

**WHAT WE CAN GIVE - JOY**  
**(BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS)**

The angel of the Lord appears to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shines around them. "They were filled with fear" (Lk 2:9). But the angels take away their fear and announce to them "a great joy, which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11f. ).

Christmas brings joy because our God has come to us in Jesus. This shows that human nature is gifted and noble. We can rise from the everyday challenges to be there for others because God loves each of us personally. He chose to be one of us. God has chosen us because he loves us. He asks us to share that love.

The shepherds are told that, as a sign, they will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased'" (Lk 2:12-14). From that moment, the angels' song of praise has never gone silent. It continues down the centuries in constantly new forms and it resounds ever anew at the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Christmas invites us to see the value of what we can give and to be to other people, especially the sick, the burdened, the lonely. Each one of us can make a constructive and positive difference in our community. This is why God came. God wants us to be people who disseminate peace and joy to whomever we are sent. The angels song of peace at the birth of Christ should be translated into our lives.

Pope Benedict XVI recently said: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas; not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can

communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness, and that joy we give will certainly come back to us."

My prayer during this Christmas is that we will see beyond our present challenges to the joy and hope that we are called to bring to others because God has come, the Light of the world, leaving behind the darkness of uncertainty and failure. God has come to save us.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year 2013 filled with new hopes and aspiration for better commitment to the Lord and strengthening of our own faith during this year of faith.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Thiruthalil", with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil C.M**

Bishop of Balasore

EXCERPT FROM THE APOSTOLIC LETTER OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

***“MOTU PROPRIO DATA” PORTA FIDEI.  
FOR THE INDICTION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH***

1. The “door of faith” (*Acts* 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (cf. *Rom* 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life.
2. Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ.
3. We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (cf. *Mt* 5:13-16). The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of the living water welling up within him (cf. *Jn* 4:14). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples (cf. *Jn* 6:51). Indeed, the teaching of Jesus still resounds in our day with the same power: “Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life” (*Jn* 6:27). The question posed by his listeners is the same that we ask today: “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” (*Jn* 6:28). We know Jesus’ reply:

“This is the work of God that you believe in him whom he has sent” (*Jn* 6:29). Belief in Jesus Christ, then, is the way to arrive definitively at salvation.
4. In the light of all this, I have decided to announce a Year of Faith. It will begin on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and it will end on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on 24 November 2013. The starting date of 11 October 2012 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a text promulgated by my Predecessor, Blessed John Paul II.
5. In some respects, my venerable predecessor saw this Year as a consequence and a necessity of the postconciliar period.
6. The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world, Christians are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.
7. “*Caritas Christi urget nos*” (*2 Cor* 5:14): it is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize. Today as in the past, he sends us through the highways of the world to proclaim his Gospel to all the peoples of the earth (cf. *Mt* 28:19) of the faith, continue even now to form a heritage of incomparable riches, and they still help many people in search of God to find the right path towards the “door of faith”.
8. On this happy occasion, I wish to invite my brother bishops from all over the world to join the Successor of Peter, during this time of spiritual grace that the Lord offers us, in recalling the precious gift of faith. We want to celebrate this Year in a worthy and fruitful manner. Reflection on the faith will have to

be intensified, so as to help all believers in Christ to acquire a more conscious and vigorous adherence to the Gospel, especially at a time of profound change such as humanity is currently experiencing.

9. We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to *profess* the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope. Confessing with the lips indicates in turn that faith implies public testimony and commitment. A Christian may never think of belief as a private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with him. Profession of faith is an act both personal and communitarian. It is the Church that is the primary subject of faith. In the faith of the Christian community, each individual receives baptism, an effective sign of entry into the people of believers in order to obtain salvation.
10. In order to arrive at a systematic knowledge of the content of the faith, all can find in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* a precious and indispensable tool. It is one of the most important fruits of the Second Vatican Council. In its very structure, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* follows the development of the faith right up to the great themes of daily life.
11. In this Year, then, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* will serve as a tool providing real support for the faith, especially for those concerned with the formation of Christians, so crucial in our cultural context.
12. During this time we will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (*Heb12:2*): By faith, the Apostles left everything to follow their Master (cf. *Mk 10:28*). By faith, the martyrs gave their lives,

bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel that had transformed them and made them capable of attaining to the greatest gift of love: the forgiveness of their persecutors. By faith, men and women have consecrated their lives to Christ, leaving all things behind so as to live obedience, poverty and chastity with Gospel simplicity, concrete signs of waiting for the Lord who comes without delay. By faith, countless Christians have promoted action for justice so as to put into practice the word of the Lord, who came to proclaim deliverance from oppression and a year of favour for all (cf. *Lk 4:18-19*).

13. The Year of Faith will also be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity. Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt. Faith and charity each require the other, in such a way that each allows the other to set out along its respective path.

Let us entrust this time of grace to the Mother of God, proclaimed “blessed because she believed” (*Lk 1:45*).

Given in Rome, at Saint Peter’s, on 11 October in the year 2011, the seventh of my Pontificate.

## **BENEDICTUS PP. XVI**

### **GOLDEN JUBILEE IN THE YEAR OF FAITH**

Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil has a lot of concurrence with the theme of the Year of Faith. Over those fifty years since the beginning of Vatican II, the world has grown. The Church has withstood the tempest of change. Over those fifty years since his ordination, Orissa has undergone a sea of changes. In 1963, at the threshold of Vatican II, he was ordained a priest. Since then, the Catholic Church has undergone vast transformation in her understanding of community and priesthood. India was receptive to the insight of the Council as it is revealed in the life and works of its priests like Father Thomas Thiruthalil C.M.

Working in Odisha was certainly an adventure. But there was also a huge dose of missionary commitment to the uplift of the poor. Some undertook this for a few years, others for their lifetime. Fr. Thiruthalil was in the second category. The driving force was the faith in the Lord and optimism that this world can be a better place for all.

Or, if you like it in a more prosaic way, I think that rooted in Christian values, he derived his strength from the Lord. Throughout his ministry he transformed the lives of the people among whom he worked. The result of this, we can see in the mission stations, in the number of faithful swelling in the parishes, in the number of lives bloomed in faith. However, what is much more important than these measurable and visual successes is the life witness he has given.

This has been his gift to us. The present history of Odisha owes much to the past. The roots of the present recline in the past and so to the past we must look back. The service it has

rendered to the country may be negligible according to some, but it is important to realize that it is only the 'little' sunrays that constitute the vast sunlight that floods the land.

The Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee year is the symbolic expression of that enriched priestly life. This offered us all in the Diocese an occasion to thank the Almighty for this little Prefecture grown into a full fledged diocese. Thus the Jubilee of Bishop is a time of joy and thanksgiving.

The preparations started well in advance. The Bishop reminded the various ad hoc groups that what we have to highlight is the ministries in the diocese. It should be the celebration of health, education, social action of the diocese apart from the pastoral work. He personally supervised the documentary on the same. Various committees formed for the purpose of Golden Jubilee Celebration had representatives from the lay people, religious and priests which made it a miniature church. Even the membership in the 50 talented musicians and selection of the songs took into consideration the rich variety of the Balasore diocesan community. Rev. Fr. Sangram Murmu, the Vicar General of the Diocese who us the General Convener never lost sight of the spiritual preparation for the event. Special prayer and fast were organized to augment the event. The guest list reflected the attitude of the diocese towards the world around and all that Bishop stood for. Former students of Bishop and a large chunk of people from other religions and all the walks of life found place in the invitation list. Graceful presence of 12 Bishops from across India proved the rapport bishop held in Indian church. The turnout of two provincial superiors of Congregation of mission (CM) and large chunk of Vincentian Conferers was a token recognition for this Jubilarian who is a true Vincentian in letter and spirit.

The Jubilee celebration was the unified voice of the diocese to thank the Lord for the faithful leadership of her pastor. It was the recognition of the calling to a pastor two of dioceses, one of the most challenging calls to be placed upon a person's life, and we wanted to be sure to just pause for a moment in appreciation to this "minister to the ministers". There aren't enough words to say how precious our bishop is to us and we acknowledge the service of him to this Church with the same sincerity. The swelling number of priests and religious present silently expressed their inner disposition that the good God has entrusted each of us to his own flock and we have to say it is such a privilege to be with Bishop Thomas. The Bible says '*to give honour to whom honour is due*' (Rom 13:7), and we can all agree that our Bishop is indeed of honourable for all the sacrifices that he has made so that our church can grow. History of the diocese bears witness to the fact that the iconic personality of Bishop Thomas has indeed unified the edifice of this local church. As he put his trust in God, He loved him and somehow, He would not let him down. Thus, the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee celebration of Bishop Thomas was the celebration of individual and collective faith of a people and a fitting chapter in the celebration of the Year of Faith.

### **HERE I AM LORD; SENT ME** **(KNOW HIM WELL, DN. ERIC SORENG)**

Bro. Eric Soreng was ordained a deacon on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Christ the King Cathedral, Balasore by Most Rev. Thomas Thiruthalil, CM, DD. Deacon Eric was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1984 to a peasant family in a village called Purnapani, Jhunmur Parish in the district of Sundargarh and in the Diocese of Rourkela. As per his acknowledgement as a small boy he enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of thick forest at the bank of Mandira Dam. He grew in the lap of nature which was a divine blessing to him as it were. His schooling took place in Jhunmur Parish itself. K.G: 1990-1991, U.P. School: 1991-1994, M.E. School: 1994-1998, High School: 1998-2001.

Deacon Eric views life as a pure gift from God who is the source of all life. By his own admission Eric was quite good in studies coming either first or second in his school days. He loved playing hockey as he was a good athlete and as a result he was selected to participate both in the district and state level for two times. At this juncture he was inspired by SVD missionaries who were going round the villages proclaiming and giving the Good News of Christ to all people of Jhunmur Parish. The activities of the missionaries became an inspiration and turning point in his life and he became a regular church goer. Thus, he gave up his interest in sports and games and decided to join Seminary for the diocese of Balasore in the year 2001. He did his Minor Seminary studies at Deepti Bhavan, Kuruda and +2 at Fakir Mohan Junior College, Balasore from 2001 to 2004. He was sent to Padanpur in Khurdha district for his spirituality course for a year from 2004-2005. It was the time to learn and renew his spirituality, a time to grow in the intimacy of God the Father. He did his philosophical and B.A.

studies at Morning Star College, Barrackpore at Kolkata University from 2005 to 2008. He was much inspired by the motto of Morning Star College-"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE". This gave him a kind of incentive to take initiative in life and to do some extra work. Thus, he was able to enjoy and find meaning in his social work at various Mother Teresa's houses without any feeling of hatred towards the old, sick, lepers and the dying. After the completion of his studies in Kolkata he was sent to Baghmara Catholic Church for his Regency in the year 2008-2009. It was the moment to learn from the situation of the given context which gave him courage and confidence to face any kind of problem or obstacle in life. At present he is doing his theological studies (B.Th) at Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo, Sason, Sambalpur. This is the time he says, "is to know and experience God's word and faith seeking understanding". This is how God has been loving and merciful to him and he really counts His blessings daily.

## **JUBLIEE BELLS IN VIJAYA SADAN - BAGHMARA**

The 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 was a great day in the annals of the history of Vijaya Sadan convent, Baghmara as it celebrated its 25 years of existence and service to God and humanity. The day was adorned and jeweled with many priests, religious superiors, religious sisters, dignitaries and many people of the locality. The day remains a milestone in the journey of this magnificent institution in its growth and development that it has achieved over twenty five great years. It was an occasion for one and all to thank the Lord for His manifold graces to this particular institution over the years. The celebration marked with melodious singing, cultural programme and presence of many great sisters who had been toiling here to nurture this institution for several years.

Vijaya Sadan gratefully acknowledged the intervention of God in its journey towards reaching out to the poor and the needy for the past 25 years as it celebrated the silver jubilee of its establishment on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2012. A meaningful Jubilee celebration was organized inviting all the sisters who rendered their service down through the years as well as the priests of the Diocese especially those who served in Baghmara parish together with many other priests, religious and the people of the locality. Rev. Fr. Sangaram Murumu, the Vicar General of Balasore Diocese presided over the concelebrated Eucharistic celebration.

Vijaya Sadan Baghmara was established in the year 1987 on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The late Rev. Msgr. Jacob Vadakeveetil, C.M, the Apostolic Administrator of Balasore prefecture requested the late Mother Margret Mary, the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Anne Banglore to open a convent to serve the people in

the field of socio-medico-pastoral apostolate and to start a hostel for the girls.

Sr. Rita Cherian together with three other sisters rendered their pioneering service as per the need of the place. In the year 1991 Vijaya Tribal Girls' Hostel was started. The hostel remains "Alma Mater" for many girls who have successfully passed out of this institution. With great satisfaction the institution looks back to the past and is looking forward to better service to the people of Bagamara and other people in and around. At present there are 212 girls residing from different districts of Odisha. Down through the years the main focus was on women and children. The institution organised women groups, credit union, S.H.Gs Community health Programs, Main streaming the child labourers to schools, enhancement of quality education etc.

## **EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD**

### **(FIRST ANNUAL DAY AT MANOVIKAS, BETNA)**

We are but delighted to give you this piece of happy news. The first Annual Day of the differently abled children of Manovikas was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 at Rajbadi, Betna. "Equal opportunity for all" was the theme of the day. Most Rev. Thomas Thiruthalil was the Chief Guest of the day. Mr. Ranjit Kumar Mohapatra C.B.R. Sadhana Programme Coordinator, Mother Concepta, the Vicar Provincial and Sr. Elsa SABS, the Regional superior were the guests of honour. Many priests, religious, parents and relatives of the children and well wishers and villagers were present for the programme. The students of Manovikas enthralled the audience with their talents exhibiting in a variety of ways in the colourful cultural programme. The audience was in fact filled with joy and wonder seeing the scintillating dances of these special children and raised their gratitude towards the Almighty for the special talents He has bestowed on these children.

Sr. Roselit SABS, the principal of the school along with the management, staff and students hosted the programme. The annual report was presented by the principal. Awards were given to the students who had won in the district and state level competitions. The vision behind this difficult but fulfilling apostolate is to build a just and kind society by empowering the disabled and provide them with equal opportunity with others so that they may live a dignified life in the society.

Mano Vikas, Betana is a special school for the differently abled children. The inmates here are mostly from the northern part of Odisha. Mano Vikas is a full fledged school for those who have been differently talented for the development of their skills. It has well trained staff and all the infrastructure required for an outstanding school. At present there are 35 students who are perusing their studies. The MR school has been recognized and registered in the PwD (People with Disabilities) act of 1995. Children who are dumb and deaf go to government recognized school for the differently abled children.

## **SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THREE SABS SISTERS**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 was a red letter day in the life and history of Divya Jyoti Region, because three women Religious (SABS) celebrated silver jubilee of their religious profession. It was a momentous occasion to thank and praise the Almighty God for the innumerable blessings in the life and ministry of these committed sisters.

Most Rev. Thomas Thiruthalil, C.M D.D the Bishop of Balasore presided over the Eucharistic celebration and strengthened the three Jubilarians and others present with his thought provoking homily and paternal blessings. The Bishop exhorted that the jubilee was a mile stone to look forward and backward to know where we were and where we need to reach.

We thank the Almighty for the unique gifts of these three sisters for their very dedicated service to the Congregation they belong and to the people of God in the church as a whole. Silver Jubilee celebration reminds us that the religious life is a call to empty oneself continuously and fill the self with God and the needs of the people around us. The beauty and occasion of the day was enhanced by various cultural programmes. The rhythmic steps of dancers and melodious songs sung in honour of the Jubilarians doubled the happiness of the day. It is our special joy to mention the three Jubilarians in brief. The Jubilarians are as follows.

Sr. Grace Vallvankattilchirayil, SABS: A zealous and dedicated missionary who has been working tirelessly for the uplift of the Santal tribe in Balasore diocese for the last 20 years.

She also proved her extraordinary talent and courage by taking care of the mentally ill at Jagdalpur for three years. Sr. Garce has served most her life in the Diocese of Balasore.

Sr. Mariet Marresil SABS: A cheerful and pleasant missionary who took care of children and their intellectual needs all these twenty five years in different schools. She rendered her services at Balasore, Jagdalpur and Agra dioceses. Now at present she still rendered her service in the capacity of a Principal at St Teresa's school, Joda.

Sr. Merlin Kallupurakal: Sr. Merlin, an admiring missionary who spent most of her time in social work extending her service to the needy and the downtrodden. Most of her time, almost about fifteen years, she worked in different stations in the diocese of Balasore. In addition to that she also worked in Dumka and Jagdalpur dioceses. At present she is rendering her service in Germany taking care of the elderly and the sick.

On this occasion of the jubilee of these religious sisters the diocese takes this opportunity to thank them very specially for their great and valuable service to the people of God in the general and to the diocese in particular. We wish them many more years of service to the Lord and his people.



## **SANJEEVANI - VILLAGE HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAMME (VHOP) BY JYOTI HOSPITAL**

Growth is the sign of development. Development results in all round growth of the people. As Jyoti Hospital grows from its infancy to adulthood different new initiatives have been taken in the all round health development of the people of far and wide. As the multi speciality hospital becomes talk of the town and more and more patients flock to the hospital to attain wholeness a new initiative has taken place to take the health care of the needy people in the rural areas.

6<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 was another feather in the cap of Jyoti Hospital, when a new initiative called *Sanjeevani* - a rural health outreach programme was flagged off in the august presence of Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil C.M, D. D and many other distinguished guests, by Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Honorable Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for statistics and Programme Implementation.

The purpose of Village Health Outreach Programme V Hop is to cater to the needs of the people in rural areas. Health Management and Research Institute (HMRI) in partnership with Jyoti Hospital have launched *Sanjeevani* - (VHOP) sponsored by IFFCO. *Sanjeevani* is a once-a-month, fixed day-outreach initiative that will result in converged health services at the village level.

The *Sanjeevani* team brings along the basic diagnostic test-facilities, focuses on antenatal care, lifestyle diseases and referrals of high risk cases to the appropriate health institutions. *Sanjeevani* is being introduced in two blocks of Balasore viz. Nilgiri and Basta with two mobile Health Units (MHU). Each MHU is staffed by an MBBS Medical Officer, Auxiliary Nurse

Midwife (ANM) and a driver. The *Sanjeevani* team focuses on Maternal and Child Health Services, lifestyle and insidious diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma and minor ailments. The services include early identification, screening, referral, follow-up and free medicines for effective disease management.

Based on the screening done in VHOP, high risk cases are referred to Jyoti Hospital or the nearest PHC for further treatment. Thus, the beneficiary's disease management begins, monitored and managed at VHOP on a monthly basis. The programme augments complements and supplements the existing public health infrastructure in Balasore.

This useful humanitarian programme was flagged off in Jyoti Hospital in the presence of Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil CM, the Founder of Jyoti Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012 by Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for statistics and Programme Implementation. In his inaugural speech the Honorable Minister said that it was a good and appropriate endeavor by Jyoti Hospital in collaboration with HMRI to help out the rural people with their health related problems. He wished that many villagers would immensely benefit from this programme. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were - Shri Jiban Pradeep Das, MLA, (BJD), Balasore constituency, Mr Ranjit Kumar Mohanty, District Collector and Magistrate, Balasore, Mr Rashid Khan, Additional District Magistrate, Balasore, Smt. Saraswati Pradhan, CDMO, Balasore and Dr. Balaji Utlia, CEO, HMRI.

The programme runs in full swing with two fully equipped ambulance, and medical team visiting the villages and referring patients for better treatment to Jyoti Hospital. The new endeavour has been well appreciated by one and all in the villages and it is an eye opening in the health service sector in Odisha.

## **THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING, CATHEDRAL CHURCH BALASORE**

The Christ the King Cathedral Church Balasore celebrated the solemn feast of Christ the King on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012 with splendor and glory. The feast day was preceded by *triduum* from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> November. Rev.Fr.Paul Koonamparampath, Director, Jyoti Hospital blessed and hoisted the flag marking the solemn inauguration of the Diocesan cathedral feast 2012. Rev. Fr. Paul Koonamparampath led the people into prayer and immediate preparation for the feast by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Preaching, Novena and giving them God's choicest blessings for a prayerfilled and gracefilled feast. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> Rev.Fr.Biju Azhakulathil, Principal, St.Mary's Convent School, Raghunathpur was the resource person for the Novena, adoration and preaching. The day was specially meant for the preparation of the youth of the parish. The beautifully decorated cathedral church witnessed a great number of youth moved into prayer and sharing. On the final day the pastor who was orienting the people in prayer and strengthening their faith was Rev.Fr.Anil Kullu, Asst. Priest Lavanyadeipur. Fr. Kullu led the people to observe the feast in the most devotional way and strengthened their faith with adoration, preaching and final blessing.

25<sup>th</sup> November was the most solemn day for the faithful of Balasore diocese in general and of Balasore parishioners in particular. The most Holy Feast day Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rt.Rev.Thomas Thiruthalil.C.M, Bishop of Balasore accompanied by the melodious choir and loud responses. The church was packed with the people with due

preparation and a lot of joy on their faces of the feast Christ as their King. Rt.Rev.Thomas Thiruthalil, C.M exhorted the faithful to accept Jesus Christ as the King of one's life, family and Universe.

In the evening at 4 pm Eucharistic Adoration followed by candle lit Eucharistic procession was led to St. Vincent's Convent school campus with melodious singing, prayer, Rosary recitation and people proclaiming at the top of their voice Christ as their King. The presence of the Eucharistic Lord was blessing and giving joy and strength to all present. Rev.Fr.Jayant Singh,OFM, Cap. broke the Word of God for the people of God present in the campus on the theme: Universal Kingship of Christ.

The feast day evening was marked by a colorful and memorable cultural programme presented by different wards of the parish. In big numbers fathers, brothers, sisters and faithful from different parishes of the diocese participated in the feast day celebration and received blessings of Christ, the King.

## **BLESSING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR ADORATION CHAPEL**

Balasore: The Eucharistic presence of the Lord fills our hearts. His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI declared the year 2012-13 as year of faith. Faith is strengthened when we are in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord. The year of faith was marked with milestone in the diocese of Balasore when his Excellency Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil C.M blessed the laid the foundation stone for the perpetual Adoration chapel in the Cathedral premises on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 on the solemn feast of Christ the King. Thus, the first step towards a long cherished dream of a permanent chapel for Adoration was being materialized that day.

Bishop exhorted the faithful to cultivate special love and devotion to Eucharistic Adoration. He expressed that this chapel would be a place of adoration, prayer, and devotion to all walks and all faiths of people. This could serve as a place for the people of Balasore to come and rest in the presence of the Lord. The blessing ceremony was witnessed by many fathers, brothers, sisters and faithful of the diocese.

The perpetual Eucharistic Adoration was started in the Bishop's house chapel in the year 2011 on the feast of Christ the King. Mrs. Roseli volunteered for one year service. The year witnessed many people being drawn to the Eucharistic Lord. When Mrs. Roseli's service was completed Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil C.M D.D entrusted this ministry to the congregation of the Sisters of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SABS) and they willingly accepted the invitation of the Bishop and offered two sisters viz. Elizabeth Koiken and Tereseena Thottamattam for this noble mission.

Adoration begins at 7 A.M daily except on Sundays and concludes at 8 P.M with community evening prayer and

benediction. Over the last one year it has been observed that many priests, religious sisters and lay people come for adoration. The new adoration chapel would serve better and cater to the spiritual needs of more people in their thirst for spiritual growth. We look forward to see and receive the Eucharistic Lord in the newly constructed Adoration Chapel.

## **JEEVAN JYOTI ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION, RAGHUNATHPUR**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day was celebrated at at Jeevan jyoti. The Chief-guest was the Vincentian Co-ordinator Rev. Fr. Francis Puthenthyl, C.M, he spoke on the Charism of St Vincent and the works that are done by SVP and the Daughters of Charity, especially how the differently-abled at Jeevan Jyoti Home (JJH) are taken care of and given due respect and human dignity to live with. The Rotary Club President Mr. Arunlal Kumar Das was the Guest of Honour who spoke well and appreciated the works done by the Staff of (JJH).

Mr. Dominic Pinto, National Treasurer SVP, John Lobo Vice-Chairman of the JJH, Mr. John Baptist, National Project officer, IIH, Mr. Sandeep Kumar Behera, the Project Manager were present on the occasion. Mr. Bibhu Prasad Das a Rotarian and an advocate by profession Highly appreciated the nobleworks. He is a regular visitor of JJH. Sr. Martha Pradhan, DC also spoke about the works and gave in details about the account of four important persons viz. St Vincent, St Louise, Blessed Roseline Rendu and Blessed Frederick Qzanan on the occasion. At present the SVP works in 148 countries and India stands second in the world as far as the works are concerned. It was a heartening sight for the people to see the disabled girls dancing, acting and singing joyfully. The inner happiness was writ large on their faces. A good number of people had come for the programme and all were very appreciative of it .The curtain was closed with the National Anthem.

## **SILVER JUBILEE OF SR. REEMA, S.D.**

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end (Lam.3:22)*

Jubilee is an occasion to reflect on the great things God has done in one's life and also on the blessings God has bestowed on others through her. It is also an occasion to reflect on one's life and see to what extent one has lived up to one's calling; it is a time of celebration and introspection. A jubilee is an occasion to think of God's special favours and proclaim God's merciful love bestowed on the person. This is what we understand when we hear of a jubilee. With immense joy and deep sentiments of gratitude to God and people, Sr. Reema, S.D remembers the awe-inspiring work God has done through her life for the last 25 years as she celebrates the Silver Jubilee of her religious commitments. This is the moment wherein she experiences the never failing love of the Lord in its entirety and counts His blessings in her life as a religious for twenty five years.

Sr. Reema was born on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1966 to the devout catholic parents Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Theresiamma at Pandippara village that comes under Idukki diocese, in the South Indian State of Kerala. She completed her primary education in St Thomas School, Thankamoney.

God in His own time chose Sr. Reema to S.D Congregation and she responded to the call with joy and free will. She committed herself to the love of God on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1988. To mark the occasion in a befitting manner in the congregational level there was meaningful thanksgiving

Eucharistic celebration organized on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. In this meaningful celebration the jubilarian was felicitated by the provincial superior and other conferrers. Sr. Reema the jubilerian's words, "Jubilee is not an achievement but it is a responsibility to re-commit oneself to God in serving the sick and suffering".

Sr. Remma S.D studied Nursing in Shillong and rendered her services in Samaritan Hospital Pazanganad for five years. After that discerning the call to continue the mission of Jesus among the destitute, sick and marginalized she devoted her loving and caring service at Jyoti Hospital Balasore. Thus, she has been untiringly helping out the people of this area for the last eight years as far as their health is concerned. She has been enlightening them with the love of God through her humanitarian service. Now she is engaged in the training and formation of the Nursing Students in the capacity of a Principal at St Thomas school of Nursing, Balasore. We wish her well in her present as well as future endeavors. May she continue to be a beacon for the people and the whole world at large.

## **BLESSING OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER HALL AT ANANDAPUR**

It was a dream come true for the people of Anandapur mission when the newly built village Chapel was blessed and inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil C.M,D.D on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012, for the use of villagers, at Sundaria, village. Bishop Thomas blessed and celebrated the first inaugural Mass in the new chapel in the presence of many priests, sisters and all the faithful of Anadapur mission. It has been christened after the first Indian Saint, St. Alphonsa. The sleepy hamlet looks profoundly adorned with the presence of the newly built chapel cum prayer hall. Fr. Anil Ferdinand, the Priest In Charge says, “the newly built house is land mark for the people of Anandapur, in their spiritual journey”. Obviously it was the hard labour of Fr. Anil and the parishioners for many days and nights. They had to start from the scratch. The beauty of this chapel is that no professional hands or hired labourers have done any job. It has been purely done by the Priest In Charge and the parishioners. The chapel remains a monument of unshaken faith for the simple Ho people of this relatively new mission station.

Anandpur mission station had been in a dormant stage for some time due to various reasons. Anadpur had been on the media in very many times because it has witnessed the martyrdom of late Fr. Arul Doss. Fr. Arul Doss was brutally killed when he was in charge of this particular mission station and looking after a substation called Jamboni. Today the situation is different. The small hamlet has full time Priest In charge in the person of Fr. Anil Fedinant. Now the faith of the people has become vibrant and the number of people embracing the love of God is rising. There have been a number of grass

root level faith formation activities set on motion for the preparation for the blessing of the chapel. Some of the recent programmes are given below.

Towards the last week of October 2012 Sinduria, a remote village in Anandpur town of Keonjhar district became instantaneously active, agile, alive and full of activities. The place as it is, is bereft of any minimum facilities viz. good road, electricity, water supply etc. Is it possible to conduct any programme at all in such a place? (In our present understanding of all the facilities for doing any programme) Such kinds of questions might crop up to anybody’s mind after one has a fair idea of the place. But yes(an emphatic one) it is possible for those who believe in the proverbial saying “Where there is a will there is a way”. It was all possible due to the indomitable will and never drying interest of Rev.Fr. Anil Ferdinand, the in-charge of the place. He wanted to have a programme for the children by all means against all odds. It is but pleasant to note that as many as 105 students had registered their names for the camp.

As far as the activities of the camp are concerned, there was nothing extraordinary but the ordinary and daily routine works were carried out by the children in a very disciplined and faithful manner. They had to get up early in the morning without any fail and after washings and baths, they gathered in the community hall for morning prayers. The classes proper would begin at 9 am and end only late in the evenings around 8.30 p.m The primary aim of this camp was in the words of Fr. A.Ferdinant “To teach the children prayers and Mass prayers and responses in Ho language.” All other activities be it singing, dancing, playing or working revolved around this thrust. The children were taught to be neat and clean, obedient, punctual,

listening, behaving well, helping one another- in one word discipline the Christian discipline we may call it. The children did all this not grudgingly but happily. It was in fact a joy to watch them grow as it were.

The resource persons for this camp were Mr Darshan, the catechist, Rev.Fr.Biju and Rev.Fr.Anil .Besides these there were many fathers and sisters who visited the place and encouraged the children.

Besides this faith formation camps were conducted for the fathers, the mothers and the youth of the parish. The duration of these course or faith formation sessions was a week . These were all a preparation and as part of the preparation and ongoing formation for the Year of Faith. More than two hundred people attended these training sessions.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAYS**

Balasore Deepti wishes Happy Birthday and floral greetings to our beloved priests of the diocese who have celebrated their birthdays last three months.

### **OCTOBER**

12<sup>th</sup> Fr. Joseph Kerketta

31<sup>st</sup> Fr. Bino Thomas

### **NOVEMBER**

23<sup>rd</sup> Fr. Saji Karathankal

24<sup>th</sup> Fr. Paul Koonamparmpath

25<sup>th</sup> Fr. Anil Ferdinanat

26<sup>th</sup> Fr. Singray Tudu

### **DECEMBER**

10<sup>th</sup> Fr. Alex Joseph

18<sup>th</sup> Fr. Cherian Kizhikandayil

19<sup>th</sup> Fr. Jibin Thundiyil O.C.D.

23<sup>rd</sup> Fr. Isaac Puthenangady

## **CONGRATULATION ON YOUR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

The diocese cherishes with joy and gratitude as you celebrate the anniversary of the day on which you have been elevated to the Altar of God. In one accord our congratulation and well wishes on your ordination day.

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Hemant Soren
	18 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Bijay Kiro
	20 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Jadu Marndi
	22 <sup>nd</sup> Fr. Manoranjan Beshra
	24 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Peter Arackal
	27 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Jojo Chakkalamattath
	27 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Daso Murmu
	29 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Paul Koonamparampath
<b>DECEMBER</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Paul Kidangan
	28 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Gerald Gomes
	29 <sup>th</sup> Fr. Bino Thomas

## **CONDOLENCE AND R.I.P.**

Mr. Jose Kizhikandayil (47) elder brother of Fr.Cherian Kizhikanayil passed away on 28th October, 2012.

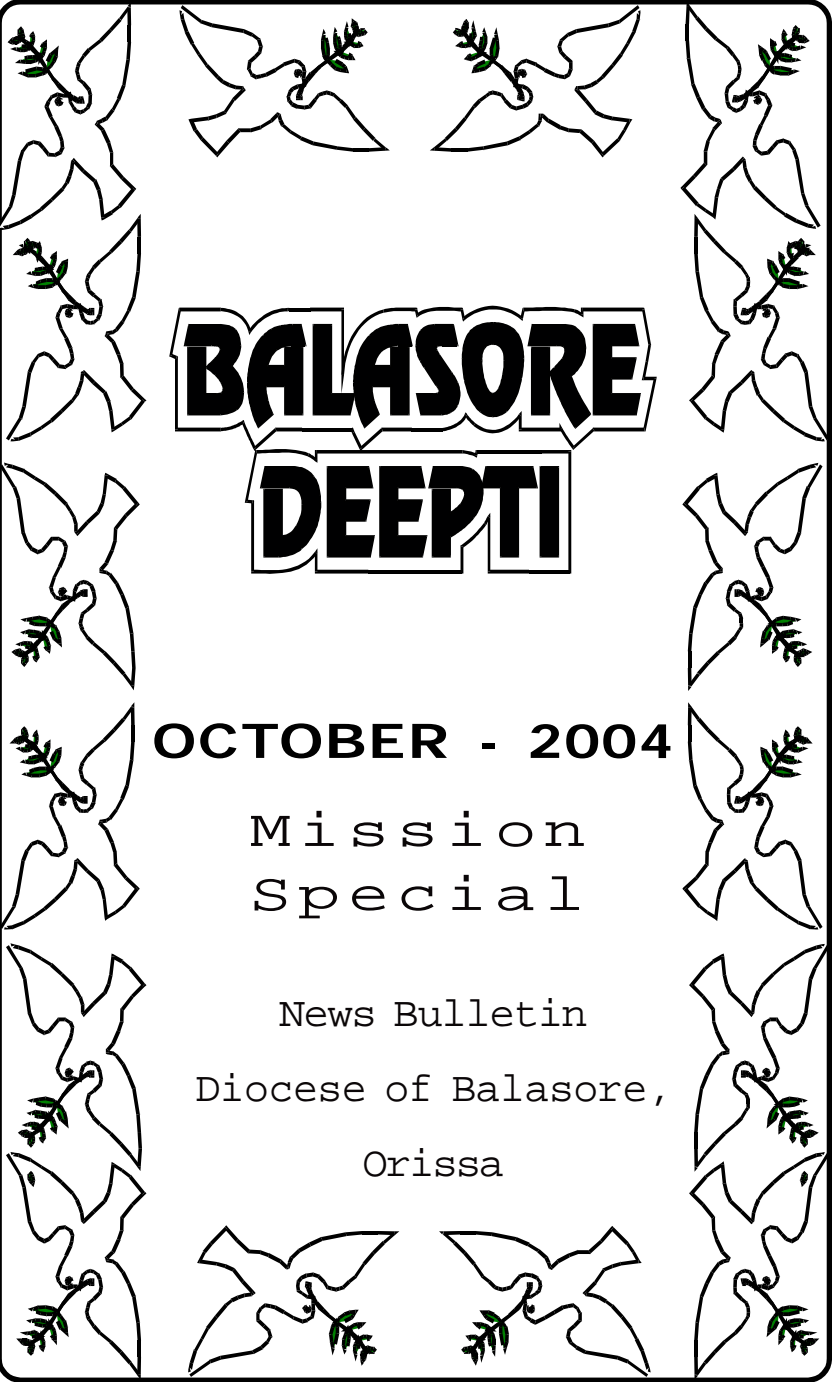
Mr. P.V Chacko Punnackal, brother of Sr. Teresita Punnackal D.C, passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012.

We express our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

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