2016. 15 sisters benefited from the spiritual retreat.

- Sr. Elsy Kattyparambil, PDDM

SCHE Organizes ‘Faith Fest’ in Dimapur

To celebrate together the gift of Faith, Salesian College of Higher Education (SCHE) youth department organized “faith fest” at Diphupar-A, 4th Mile Dimapur, Sunday 10, July 2016.

Resource persons of the fest were SCHE, director Fr. Karthikapallil Thomas, SDB Secretary to the director of Dimapur provincial, Fr. Chittisery Joseph, SDB and SCHE Assistant Professor, Bro. Sebastian Kamsuan. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Maram principal, Fr. Chingjanpou James Kamei, SDB was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the sacraments, Fr. Karthikapalliil Thomas said, “Every Christian is blessed with a particular gift of the Spirit and one should discover that and use it for the good of the whole society.”

Dwelling on the Ten Commandments, Fr. Chittisery Joseph said, “God gave us the Ten Commandments because He loves us and wants us to be with Him in Heaven.”

Elaborating on Christian family, Bro. Sebastian Kamsuan said, “Family is the place where we learn to pray, love one another and experience joy.” He also exhorted the youth to bring about peace and harmony in the family through dialogue and regular family prayer. The programme was followed by quiz and group song competitions.

Prizes were distributed to the winners. SCHE, youth department director, Fr. Christudoss Anthony, exhorted all the young people to keep on growing in faith. He also said, “Youth is the best time to serve the Lord with enthusiasm and zeal. One should not forget God but continue to love God and become good Christian.”

Meanwhile, the youth further resolved to nourish their faith through prayers and active participation in the church activities.

The feast was attended by youth from five villages comprising of Diphupar –A, Diphupar –B, Burma-Camp, Chunchamlong (Lohorijan) and Zeliangrong Village (Dobhinala).

- Correspondent

SCHE Observes ‘International Social Media Day’

To create an awareness of the pros and cons of social media, Salesian College of Higher Education (SCHE) observed the 7th “International Social Media Day” organised by the Media Club under the supervision of Dominic Khanyo and Bro. Sebastian Kamsuan at Bernick Hall, on Saturday 2 July, 2016.

Speaking as the chief guest, delegate Social Communication Don Bosco Society Dimapur, Rev. Fr. Jonas Kerketta SDB underscored the relevance of the social media in today’s world. He highlighted how governments of different countries were pulled-down by the power of social media.
Rev. Fr. Jonas said “human beings were by nature sociable and therefore they find in social media a suitable means to communicate”.

SCHE principal, Dr. Fr. Policarp Xalxo, SDB, in his welcome speech spoke on the usefulness of social media. He exhorted the students to use the social media for personal growth and social upliftment.

SCHE assistant professor, Bro. Sebastian Kamsuan presented a multi-media presentation highlighting the origin and the impact of the social media in the world.

More than 200 students participated in the programme. The students were sensitised on the value of social media through notice boards and hoardings. - Correspondent

The Diocese of Kohima Pay Homage to Late Isak Chishi Swu

Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General, Diocese of Kohima along with three fathers, brother and four sisters led the Benedictory prayer during the Public Memorial Service in honor of Eno Isak Chishi Swu, Chairman/Yaruiwo of NSCN organized by Naga Hoho & ENPO on 30th June 2016.

Apart from Fr. Carolus, at various places other fathers led prayers, Viz, Frs. Francis Vialo Zingkhel, Delhi and Alex Vizo in Kohima. - Bro. Leo Chasie

NCWA Organizes Women Empowerment Seminar

The Nagaland Catholic Women’s Association (NCWA) under the leadership of Ms. V. Angela, NCWA president, Florette Sekhose, NCWA General Secretary and other office bearers organized a seminar on women empowerment at Mount Tabor Retreat House, Kohima from June 25 to 27.

Speaking on the topic, ‘Empowerment of Women for Peace and Development’ Dr. Rose Mary Dzúvichū emphasized that women should recognize and fight for their rights. Women play a key role in peace building politically, socially and economically, she added.

‘The importance of Confession and the power of absolution’ topic was spoken by Fr. Vemedo. He said that sin can be forgiven by priests in the name of God. According to him women are a priority and key to human family and the Kingdom of God.

Mrs Rita Chaya deliberated on the CBCI (Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India) Gender Policy for empowerment of Catholic women highlighting the importance of gender equality and giving prominent roles to women in the Church.

Addressing the assembly on women’s health Rev. Sr. Rita Miasalhou said, “Healthy women give birth to healthy children. Since our health is in our hands we should, as far as possible, eat organic food and be very careful when it comes to medication without proper prescription. Rev. Fr. Abe presented a paper on the ‘Mystery of the Eucharist and the Faith of the Catholics.’

During the seminar the NCWA came up with plans to organize seminars at Parish-level for women/men and youth. They also recommended to the Diocese of Kohima to form a committee on gender policy, and create awareness for clean elections.

Rev. Fr. L. John spoke on the significance of Eucharistic Adoration. He said there are three types of prayers: vocal prayer, meditation and contemplation. The Thanksgiving Eucharist on the concluding day was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Solomon Vizo and Rev. Fr. Peter Salew sdb. - Miss Florette Sekhose

Cathedral Juniors Celebrated Silver Jubilee

After the Mass, a short felicitation programme was held to acknowledge the former office bearers with mementoes and certificates. Jubilee Meal followed the felicitation programme.

A talk on ‘Relationship’ was delivered by Rev. Fr. Anand Pereira SJ, which was followed by ‘Jubilee Gala’, where the members exhibited their talents.

To celebrate the jubilee meaningfully, the members prepared themselves well with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Rev. Fr. Lawrence Khing prepared the members with his reflection for the Sacrament and Adoration.

- Correspondent

Installation at St. Peter’s Centre, Atoizu

Rev. Fr. Isaac Shikhaho Swu was installed at St. Peter’s Church, Atoizu by Rev. Fr. George Punnolil on Sunday 19 June 2016 in the presence of Rev. Fr. Jose Sebastian, Rev. Fr. Mathias, OFM, Cap, Royston, OFM, Cap, Stephen, OFM, Cap, Yesudhas, OFM, Cap, Vincent, OFM, Cap. Rev. Fr. George Punnolil, representative of the Diocese thanked Fr. Isaac Rodrigues, OFM, Cap, Centre in-charge and his assistant Rev. Fr. John Bosco, OFM, Cap, for the yeomen service to the people of God in Atoizu and particularly to the Diocese of Kohima and wished Fr. Isaac Shikhaho, the new Centre in-charge, Atoizu, all the best in his new ministry.

- Fr. Isaac Shikhaho

“What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches.” - Karl A. Menninger

Vocation Camp Held at St. Peter’s Parish, Kiphire

It was for the first time in the history of St. Peter’s Church – Kiphire, that a three-day Diocesan Vocation Camp was held from 24th - 26th June, 2016. The Camp was organized for the students of Class 7 to 12 comprising both boys and girls. There were 47 selected students sent from Shamator, Sitimi, Meluri, Pungro and Kiphire to attend the camp.

Rev. Fr. Ntonse John, the Parish Priest of St. Peter’s Parish, Kiphire, gave a cordial welcome to the young campers and made them feel at home. Rev. Fr. Thomas, Vocation Promoter, Diocese of Kohima, set the tone of the programme. He said that every Christian is called to the perfection of Love, saying “Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48). Vocation is a personal call from God (Is. 43:1, Gal. 1:15, Eph. 1.4). Promotion of Vocation to Priesthood and Consecrated Life and to discern it is a serious responsibility of the Church. He recommended children to pray, reflect and discern the will of God.

Rev. Sr. Catherine, UFC while addressing on ‘Vocation to Holiness’ said that there is the divinity of God within a person since human being is made in the image and likeness of God. Through prayer one can discover the Divine within us. Vocation is a way of life and not merely a profession. Therefore to discern the will of God, in our lives like the heroes and saints in the Bible, we need to listen and recognize the voice of God speaking to us.

Speaking on ‘Mission in the Church’ Rev. Fr. Solomon Kevishe, said that the word “mission” means being “sent.” The Church is “sent into the world to continue the works of Jesus Christ.” He listed the works of Jesus Christ such as preaching, teaching, healing, and acts of charity and justice.

Mrs. Tushila Caroline, President of Kiphire Catholic Women Association, in her address on ‘A consecrated life brings joy to the family’ said ‘I want to say a word to you and the word is “joy”. Wherever there are consecrated people, seminarians, men and women
religious, young people, there is joy, there is always joy" while quoting Pope Francis. She said that worldly things and its attractions are short lived and will perish sooner or later but doing God's will bring true happiness and joy to all.

Rev. Fr. Tomy, Kallurembel, St. Francis Church, Centre in-charge of Shamator officiated the Holy Mass on Saturday 25 June. During the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Tomy in his homily enlightened the boys and girls to answer the call of God like Samuel who listened to the voice of God and answered His call. Jesus asks us the same question today 'what do you seek?' and he gives an open invitation, 'come and see'. We need to seek only him to be rooted and grounded in his love. We need to keep in mind that religious life is not a way to escape family life or problems of this world but to live totally for the Lord.

Rev. Fr. John Poji, Vice Principal of NEISSR (MSW), Dimapur in his homily referred to the Sunday's reading and said Jesus' journey to Jerusalem opens with three Vocational scenes. First category of an enthusiastic follower, Christ suggests waiving his property to be His disciple. Secondly, he requires radical disengagement from all affections, forbidding even to attend the funeral of his father. In the last vocation story, Jesus affirms that to follow him one must break completely with the past. He said only people with total commitment and willingness to sacrifice their lives can win the world for Him.

Rev. Fr. Charles Phom took session on 'Vocation in the Local Church.' 'Proposing Vocations in the Local Church' means having the courage, through an attentive and suitable concern for vocations to point out this challenging way of following Christ which because it is so rich in meaning, is capable of engaging one's whole life. Therefore he urged children to pray continuously to find that inner desire.

‘Prayer’ was the theme taken by Rev. Fr. Loyola Antony, he said pray always and all ways. When we pray we become less selfish and other centred. Prayer can be of three types: Prayer of praise, Prayer of petition and prayer of intercession. Secret to become a better person is to pray for others.

The camp ended with a get together, where varieties of items presented by the groups. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu expressed gratitude to the participants, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers of Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur, religious men and women and particularly to the St. Peter’s Parish Community, Kiphire and to all well wishers who contributed to make the camp a grand success.

- Fr. John Ntonse

Parliamentary Secretary for Higher and Technical Education, Mr. Deo Nukhu while advising students to acquire quality education also asked them to inculcate reading habit on wednesday 22 June, 2016. Speaking as chief guest at the Freshers’ Day of St. Joseph’s College, Zakhama on Wednesday, Mr. Nukhu advised the students to make use of their college library saying “I hope you pick up the habit of reading in the library”.

While lamenting that most of the colleges in the state do not have trained librarians, Nukhu encouraged the students to pursue it as a career.

Noting the existence of ragging culture in most colleges across the country, the parliamentary secretary asked the students of St. Joseph’s College to restrain themselves from adopting such culture adding “we should show good example as a Christian college”.

Lauding St. Joseph’s College, he said that the department of higher education and the government of Nagaland have great expectations in the college performance while hoping that it would soon earn autonomous status.

Nukhu also shared his dream for the college to be a university in the near future while referring to the number of enrolment of more than 3000 students, which he said is more than a size of a University.

Congratulating 1342 new students who have enrolled themselves in the college for their higher education, he reminded them that they must respect their seniors and that seniors must also guide and love the Junior.

While wishing the students all the best in their studies, he expressed the hope that they would all become make significant contributions to the society. Also speaking in the programme, Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India, referred to Nagaland as a beautiful small paradise on earth.
Bishop Theodore also expressed happiness to see lively youth comprising of young men and women who he said would be the leaders of Nagaland. Saying “let St. Joseph's College be a temple of learning”, Bishop Theodore hoped that the students would not only earn their degrees but would become good citizens and good people. "We want each one of you to flourish", he stated while urging them to apply themselves, work hard and produce results.

Bishop Theodore said that each one was blessed with leadership qualities while expressing his desire for all the students to become leaders.

Stating that Nagas have “your own unique culture”, Bishop Theodore advised that they should never be ashamed of their language or culture.

Highlights of the event included prayer song, welcome note by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Ousepparambil the Principal of St. Joseph’s College, Zakhama, radioactive by Mr. Toka, address by president, student’s council, SJC, haunting melody by Hisolo Magh and Akumrenla, synchronous by Stax Ivory Crew, introduction of freshers' by CRs and VCRs, Acapella by college choir, fresher’s special by the MNR’s and gratitude by the cultural secretary. Mr. Kehozhol Noel Kulnu and Mr. Kinighali were the comperes.

**Fathers’ Day Celebration at Cathedral, Kohima**

All the fathers were remembered and prayed for during the solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Kohima on Sunday 19, June 2016. Rev. Fr. Neisalhou Carolus Kuotsu, Vicar General and the parish priest was the main celebrant with Rev. Fr. Richard Fernandes as the concelebrant for the mass. Rev. Fr. Carolus during his homily invited the fathers to evaluate their life and reminded them of their responsibility towards their wife and children. He said that the fathers as the heads of the families have to strive hard to keep the families happy.

There was a felicitation programme after the mass to greet the fathers. Miss Eloni Roseline anchored the programme. Miss Karen Solo appreciated the fathers and thanked them for what they are to the families. The fathers were presented with a gift each as a token of gratitude. A few songs were sung by the children, youth and the women to greet the fathers. Mr. Vincent Belho spoke on behalf of the fathers and thanked the parish priest and the others for making the day a memorable one. The programme concluded with the blessing and special prayer invoked upon the fathers by Rev. Fr. Carolus.

- Fr. Richard Fernandes

**Kiphire Students Keeping Alive Culture and Traditions**

"Keep alive the culture and traditions" was the clarion call of Mr. Sedevikho Khro, Deputy Commissioner, Kiphire, to the students of Loyola Higher Secondary School during the “Cultural Fest for Peace” organized by the school on June 18.

Addressing the students as the Chief Guest, Mr. Khro called upon the students, public leaders and the elders to make retrospection as well as introspection in the light of the present situation prevalent in Kiphire district.

He highlighted the importance of reviving the practical traditions. He wondered whether the young generations knew how to clean rice or make the traditional shawl and baskets.

He also stressed on the need to do away with those traditions which do not promote the other. He invited everyone to learn to live together in order to have peace and development. Finally he hoped that the cultural festival that is initiated by the school would touch the people of Kiphire first to work for peace and then spread the message of peace to others. Earlier, Rev. Fr. Ntonse John Lotha, the School Principal, welcomed everyone and introduced the purpose of the event. He said that the event was organized to propel the talents, innovations and literary aptitude of the children. “Since our culture makes us unique, rich and vibrant, they are to be channelized for establishing peace and harmony and not for violence,” he said. The programme was chaired by Roli and the vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Tushila Caroline.
It may be mentioned that the programme was slated for two consecutive days. The various cultural cum literary competitions such as folk dance, folk song, folk story telling, choir, solo (song, dance), duet, skit, group dance, blind folded drawing, prepared speech, extempore speech, fancy dress, essay writing, poem writing, poem recital, story writing, maths puzzle, spelling bee, memory test, quiz and debate were organized.

- Fr. Loyola Anthony

**Bros Dominic & Peter Solo Ordained Deacons at Oriens Theological College, Shillong**

The Diaconate Ordination of Deacons Dominic Zeliang and Peter Solo was held in the Oriens Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong on 17th June, 2016. His Grace, Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, presided over the ceremony.

- Correspondent

**Bros Silas & Marius Ordained Deacons at St. Joseph Seminary, Pune**

The Brothers Silas and Marius were conferred to the Clerical Order of Diaconate by Most Rev. Francis Serrao, SJ, Bishop of Shimoga on 16th of June 2016.

- Deacon Silas

**NE Domestic Workers Week Held at BAM Hall, SJC, Zakhama**

The North East Domestic Workers week was held at Bishop Abraham Memorial Indoor Stadium Hall on June 10-16, 2016 with the theme “Rights, Dignity and Solidarity of the Domestic Workers”. Shri Kiyanilie Peseyie, Minister for Social Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs, Nagaland, Kohima was the Chief Guest on the 11th of June, 2016. It was organized by Ferrando Domestic Workers Alliances (FDWA) & National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM) in collaboration with Office of the Labour Commissioner, Kohima, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC), Catholic Association Nagaland (CAN), Japfii Christian College, Kigwema, Don Bosco College, Kohima and St. Joseph’s College, Zakhama.

- Correspondent

**Rev. Fr. Dr. Francis Cheerangal successfully completed his doctorate, on 10th June 2016. His dissertation theme was titled “Governing System of the Yimchunger Nagas.” Dr. Temjensosang, Assistant Professor, Nagaland University, guided his doctorate Thesis. Sharing extends hearty congratulations**

- St. Francis
Catechist Retreat at Mt. Tabor

Rev. Fr. Vemedo guided the spiritual retreat for the Catechists of all Nagaland at Mt. Tabor from 8-9 June, 2016. Bishop James Thoppil, officiated the Holy Mass on the first day of their retreat. Fr. Jaison Thomas, Director Pastoral Centre with Sister Rosy UFC, Sr Rose, MSMHC assisted during retreat. 50 Catechists participated in the annual Retreat.

- Sr. Rosy UFC

Laudato Si Childrens’ Botanical Park

Inaugurated at DBHS, Lakhuti

Laudato Si Childrens’ Botanical Park at Don Bosco High School, Lakhuti was inaugurated by EAC Aitepyong, Wokha, Imli Akum coinciding with planting saplings in aid of ‘World Environment Day’ celebrations with the theme “plant for the planets” on 4th June, 2016. Rev. Fr. George, Principal, DBHS stated that Laudato Si Botanical Park was one hectare of replenishing green slope which caters to various kinds of flora and fauna of the region.

The botanical park was not just a place of rest but a destination for the students of environmental science. It further informed that Laudato Si Childrens Botanical Park was the outcome of the concerted efforts put in by the students, alumni, parents and the management. The park was named after St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology who authored the Canticle which starts with the words “Laudato Si, mi Signore” (Praise be to you, my Lord). The civil leaders and parents joined the students in the ‘Plant for the planet’.

- Fr. Benjamin

Sacred Heart Feast Celebrated

The Sisters of Sacred Heart Congregation celebrated the Feast of Sacred Heart with Bishop James Thoppil as main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist on Friday 3, 2016 at Jotsoma. Sisters from different Congregations participated in the august gathering. Sisters renewed their religious vows during the Holy Eucharist.

- Sr. Tincy James, SH

IN MEMORIAM

A life honoured and remembered to Late Rev. Fr. Thomas Macheril Archdiocese of Shillong who had passed away on 13th June, 2016.
A church official in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh has backed a move by survivors of the Bhopal gas tragedy to petition the American government to stop shielding a U.S.-based multinational from being called to account.

“The local Catholic Church strongly supports the petitioners,” said Father Maria Stephen, public relations officer of Bhopal Archdiocese, based in the state capital with the same name. “We have shared the pain and sorrow of the gas victims and survivors and this petition is yet another attempt to get justice.”

Bhopal Archdiocese Supports Gas Survivors’ Petition to US

The petitioners hope the U.S. Department of Justice will serve the District Court of Bhopal’s notice to Dow Chemical to appear in court on July 13. They have also written to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to initiate punitive measures if they fail to do so.

India has sent four notices to the U.S. Department of Justice to summon Dow Chemical but the company has ignored or obstructed every one. The new petition insists the U.S. government “immediately serves notice to Dow.”

In 1989, Union Carbide Corporation paid U.S. $470 million to settle litigations but several cases filed by governments, survivors and rights activists continue.

“The U.S. government is obliged to respond within 30 days,” explained activist, Rashida Bee. “So we hope U.S. President Barack Obama will give us a response.”

- UCAN

Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray.”

- St. Louis de Montfort
Sixty Indian nuns from the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel have pledged to donate their organs, saying it was their contribution for the Year of Mercy.

The nuns of Dehradun province in northern India’s Uttarakhand state offered their pledge to donate their organs to state sports and forest minister Dinesh Aggarwal on May 11.

“We have been helping people through our social services when we are alive and now after death our organs will be helpful to those in need,” Sister Jaya Peter told ucanews.com.

She said 110 Carmel sisters in Kerala made the same pledge last month. Lamenting that not many people are aware about organ donation in the country, the nun said that it was imperative to educate people about its importance.

In India, people are hesitant to donate their organs despite the fact that the country has been facing acute shortage of donor organs.

More than 3,000 organs transplants occur in the country annually while more than 1 million people nationwide are in need of an organ transplant. About 90 percent of the people on waiting lists in India die without getting an organ.

Father Mathew Abraham, director of the Catholic Health Association of India, said the demand for organ transplant is greater than the supply for several reasons.

People still do not know the importance of organ donation and how it can help them and others, he said. “Other factors include ignorance among the people about how the organ donation is carried out. Religion too sometimes can have a negative impact on this as there are some beliefs of life after death,” he said.

Father Abraham said association partners are spreading awareness across India to encourage people to donate their organs. He said that a massive campaign needs to be launched at the national level to sensitize people to the issue.

Catholic Officials Oppose Government’s Euthanasia Plans

Officials from the Indian bishops’ health office are against the Indian government’s plans to enact a law legalizing “passive euthanasia.”

“If the government legalizes passive euthanasia, people would start indulging in it actively. That would be against the dignity of life,” said Father Mathew Perumpil, secretary for the Indian Catholic bishops’ conference’s office of health.

Passive euthanasia occurs when the patient dies because medical professionals either stop doing or don’t do something necessary to keep the patient alive.

“We need a more compassionate approach than a legal approach,” Father Perumpil told ucanews.com.

The Indian government’s ministry of health and family welfare has prepared a draft bill Terminally Ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners) and invited the public for suggestions.

The May 9 request on its website on whether to make it a law or not is open for public debate until next month. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable.” It also says that “intentional euthanasia,” whatever its form or motive, is murder.

Father Frederick D’Souza, executive director of Caritas India, told ucanews.com that passive euthanasia would be equal to killing a person who is not in a position to give consent.

“Nobody has the right to decide on his or her behalf (as to) when the patient should die,” he added. There is a high possibility of a misuse of such a law, said the priest from the Indian catholic bishop’s social service agency.

“People will come up with cooked up stories declaring their family members are in a critical state or in coma,” Father D’Souza said.

Father Perumpil said euthanasia is not acceptable to the Catholic Church as “there is absolute need to protect life by all means.” Moreover, hospitals in India need to have an ethics committee that can be consulted by family members while taking such decisions, he said.

The debate for passive euthanasia has been
going on for sometime in India. The Supreme Court in its 2011 judgment laid down guidelines to process passive euthanasia on a case-by-case basis until Parliament legislates on the subject.

K.K. Aggarwal, secretary general of Indian Medical Association, told ucanews.com that what India lacks is the advance directive procedure from patients to write down whether to take or not take the required treatment if he or she is dying.

K.K. Aggarwal, secretary general of Indian Medical Association, told ucanews.com that what India lacks is the advance directive procedure from patients to write down whether to take or not take the required treatment if he or she is dying.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are among scores of Indian leaders who plan to attend the canonization of Mother Teresa in Rome on September 4. The prime minister has expressed interest in attending the canonization ceremony of the world's most renowned nun, who had made India the base for her works among the poorest of the poor, the Malayala Manorama newspaper reported May 21 quoting the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India.

A delegation from the conference had recently requested the premier to head the Indian team.

On May 22, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too confirmed that she would attend the canonization ceremony. The revered nun had begun serving the downtrodden in late 1940s from Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), capital of the eastern Indian state. She died in the city on September 5, 1997, aged 87. Banerjee’s decision comes in the backdrop of her successful electoral victory in West Bengal, reports india.com.

The news site noted that Banerjee’s attendance at the canonization ceremony would send out a political message at a time when right-wing forces try to project Mother Teresa as an opportunist evangelist, whose only goal was to convert the poor to Christianity. However, the larger secular section of Indian polity and society have criticized the hard-right stalwarts for defaming Mother Teresa and her nearly 40 years of selfless service in India.

By attending the canonization ceremony, Banerjee will not only cement her image as a secular leader and but appeal to Christians across India, the website claims.

The pope has declared a formerly closed church in Lancashire a new cathedral for Indian Syro Malabar Rite Catholics, making it one of only three worldwide.

The Grade II-listed St Ignatius Roman Catholic Church in Preston was shut in December 2014. The reopened church will now serve as the Cathedral for the newly created Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Preston.

The decision to create the cathedral was made by the Pope.

The Syro Malabar church is part of the Kerala-based Syrian churches believed to have been founded by St Thomas The Apostle in India and is one of the 22 Eastern Catholic Churches which is in unity with the Pope.

Bishop Michael Campbell of Lancaster Diocese, which covers Preston, said he welcomed “this exciting news”.

He said the establishment of the new Diocese or Eparchy is a “clear indication of the care of the Holy See for the thousands of Syro-Malabar Catholics who have settled in Great Britain”.

St Ignatius was built in 1836, seven years after the legalisation of Catholicism in England, and was staffed by the Jesuit Order.
The Pope’s Powerful Words at a Children’s Hospital in Poland

Pope Francis paid a visit to the patients of a children’s hospital in Krakow on Friday, where he expressed his solidarity with the sick and lauded the hospital in its caring for “the smallest and most needy,” showing his gratitude to those present for “this sign of love.”

“To serve with love and tenderness persons who need our help makes all of us grow in humanity. It opens before us the way to eternal life,” the Pope said July 29 to the patients, their families, and their caretakers.

“Those who engage in works of mercy have no fear of death,” he added.

The Pope’s visit to the Prokocim University Pediatric Hospital took place on the second full day of his July 27-31 visit to Poland, where he is leading World Youth Day festivities in Krakow.

Francis also stressed the need for social and political concerns to center on the needs of society’s most disadvantaged.

“This is the sign of true civility, human and Christian: to make those who are most disadvantaged the centre of social and political concern,” he said.

“Sadly, our society is tainted by the culture of waste, which is the opposite of the culture of acceptance. And the victims of the culture of waste are those who are weakest and most frail; and this is indeed cruel.”

During the visit, he met with some 50 child patients, their families, and the medical personnel who care for them.

The Roman Pontiff presented the hospital with a painting by Pietro Casentini depicting Christ, St. Peter, and the disciples in Capernaum facing the crowds of sick and disabled people.

In his short address, Pope Francis expressed his desire “to draw near to all children who are sick, to stand at their bedside, and embrace them.”

“I would like to listen to everyone here, even if for only a moment, and to be still before questions that have no easy answers. And to pray.”

The Pope observed how the Gospel gives many examples of Christ’s going out to meet and embrace the sick. He compared the Lord’s compassionate attentiveness to that of a mother who cares for her sick child.

The Roman Pontiff expressed his wish that Catholics would follow Christ’s example in drawing near to the sick, “in silence, with a caress, with prayer.”

The Pope also addressed the loneliness families sometimes feel in providing care for their loved ones. “Let us multiply the works of the culture of acceptance, works inspired by Christian love, love for Jesus crucified, for the flesh of Christ,” he said in response.

The Pope offered his encouragement to all medical professionals, chaplains, and volunteers who have made it a “personal life decision” to respond to the Gospel’s call to “visit the sick.”

“May the Lord help you to do your work well, here as in every other hospital in the world,” he said, going off the cuff to remember in particular the many religious sisters who spend their lives serving in hospitals.

“May he reward you by giving you inner peace and a heart always capable of tenderness.”

- CNA/EWTN News

At Auschwitz, Pope Prays for God’s Forgiveness

Pope Francis paid a solemn visit to the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps on Friday, where over a million people are believed to have lost their lives. At the memorials, he gave no speech and prayed in silence, but instead wrote in the guest book two simple lines begging for God’s mercy and forgiveness.

“Lord have mercy on your people! Lord, forgiveness for so much cruelty!” the Pope wrote in the “Memory Book” shortly after praying in the darkened cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest martyred in Auschwitz.
The July 29 Papal visit was made to two out of the three main Auschwitz camps, where as many as 1.5 million people are believed to have died under the Nazi regime.

The pontiff’s day began with a stop at the original camp (known as Auschwitz I), where he prayed for several minutes in silence in the courtyard of the complex. He was then taken by car to the camp’s infamous Block 11 building. There, he was welcomed by Poland’s Prime Minister Beata Szydlo. He then individually greeted a group of ten men and women who had survived the Holocaust.

The Pope was given a candle which he used to light a bronze lamp at the site. The lamp, which contains images of the Auschwitz fence line, as well as the Heart of Jesus, was his gift to the Auschwitz museum.

The pontiff then entered the Block 11 – a brick building where prisoners were tortured – and briefly visited the various rooms. He stopped for a lengthy period of time to pray in St. Maximilian Kolbe’s cell.

Francis was then taken by car to the Birkenau camp – otherwise known as Auschwitz II. Little now remains of the camp, which had been the site of the Nazi gas chambers, where hundreds of thousands of prisoners were killed, and the crematoriums where their bodies where incinerated.

The Pope silently paid homage before the row of commemorative plaques which now mark the site. He walked slowly past each plaque, before lighting a candle and praying for a moment in silence. After this, a man chanted the Psalm 130, which reads: “Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.”

Finally, following his prayer at the memorial, Francis met with a group of 25 non-Jewish men and women who had risked their lives to save Jews from mass extermination at the hands of the Nazis.

Because of their actions during World War II, they have been given the honorific title “Righteous among the Nations” by the State of Israel for their role in helping the Jews during the Holocaust.

Also present at the ceremony were survivors of the Holocaust, like Lidia, 75, who recounted to journalists being brought to Auschwitz at three years old, where she was stripped naked and tattooed with a number on her arm. It took nearly 20 years for her to be reunited with her mother following the liberation of the camps by allied forces.

Pope Francis’ visit to the camps marks the second full day of his July 27-31 trip to Poland, where he is leading World Youth Day celebrations in Krakow.

-Married couples were the focus of Pope Francis’ second “balcony talk” in Poland on Thursday, receiving from him three words he has often said are key to a successful marriage.

“Sometimes they ask me how to make it so that the family always goes forward and overcomes difficulties,” the Pope said July 28, adding that when this happens, “I suggest to them to practice three words.” Speaking in his native Spanish, he said these words “can help to live married life because in married life there are difficulties,” adding that marriage is something we have to take care of, “because it’s forever.”

The three words are “permission, thanks, and forgiveness.”

Pope Francis was speaking at the end of his first full day in Poland, where he is spending July 27-31 for World Youth Day. Each night when he comes back to Krakow after the day’s activities, Francis is set to appear on the balcony of the local archbishop’s palace to address youth gathered below.

The tradition was begun by St. John Paul II, who spoke to youth from the balcony every time he visited his homeland as Pope – had been Krakow’s archbishop from 1964 until his 1978 election as Bishop of Rome. It was continued by Benedict XVI when he visited Poland in 2006, and is now being carried on by Francis.

In yesterday’s encounter Francis recounted the moving story of a young student who rediscovered his faith after leaving school to volunteer for WYD in designing the banners that currently line Krakow’s streets, but passed away from cancer before the event arrived. He praised the young man’s faith, and encouraged the youth gathered to spread the joy of their faith in Christ throughout the city.

In his speech from the balcony Thursday, he focused on married couples, explaining that whenever
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he sees a young couple is getting married or has just done so, "I tell them they are the ones who have courage, because it’s not easy to form a family."

"It’s not easy to make a life commitment, it takes courage, and I congratulate them because they have courage," he said, noting that the three words "permission, thanks, and forgiveness" come in handy every day of married life.

On the topic of permission, the Pope said to "always ask your spouse, the wife to the husband and the husband to the wife, what do you think, what do you think if we do this?" rather than just "running over" the other without getting their opinion.

He also stressed the need to be grateful, "because it's the spouses who confer the sacrament of marriage, one to the other. And this sacramental relationship is maintained with this sentiment of gratitude, of thanks."

The third word, he noted, is forgiveness, which is "a very hard word to say." In marriage, mistakes are always made, he said, noting that the important thing is to know how recognize one's mistakes and ask for forgiveness. This "does a lot of good," Francis continued, urging families and engaged couples to "remember these three words, which will help you to a lot in married life: permission, thank you, and forgiveness."

In marriage "there are always problems or discussions. It’s habitual and it happens that the husband and wife argue, raise their voice, fight," he said, noting that "somethings the plates fly."

"But don’t panic when this happens," he said, and advised couples to never finish a day without making peace, "because the cold war the day after is very dangerous."

A simple gesture is enough to make this peace, he said, tapping his face twice, adding that "when there is love, a gesture fixes everything."

Pope Francis then invited the youth to pray for all the families who were present, for those who are married and those who are engaged, and led the crowd in praying a Hail Mary, each country in their own language.

- CNA/EWTN News

Don’t Waste Your Life Seeking ‘Empty Thrills’, Pope Tells Youth

For young people who have given up on life, or who waste their existence seeking out “empty thrills,” Pope Francis proposes an alternative: Look to Christ, for only he can bring lasting fulfillment.

"Jesus can give you true passion for life” and “can inspire us not to settle for less, but to give the very best of ourselves,” the Pope said July 28 during a massive welcoming ceremony at Krakow’s Blonia Park, one of his first encounters with young people during this year’s World Youth Day celebrations.

In his address to the crowds, the Roman Pontiff observed how many young people are entering into an “early retirement,” and “throw in the towel” before their lives have begun.

Others, he said, “waste their lives” seeking out “empty thrills” in order to feel alive. “It is disturbing to see young people squandering some of the best years of their lives, wasting their energies running after peddlers of fond illusions,” he said.

He challenged young people instead to seek out lasting fulfillment from another source. “To find fulfillment, to gain new strength, there is a way," he said. “It is not a thing or an object, but a person, and he is alive. His name is Jesus Christ." The Pope then went off script, enthusiastically calling on the young people to answer: “Can you buy Jesus Christ? Is Jesus Christ sold in stores? Jesus Christ is a gift! A gift from the Father!"

Thursday evening’s welcome ceremony marks Pope Francis' first full day in Poland during his July 27-31 trip for the 31st World Youth Day.

In his address to the crowds, Pope Francis began by expressing his gratitude toward St. John Paul II, who founded World Youth Day in the 1980s.

"From his place in heaven, he is with us and he sees all of you," he said. “So many young people from such a variety of nations, cultures and languages but with one aim, that of rejoicing that Jesus is living in our midst."

The Pope explained that in rekindling our enthusiasm to follow Christ and our desire to be his disciples, we are saying he is alive.

“What better opportunity to renew our friendship with Jesus than by building friendships among yourselves!” he said. “What better way to build our
friendship with Jesus than by sharing him with others! “What better way to experience the contagious joy of the Gospel than by striving to bring the Good News to all kinds of painful and difficult situations!”

Citing the theme of this WYD – “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy” – Francis said, “blessed indeed are they who can forgive, who show heartfelt compassion, who are capable of offering the very best of themselves to others.”

Francis remarked on the “festive mood” of the event in Poland, and with all the young people taking part both in person and via modern media, “we are going to make this World Youth Day an authentic Jubilee celebration.”

“Nothing is more beautiful than seeing the enthusiasm, dedication, zeal and energy with which so many young people live their lives,” he said. “When Jesus touches a young person’s heart, he or she becomes capable of truly great things.”

The Roman Pontiff described his excitement in listening to the young people share their dreams, their questions, and “impatience with those who say that things cannot change.”

“It is beautiful and heartwarming to see all that restlessness!” he said. “Today the Church looks to you and wants to learn from you, to be reassured that the Father’s Mercy has an ever-youthful face, and constantly invites us to be part of his Kingdom.”

“Knowing your enthusiasm for mission, I repeat: mercy always has a youthful face!”

A merciful heart is one which seeks to go beyond its comfort zone, to go out and embrace everyone, the Roman Pontiff continued.

It is also a “place of refuge” for the homeless, refugees, and migrants; “it knows the meaning of tenderness and compassion.”

“To say the word ‘mercy’ along with you is to speak of opportunity, future, commitment, trust, openness, hospitality, compassion and dreams.”

The Pope then spoke off the cuff, saying that “when the heart is open, it is able to dream; there is a room for mercy, there is room to caress those who suffer.”

“There is room to place oneself next to those who lack peace in their heart, or who lack the necessities of life, or who lack the most beautiful thing: the faith.”

Francis discouraged young people from entering into an “early retirement” – referring particularly to those “who are defeated even before they begin to play, who walk around glumly as if life has no meaning.”

“Deep down, young people like this are bored… and boring!” he said.

The Pope also said he is troubled when young people “waste their lives looking for thrills or a feeling of being alive by taking dark paths and in the end having to pay for it… and pay dearly.”

“It is disturbing to see young people squandering some of the best years of their lives, wasting their energies running after peddlers of fond illusions.”

He challenged young people with an alternative: to seek the “power of grace” which gives them a “lasting sense of life and fulfillment.”

“To find fulfillment, to gain new strength, there is a way. It is not a thing or an object, but a person, and he is alive. His name is Jesus Christ.”

“Jesus can give you true passion for life,” he said, and “can inspire us not to settle for less, but to give the very best of ourselves.”

“Jesus challenges us, spurs us on and helps us keep trying whenever we are tempted to give up. Jesus pushes us to keep our sights high and to dream of great things.”

Francis spoke of the Gospel account of Christ visiting the home of his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. As the account goes, Martha is kept busy with the duties of entertaining Christ, while Mary simply visits with their guest.

“Our many jobs and responsibilities can make us a bit like Martha: busy, scattered, constantly running from place to place. But we can also be like Mary: whenever we see a beautiful landscape, or look at a video from a friend on our cellphone, we can stop and think, stop and listen…”

“Jesus wants to stop and enter our home,” Pope Francis reflected. “He will look at us hurrying about with all our concerns, as he did with Martha… and he will wait for us to listen to him, like Mary, to make space for him amid the bustle.”

In a challenge to young people, the Pope said that if they “want a complete life”, they must begin by letting themselves “be open and attentive.”

This is “because happiness is sown and blossoms in mercy,” he said: “That is his answer, his offer, his challenge, his adventure: mercy.”

Francis turned to Mary of Nazareth, and her “daring ‘Yes’” which “launched her on the adventure of mercy.”

“All generations would call her blessed,” he said: “to all of us she is the ‘Mother of Mercy’.”

The Pope challenged all the youth present to pray that they may be launched “on the adventure of mercy.”

“Launch us on the adventure of building bridges and tearing down walls, barriers and barbed wire,” he prayed. “Launch us on the adventure of helping the poor,
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those who feel lonely and abandoned, or no longer find meaning in their lives.”

“Here we are, Lord! Send us to share your merciful love,” he concluded, expressing his desire to welcome Christ “in our midst during this World Youth Day.”

“We want to affirm that our lives are fulfilled when they are shaped by mercy, for that is the better part, and it will never be taken from us.”

-CNA/EWTN News

The Humble Speak For God, Pope Says at Czestochowa

Those who embrace their own littleness become the “spokespersons” of God, Pope Francis said during Mass at the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, celebrating the 1050 anniversary of Poland becoming a Christian nation. It was the first major event of the Pope’s trip to the country for the 31st World Youth Day.

“To be attracted by power, by grandeur, by appearances, is tragically human," the pontiff said in his homily. “But to give oneself to others, eliminating distances, dwelling in littleness and living the reality of one’s everyday life: this is exquisitely divine.”

“The little ones speak (God’s) own language, that of the humble love that brings freedom," he said. “So he calls the simple and receptive to be his spokespersons; he entrusts to them the revelation of his name and the secrets of his heart.”

According to official estimates, some 500,000 people attended the July 28 Mass with Pope Francis outside the Jasna Góra monastery, where the famous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa is housed.

The event at Poland’s leading Marian marked the first public Mass during Pope’s July 27-31 trip to the nation for WYD, which is taking place in Krakow.

The Mass was a celebration of the “baptism” of Poland, which became a Christian nation in 966 upon the baptism of its first historic ruler, Mieszko I.

Francis centered his homily for the Mass on the readings, starting with Paul’s letter to the Galatians.

This reading speaks of Jesus coming at the “fullness of time” which, the Pope said, was “a gift of grace: God filled our time out of the abundance of his mercy. Out of sheer love he inaugurated the fullness of time.”

The pontiff noted the particular significance of God entering into history by being “born of a woman.”

“There was no triumphal entrance or striking epiphany of the Almighty. He did not reveal himself as a brilliantly rising sun, but entered the world in the simplest of ways, as a child from his mother,” he said.

Citing Saint Luke’s Gospel, the Pope said:

“Thus, contrary to our expectations and perhaps even our desires, the kingdom of God, now as then, ‘does not come in a way that attracts attention,’ but rather in littleness, in humility.”

Pope Francis turned his reflection to the day’s Gospel which recounts Jesus’ first miracle — turning water into wine, at the request of his mother, during the wedding feast at Cana.

“Today’s Gospel takes up this divine thread delicately passing through history,” he said. “Time shortens, God always shows himself in littleness.”

This miracle was not an an “amazing deed done before the crowd” or a response to a “political question,” the pontiff observed. Rather, it was a “simple miracle” in a small village, one which “brings joy to the wedding of a young and completely anonymous family.”

Despite its “littleness,” the miracle is nonetheless “a great sign, for it reveals to us the spousal face of God, a God who sits at table with us, who dreams and holds communion with us,” the Pope said.

“It tells us that the Lord does not keep his distance, but is near and real. He is in our midst and he takes care of us, without making decisions in our place and without troubling himself with issues of power.”

The desire for power is a human temptation, the pontiff said. Unlike us, Jesus “prefers to let himself be contained in little things.”

“To be attracted by power, by grandeur, by appearances, is tragically human," he said. “But to give oneself to others, eliminating distances, dwelling in littleness and living the reality of one’s everyday life: this is exquisitely divine.”

Pope Francis reflected on three ways in which God saves humanity. This is achieved by Jesus’ littleness, by his closeness to his people, and by his concrete actions.

Reflecting on Jesus’ “littleness,” the Pope noted his special love for “the little ones, to whom the kingdom of God is revealed.”
“The little ones speak his own language, that of the humble love that brings freedom. So he calls the simple and receptive to be his spokespersons; he entrusts to them the revelation of his name and the secrets of his heart,” he said.

He cited examples of this littleness, such as the martyrs who “defenseless power of the Gospel shine forth,” as well as ordinary people who witnessed “the Lord’s love amid great trials.”

The Pope also remembered the Polish saints, St. John Paul II and St. Faustina, describing them as “meek and powerful heralds of mercy.”

He also noted the significance of this significant anniversary of Poland’s baptism falling during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis then reflected on God’s nearness to his people, and his desire “to come down to our everyday affairs, to walk with us.”

Reflecting on the 1050 years of Christianity in Poland, he said “we do well before all else to thank God for having walked with your people, having taken you by the hand and accompanied you in so many situations.”

“That is what we too, in the Church, are constantly called to do: to listen, to get involved and be neighbours, sharing in people’s joys and struggles, so that the Gospel can spread ever more consistently and fruitfully: radiating goodness through the transparency of our lives.”

Finally, Pope Francis spoke of God in his reality, as manifested in the Word becoming flesh, “born of a mother.”

“The eternal is communicated by spending time with people and in concrete situations,” the Pope explained.

Addressing the people of Poland, the pontiff said: “Your own history, shaped by the Gospel, the Cross and fidelity to the Church, has seen the contagious power of a genuine faith, passed down from family to family, from fathers to sons and above all from mothers and grandmothers, whom we need so much to thank.”

Pope Francis indicated to the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, and reflected on Mary as a sign of “the fullness of time.”

“In her, we find complete conformity to the Lord,” he said, adding that there is a “Marian thread” woven into history with the “divine thread.”

“If there is any human glory, any merit of our own in the fullness of time, it is she,” he said. Mary is that space, preserved free from sin, where God chose to mirror himself.

“She is the stairway God took to descend and draw near to us. She is the clearest sign of the fullness of time.”

Reflecting on Mary’s “littleness,” the Pope noted how God “was so pleased with her that he let his flesh be woven from hers, so that the Virgin became the Mother of God.”

The pontiff addressed the pilgrims who travel to the Shrine of Czestochowa, the “spiritual capital” of Poland.

“May she continue to point the way,” and help you to weave in your own lives the humble and simple thread of the Gospel.”

At the Jasna Góra shrine, like at Cana, Pope Francis said “Mary offers us her nearness, and helps us to discover what we need to live life to the full.”

Acting with a “mother’s love,” Mary teaches us “to avoid hasty decisions and grumbling in our communities,” he said.

“As the Mother of a family, she wants to keep us together. Through unity, the journey of your people has surmounted any number of harsh experiences.”

Addressing the crowds, the pontiff prayed that Mary may “obtain for you the desire to leave behind all past wrongs and wounds, and to build fellowship with all, without ever yielding to the temptation to withdraw or to domineer.”

Pope Francis also spoke of the “great realism” which Mary demonstrated at the wedding in Cana, taking to heart the people’s problems, and handling them “discreetly, efficiently and decisively.”

He encouraged the faithful to ask for the grace to be able to imitate Mary’s “sensitivity” and “creativity in serving others,” and to know the beauty of serving others, “without favourites or distinctions.”

“The transition from before to after Christ means little if it remains a date in the annals of history,” Francis concluded. “May each one of us be able to make an interior passage, a Passover of the heart, towards the divine ‘style’ incarnated by Mary,” he said.

“May we do everything in littleness, and accompany others at close hand, with a simple and open heart.”

- CNA/EWTN News

French Pilgrims Pedal Their Way to World Youth Day

Pilgrims from across the globe travel to World Youth Day by plane, train and automobile. But not Victor Jacquemont, Antoine Lescuyer, and Humbert Canot. The three young men, all in their early twenties, traveled from Paris to Krakow by biking 1,134 miles.

Their 18-day journey – starting on July 4 – took them across France, Germany, Czech Republic, and Prague.
The men told CNA they had a small tent in tow but also asked for “hospitality” from local churches and met many people along the way.

Originally from Cergy, a suburb of Paris, the men said the idea was to bike from their school’s chapel to the international youth gathering in Poland. The three attend ESSEC, an international business school in Europe. One of the reasons they chose to bike was because, “it’s not just a trip. It was kind of a pilgrimage,” Canot said. He explained that they wanted to make some effort, “some physical effort,” and have time to think about their faith.

“The bike was kind of an ideal way of traveling for that.” The men also mentioned that Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* had an impact on them. Because it talked about “having an ecological way of living,” the men said, “we thought that traveling on bicycle would be a nice way to put that in practice.”

The pilgrims believe that the Virgin Mary protected them during the whole journey.

A woman who saw their journey on Facebook gave the men a small icon of Mary, just before their trip began. They said they “introduced it to (everyone) that we met on the way.”

The men also handed out small miraculous medals from the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, where the devotion originated.

“We gave it as a memory and as a token of friendship.” Now that they have arrived in Krakow, the young men are marveling in the “very good atmosphere.” Between people praying in their own languages and singing songs, the men said it is nice to see that “we are all united in Jesus, despite all of the political divisions there might be,” Jacquemont said.

“The language barrier doesn’t exist anymore,” he added, “it doesn’t matter.”

This marks the first World Youth Day for Canot and Jacquemont, but Lescuyer said he attended the event when it was in Madrid in 2011.

The men said they will be meeting up with other pilgrims from their diocese and they plan on living this week to the fullest with Pope Francis. “If we make enough noise, we might even meet him!” - CNA/EWTN News

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Among the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims at World Youth Day are two brothers, recently reunited.

“I’m from Syria,” Yousef Astfan, 34, told CNA. “It’s been divided.”

Yousef first attended World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011. Now he’s in Krakow with his brother, 25-year-old Al Astfan, a first-time attendee who loves the event. “It’s great. It’s such a great opportunity to meet people from all the world, in the name of Jesus,” Al said.

Yousef explained his own thoughts about the massive Catholic youth gathering.

“It gives you a very nice push for your faith, to be here to see all these Christians. Because everybody says that Europe is no more Christian,” he said. “When I come here? No, I don’t see this. I feel proud that all these Christians are here. Especially when we fight for our Christianity in Syria. Being a Christian in Syria is a curse. You can get killed for this.”

The Syrian civil war has raged since March 2011. More than 270,000 people have been killed, while over 12 million are displaced or have become refugees. Some of the combatants have conducted atrocities against Christians and other religious minorities.

The Astfan brothers’ parents and sister, her family, and Yousef’s wife and family are still in Syria. “They are living in Aleppo. It’s pretty dangerous there. But they don’t want to leave their country,” Yousef said. Al Astfan has lived in Germany for about 18 months as a refugee. He is studying for his master’s degree in mechanical engineering. “I want to continue my study,” he told CNA.

As for Yousef, he now lives and works in Dubai. The two had only just reunited on Tuesday. “I met him literally four hours ago,” Yousef said. “This is the first time I met him in three years. Since he left Syria, I didn’t see him.” “I just can’t believe that he’s here with
me, finally,” he added. “My family are very happy because we finally met. They wish to be here as well.”

His brother Al was also reflective about the reunion. “It’s great, we remember old days,” he said.

Yousef thought Christians who live free from violent persecution should appreciate what they have. “They don’t appreciate the bliss they are living in,” he said. “I can just tell the people and raise my voice: you are living in a bliss, so keep it, do what you need to do.”

He also had a message for CNA readers: “Just pray for Syria. They cannot do anything more.”

-CNA/EWTN News

**In First Balcony Talk, Pope Tells Youth to ‘Make Chaos’**

In his first night in Krakow Pope Francis was already stirring things up with participants in WYD by hosting an off-the-cuff Q and A and telling them to ‘make chaos’ by spreading the joy of their faith.

“You must do your duty and make chaos all night. Show your Christian joy, the joy the Lord gave you to be in the community who follows Jesus,” the Pope told those participating in World Youth Day after arriving to Krakow July 27.

He spoke from the balcony of the Bishop’s Palace, telling the thousands of youth gathered below not to be afraid, but to have faith and spread the joy that comes from following Christ.

Pope Francis is currently in Krakow for this July 27-31 trip to Poland for WYD. Every night when he comes back to the city after the day’s activities, Francis is set to appear on the palace balcony to address youth gathered below.

The tradition was initiated by St. John Paul II, who spoke to youth from the balcony every time he visited his homeland as Pope. It was continued by Benedict XVI when he visited Poland in 2006, and is now being carried on by Francis.

In his brief speech, the Pope first recalled the story of a young man who had studied graphic design for just over two years, but decided to leave his studies in order to volunteer for WYD.

He immediately put his talents to use, designing all of the banners that currently decorate the streets of Krakow in honor of WYD, the Pope said, noting that “images of the patron saints” found on practically every street – St. John Paul II and St. Maria Faustina Kowalska – were done by this young man.

In the process of his work for WYD, the youth rediscovered his faith, but was diagnosed with cancer in November, Pope Francis recalled. He noted how the doctors had amputated the young man’s leg in an effort to save his life, but it didn’t work, and the cancer continued to spread.

This young man “wanted to live through the Pope’s visit” and had even reserved a place on the Krakow tram that the Pope will take later in the week with sick and disabled youth as his special passengers. However, the young man didn’t make it, and died July 2.

“He did a lot of good for everyone,” Francis said, leading the youth below in a moment of silent prayer for the young man who died.

“We must get used to the good things and the bad things. Life is like this, dear young people,” he said, while stressing that “there is something we cannot doubt: the faith of this young man, of our friend, who worked so much for this WYD.”

After leading the youth in a round of applause for the example of the young man, he urged them to give thanks to the Lord “because he gives us examples of courage, of courageous youth who help us to go forward in life.”

“Don’t be afraid, God is great, God is good, and all of us have something good,” he said, and bid the youth farewell before telling them to “make chaos” all night in a show of their Christian joy.

Before going to the balcony, Pope Francis connected virtually with Italian youth participating in WYD as part of the July 26-29 youth festival, during which the youth show their culture through performances, singing, and dancing.

During the conversation, Pope Francis took questions from three Italian youth who gave their testimonies and asked a question afterwards.

He spoke to the first young person of the importance of knowing how to keep going in both good and bad moments, explaining that joy helps saves us from being “neurotic.”
The Pope then heard the testimony of Andrea, a 15-year-old from the Diocese of Bergamo who was teased growing up. As a result she attempted suicide at the age of 13. However, when she was recovering in the hospital she realized that there was nothing wrong with her, but rather with those who teased her, and that she was stronger than she thought.

While she has moved beyond that period in her life, Andrea said she still feels the pain and finds it hard to let go, and asked the Pope how she can learn to completely forgive the people who teased her.

In his response, the Pope said that cruelty is a common problem among children, and even adults. “Children are cruel many times, and they have that capacity to hurt you where it will do the most damage,” he said, noting that cruelty is the “base of all wars.”

This cruelty “kills even the good name of another,” he said, and warned against the “terrorism of gossip.”

“Gossip is terrorism,” Francis said, explaining that when a person gossips, “it destroys the dignity, the fame of a person.” To gossip, he added, is like “throwing a bomb” that explodes and destroys everything around it.

Pope Francis said this temptation is something that must be overcome with peace and forgiveness, but noted that to forgive “isn’t easy, because one can say ‘I forgive, but I don’t forget.’”

“You always carry with you the hurt of this cruelty,” he said, explaining that to completely forgive someone for harm done “is a grace that we have to ask the Lord for. By ourselves we can’t, but we have to ask the Lord to give us the grace to forgive, to forgive our enemies.”

The final question Francis received was from a group of youth and a priest who had been in Munich Feb. 22 when an 18-year-old German teenager of Iranian descent killed nine people and injured nearly 30 others after opening fire at the city’s Olympia shopping mall.

After they were forced to cut their trip short and head home, the group still managed to make it to WYD, and asked the Pope how youth can spread peace in a world filled with hate.

In reply, Pope Francis spoke of the difference between peace and hate, explaining that peace always builds bridges, whereas hatred only builds walls.

“We all have a decision to make in life: do I build bridges, or do I build walls?” he said, noting that bridges unite, whereas walls divide.

“In our daily lives the ability to build a bridge when you extend your hand to a friend, you make a bridge. But when you hit, hurt another, you build a wall. Hate always grows with walls,” he said, noting that many times when we reach out our hand to build a bridge, we’re left hanging.
decided to send the youth the special message in Spanish.

He told the youth to “play life to the full! Take the memory you have received, look toward the horizon and, today, take the reality and advance it, making it bear fruit, making it fertile.”

“God is calling you to be fruitful! God is calling you to transmit this life. God is calling you to create hope. God is calling you to receive mercy and to give mercy. God is calling you to be happy,” Francis said, telling the youth “don’t be afraid! Play life to the fullest.”

Before leaving for the airport to go to Krakow July 27, Pope Francis met with 15 young refugees in a similar situation at his residence in the Vatican’s Santa Marta guesthouse.

The group was made of nine boys and six girls from different nationalities who recently arrived in Italy, and still don’t have the documents needed enabling them to travel abroad.

According to a July 27 communique from the Vatican, the youth were accompanied by Vatican Almoner Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, wished the Pope a good trip and a “joyful participation” in WYD.

Since they couldn’t join in person, the youth said they would be “participating spiritually.” -CNA/EWTN News

Francis to Polish Leaders: Remember the Past, But Look to the Future

After landing in Krakow on Wednesday, Pope Francis told Polish leaders to take a look at their history and use it as an inspiration to take the good and leave the bad behind, including when it comes to modern-day issues such as migration.

“Memory is the hallmark of the Polish people,” the Pope told national leaders after his arrival to Krakow July 27.

He said he was always impressed by Pope St. John Paul II, a Polish native, due to his “vivid sense of history. Whenever he spoke about a people, he started from its history, in order to bring out its wealth of humanity and spirituality.”

To have an awareness of one’s own identity that is free of any “pretensions to superiority” is something “indispensable for establishing a national community on the foundation of its human, social, political, economic and religious heritage,” he said.

Francis noted how in the everyday life of each individual and society, “there are two kinds of memory: good and bad, positive and negative.”

Good memory, he said, is what Mary shows us in her Magnificat when she praises the Lord for his saving works, while negative memory "keeps the mind and heart obsessively fixed on evil, especially the wrongs committed by others.”

“Looking at your recent history, I thank God that you have been able to let good memory have the upper hand,” he said, citing the 2015 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the “Letter of Forgiveness” exchanged between the Polish and German episcopates following the Second World War.

“That initiative, which initially involved the ecclesial communities, also sparked an irreversible social, political, cultural and religious process that changed the history of relationships between the two peoples,” Francis observed, and cited the joint-declaration between the Catholic Church in Poland and the Orthodox Church of Moscow as another example.

Given these recent examples, the “noble Polish nation has thus shown how one can nurture good memory while leaving the bad behind,” the Pope said, and urged them to do the same in the future.

Pope Francis spoke with the Polish diplomates in Krakow’s Wawel Castel immediately after landing in the city’s John Paul II International Airport. He will be on an official visit to the country July 27-31 to participate in World Youth Day.

In his speech, the Pope noted how the trip marks his first visit to central-eastern Europe, and that he is “happy to begin with Poland, the homeland of the unforgettable Saint John Paul II, originator and promoter of the World Youth Days.”

He noted how John Paul frequently spoke of a Europe that “breathes with two lungs,” and said that the idea of a “new European humanism” gets its inspiration from the “creative and coordinated breathing of these two lungs, together with the shared civilization that has its deepest roots in Christianity.”

Francis then noted how Poland recently celebrated the 1,050th anniversary of its baptism, which he will commemorate with a special Mass at the shrine.
The event, he said, "reaffirmed that harmony, even amid a diversity of opinions, is the sure path to achieving the common good of the entire Polish people."

"Similarly, fruitful cooperation in the international sphere and mutual esteem grow through awareness of, and respect for, one’s own identity and that of others. Dialogue cannot exist unless each party starts out from its own identity," he said, and encouraged the Polish people to take a look at their recent past.

In order to look at one’s history and take the good while leaving the bad behind, one must have "a solid hope and trust in the One who guides the destinies of peoples, opens closed doors, turns problems into opportunities and creates new scenarios from situations that appeared hopeless."

This is evident given Poland’s own historical context, the Pope said, noting that an awareness of the progress made, coupled with the joy of achieving one’s goals, becomes a source of strength for facing current challenges.

These challenges, he said, "call for the courage of truth and constant ethical commitment, to ensure that decisions and actions, as well as human relationships, will always be respectful of the dignity of the person."

"In this, every sphere of action is involved, including the economy, environmental concerns and the handling of the complex phenomenon of migration," he said, noting that the topic of migration in particular "calls for great wisdom and compassion, in order to overcome fear and to achieve the greater good."

"There is a need to seek out the reasons for emigration from Poland and to facilitate the return of all those wishing to repatriate," Francis said, adding that "a spirit of readiness" to welcome those fleeing war and hunger and to show solidarity with those deprived of fundamental rights, including the right to "profess one’s faith in freedom and safety," is also needed.

However, Pope Francis noted that at the same time, new methods of cooperation are needed at the international level in order resolve the conflicts and wars which "force so many people to leave their homes and their native lands."

This, he said, "means doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering while tirelessly working with wisdom and constancy for justice and peace, bearing witness in practice to human and Christian values."

Given Poland’s complex, history, Francis invited the Polish nation “to look with hope to the future and the issues before it,” explaining that attitude will help foster “a climate of respect between all elements of society and constructive debate on differing positions.”

He spoke of the need for social policies which support the poor, families and the disadvantaged, stressing that “life must always be welcomed and protected.”

"These two things go together – welcome and protection, from conception to natural death. All of us are called to respect life and care for it."

On the other hand, the Pope noted that it is also the responsibility of the State, the Church and society to both accompany and assist those “in serious difficulty” in order to ensure that “a child will never be seen as a burden but as a gift, and those who are most vulnerable and poor will not be abandoned.”

Francis closed his speech by affirming the full cooperation of the Catholic Church with Poland, so that “the nation may, in changed historical conditions, move forward in fidelity to its finest traditions and with trust and hope, even in times of difficulty. May Our Lady of Czestochowa bless and protect Poland!"

- CNA/EWTN News

Even a Former Obama Staffer Thinks the Democratic Platform is Extreme

The Democratic Party platform has drawn the ire of critics – including a member of Barack Obama’s former campaign – who say its extreme positions on abortion shut out millions of pro-life voters.

"It’s morally reprehensible," Michael Wear, director of faith outreach for Obama’s 2012 presidential campaign, told CNA of the pro-abortion plank. The party had an opportunity “to re-open the big tent” and adopt pro-life policies for pro-life Democrats, but did not, he continued.

The Democratic Party platform acknowledges problems like wage stagnation, racism, and income inequality and calls for a broad range of polices; the list includes promoting abortion-on-demand, a “progressive” vision of religious freedom, supporting a $15-an-hour federal minimum wage, overturning the Citizens United
Supreme Court decision, and expanding protections in “sex discrimination law.”

It includes a call for the full abolition of the death penalty, using much stronger language than the 2012 platform, which simply said that capital punishment “must not be arbitrary.”

Absent from the platform was any mention of pornography as a “public health crisis,” as the GOP platform had called it.

The abortion plank in the platform shows a sharp departure from previous years. Gone is the call for abortion to be “rare.” Instead, “reproductive health” is considered “core to women’s, men’s, and young people’s health and wellbeing.”

The platform calls for a broad expansion of abortion access, including overturning the Hyde Amendment, which bans federal dollars from directly funding abortions, and the Helms Amendment, which bans federal dollars from funding abortions abroad. The proposal would overturn decades of U.S. policy.

Dr. Matthew Bunson, EWTN Senior Contributor, noted that when Bill Clinton ran for office in 1996, the Democratic platform mentioned abortion once. This year, abortion is mentioned 19 times in the platform.

“That itself gives us an idea of the seriousness of this issue for them,” he told EWTN News Nightly.

“In that ’96 platform, there was specific reference to ‘conscience.’ You will not find that word in the Democratic platform in 2016,” he added.

The 2016 language describes “abortion on demand to be a social good worthy of explicit government support with tax dollars from everyone,” added Dr. Charles Camosy, a theology professor at Fordham University. “I don’t think anyone who is on the side of justice for the vulnerable, of non-violence, could support something like that,” he told CNA. “The abortion plank in the 2016 Democratic platform effectively marginalizes the voices of 21 million pro-life Democrats,” Kristen Day, executive director of the group Democrats for Life of America, wrote in a Los Angeles Times op-ed with Camosy.

One positive proposal in the platform was “paid family leave,” Camosy said. The platform calls for “national paid family and medical leave” where employees could receive at least 12 weeks of paid leave for childbirth or for a “serious” health problem of their own or of a family member.

The issue of “family leave” is “something that I think is implied in Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical letter Laborem Exercens,” Camosy said, “when he says that society’s social structures need to be oriented to allow women to serve both their vocation as a mother and as a professional, or worker.”

“Religious freedom has become so polarized” and “so politicized,” he told CNA. “People of faith” need to transcend partisan divides on religious freedom, and not simply recognize some concerns – like a Muslim ban or churches not being able to serve undocumented immigrants – but ignore other concerns, like adoption agencies being forced to close down because they won’t match children with same-sex couples.

“Religious freedom has become so polarized” and “so politicized,” he told CNA. “People of faith” need to start telling their stories, and explaining their contributions to society before they are marginalized from the public square.

“It’s a sincere problem when people think that if Catholic hospitals are no longer able to operate, the free market would fill in the gaps,” he said. “That’s not true. That’s not true in a state like Washington, where they provide over half of the hospital beds.”
“And so there needs to be, I think, an authentic, free, but public way of sharing the pivotal role that we play in this country. And it’s discordant to talk about helping immigrants, and then not appreciate Catholic Relief Services.”

On immigration, the platform emphasizes a “path to citizenship for law-abiding families who are here,” halting roundups, providing “due process” for migrants “fleeing violence in Central America,” and ending family detention centers.

Jeanne Atkinson of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network was “thrilled” with the platform’s immigration plank, hailing its referral to immigrants as “leaders” and its statement of “concrete policy positions.” The platform showed an “emphasis on family,” she said, noting its call for ending family detention centers and insistence on keeping immigrant families together. “For the Catholic Church, that’s who we are,” she said. Despite its promises of immigration reform, the Obama administration has drawn criticism from reform advocates for its deportations, particularly its raids on and deportations of migrant families.

“That’s absolutely always a risk,” Atkinson said, acknowledging her concerns of the current administration and a future president not following the party’s immigration platform. However, the platform serves as a good “advocacy tool” that they can use when talking to the administration, she said. Criminal justice reform is also mentioned in the platform, with policy proposals like reform of mandatory minimums to grant judges more flexibility in sentencing certain offenders, support of the “ban the box” initiative, and “restoring voting rights” to felons after they have served their sentences.

Marijuana should be moved from its status as a “Schedule 1” drug and placed on a “pathway” to “legalization,” the platform continued.

One section of the document deals with “investing in rural America.” The group Catholic Rural Life was pleased that “the agricultural policies relating to greater support for family farms, conservation programs and beginning farmers and ranchers.”

Robert Gronski, policy coordinator for Catholic Rural Life, also praised “the environmental positions for clean energy, using farm-based bio-energy fuel sources.”

“Catholic Rural Life is heartened by the attention given to the situation of farmworkers in our country,” he added. “We began raising the concern about the effects of pesticides and herbicides on farmworkers who are tasked with applying these chemicals, yet not always properly trained or given proper protective attire. It is good to see this mentioned specifically in the platform.”

- CNA/EWTN News
of God” on cloistered women religious was signed June 29, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and was released July 22, the feast of St. Mary Magdalene.

An apostolic constitution is the highest level of decree to be issued by a Pope, and is addressed to the public. They typically focus on solemn matters of the Church such as the promulgation of laws or definitive teachings.

In Vultum Dei Quaerere, the Pope said that contemplative monastic life, which is mainly composed of women, is a “signpost” and reminder of life’s ultimate meaning. Contemplative life, he said, is “a priceless and indispensable gift which the Holy Spirit continues to raise up in the Church.”

However, as a means of assisting contemplative women to “attain the goal of their specific vocation” amid the rapid changes in modern society and the temptations that come with them, he issued new norms on 12 areas of discernment and renewal for consecrated life, particularly the monastic tradition.

These areas are: formation, prayer, the Word of God, the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, fraternal life in community, autonomy, federations, the cloister, work, silence, communications media and asceticism.

The new norms will be drafted by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, which will eventually result in amendments made to Canon Law which reflect the wishes the Pope voiced in the constitution.

In these guidelines, he established that individual monasteries “are to give special attention to ongoing formation,” which he said “is the foundation for every stage of formation, beginning with initial formation.”

He said that to ensure this ongoing formation, federations of religious communities will promote a greater cooperation between monasteries “through the exchange of formational materials and the use of digital means of communication,” though he urged the “due discretion” in using these means.

Monasteries, he said, “are to pay special attention to vocational and spiritual discernment, ensuring that candidates receive personalized guidance,” and must ensure that “ample time” is set aside for the initial formation process.

Since prayer “is the heart of contemplative life,” Pope Francis also established that “each monastery is to review its daily horarium (schedule) to see if it is centered on the Lord.”

Community celebrations, he said, should also be reviewed “to see if they constitute an authentic and vital encounter with the Lord.”

Dear Fathers, Sisters & Vocation Promoters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am glad to inform you that the second Diocesan Vocation Camp for the Boys and Girls will be held at St. Joseph Church, Chumukedima, 7th Mile. Kindly take note of the following information regarding the camp.

SECOND CAMP:

Venue: St. Joseph Church, Chumukedima, 7th Mile

Arrival: 7th (Friday) October 2016, 5.00pm

Departure: 10th (Monday) October 2016

Eligibility of Candidates for Participation:
1. Candidate should be from class VII & VIII for Boys & Girls: VII-XII
2. He/She should be from a good practising Catholic family.
3. He/She should be regular for catechism classes.
4. As far as possible only one son/daughter in the family may not be encouraged for the camp.
5. He/She should be sound physically, morally and spiritually.
6. He/She should be bright and at least average in studies and also should have secured in the previous exams minimum 40% marks in all major subjects.
7. He/She should possess good character and be free from bad habits.
8. The candidates or family members should be free from any serious disease.

Requirements:
1. The letter of introduction and recommendation from the Parish Priest/ Priest-in-charge.
2. A Conduct certificate from the school authority with the mark list of the last year examination of 2016.
3. A registration fee of Rs. 150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty only) per head.

NB:
• The Parish Priests/Centre in-charges are requested to submit the list of candidates, who wish to attend the Diocesan Vocation Camp to the Vocation Promoter in the Diocese of Kohima for the SECOND CAMP by 18th September, 2016.
• All those vocation promoters of religious congregations (Men and Women) wishing to address the campers, need to send their details (Name, Congregations name, Contact Number, email id) to me for the SECOND CAMP by 4th September, 2016. Please note that only those who intimate their details will be given opportunity to address campers.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Fr. Thomas Toretkiu (09436216599)
Vocation Promoter, Diocese of Kohima
sec.kohimadiocese@gmail.com / thomastoretkiu@gmail.com

Sharing: August - September 2016 - 35
Could you tell us your names!
1. PETEVIE IVAN SOLO
2. KHOSANGUNUO GWEN SOLO
3. KHRIELHOUTUONUO KAREN SOLO
4. VIZOVOLIE VIVIAN SOLO

Young Friends could you share us your dreams?
Our dreams for the church can be summed up in Mother Teresa’s saying, “What you can do, I cannot do and what I can do, you cannot do. But together we can do something beautiful for God” Each one of us can contribute in our own little ways for the church’s growth.

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist lay the Foundation of every Christian life and why Eucharist is the mysterious center? Could you share us?
The word “mystery” is commonly used to refer to something that escapes the full comprehension of the human mind. In the Bible, however, the word has a deeper and more specific meaning, for it refers to aspects of God’s plan of salvation for humanity, which has already begun but will be completed only with the end of time.

In ancient Israel, through the Holy Spirit God revealed to the prophets some of the secrets of what He was going to accomplish for the salvation of His people (cf. Am 3:7; Is 21:28; Dan 2:27-45). Likewise, through the preaching and teaching of Jesus, the mystery of “the Kingdom of God” was being revealed to His disciples (Mk 4:11-12). St. Paul explained that the mysteries of God may challenge our human understanding or may even seem to be foolishness, but their meaning is revealed to the People of God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor 1:18-25, Rom 16:25-27; Rev 10:7).

The Eucharist is a mystery because it participates in the mystery of Jesus Christ and God’s plan to save humanity through Christ. We should not be surprised if there are aspects of the Eucharist that are not easy to understand, for God’s plan for the world has repeatedly surpassed human expectations and human understanding (cf. Jn 6:60-66). For example, even the disciples did not at first understand that it was necessary for the Messiah to be put to death and then to rise from the dead (cf. Mk 8:31-33, 9:31-32, 10:32-34; Mt 16: 21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19; Lk 9:22, 9:43-45, 18:31-34).

Furthermore, any time that we are speaking of God we need to keep in mind that our human concepts never completely grasp God. We must not try to limit God to our understanding, but allow our understanding to be stretched beyond its normal limitations by God’s revelation.

Could you contribute why the daily prayer is important?
“Pray without ceasing and give thanks to God at every moment. This is the will of God, your vocation as Christians” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. Through daily prayers and rosary we are able to line ourselves up in God’s will. It gives us peace and patience in the midst of stressful circumstances and help us to be on guard against sin and temptation.

Your Message for the society?
So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At Just the right time will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.

The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones.
Proverbs 14:30
Diocesan Vocation Camp at St. Peter’s Church Kiphire, from 24th - 26th June, 2016.

Seminar on Catholic Social Teachings at Mt. Tabor Retreat House, Kohima from 21st - 24th July 2016, organized by Catholic Association of Nagaland.

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