

DISCIPLES OF DIVINE WORD

Ambassa: February 20, 2019, three members of DDW (Disciples of Divine Word) the SVD lay associates from Mumbai visited Agartala SVD District. Particularly they spent 5 days in Ambassa, visited sub-stations, gave classes to Teachers, interacted with the students, listened to the women leaders, shared their experiences with the Parish Council members and mingled with the village people. Mrs. Susan the president of DDW writes after 3 members reached back to Mumbai, “First of all, let me thank you for your invitation and the hospitality you offered to **Lorna, Leena and Maryanne**. They have spoken volumes on your goodwill and love and are overwhelmed by your generosity. I am truly happy that they encountered wonderful mission experience in your midst. Initially I was a bit concerned about their health, etc., though I knew for sure that God will take care, and so it was. Their mission trip was truly a great experience and I am sure it was a rewarding experience for them. We are deeply grateful to you for opening the doors of ING to the SVD Lay Partners, INM”.



Initially it was Mrs. Maryanne who contacted Fr. Ivan D' Silva and she made arrangement with him for their visit to Tripura. Maryanne the one of the visitors writes to Fr. Ivan and in her letter of gratitude she writes, “I will not begin my mail by thanking you because thanks is too feeble an expression for all the love, concern and support I experienced in Ambassa right from the start. May I express all that I experienced? Every day was so well planned for us. The visit to the substations/villages helped me see the poverty and helplessness the people there go through. How fortunate our children here are. The substations set up by you is indeed a challenging and fulfilling task and I am sure you feel so good to see that more and more people gather there to give glory to God because of your hard work.



The school I feel is a miracle. I don't know how it is able to get cent per cent results. It is only the work of the Spirit since you mentioned that you have a dearth of trained teachers. The hostel, the wardens, the cooks, and the whole set up is mind-blowing. The people we interacted with are so simple yet so much wanting to help in the parish work. I was amazed that they took time from their busy schedule just to interact with us. And the women, in spite of their limited literacy are so empowered. I have learnt so much from this trip and I hope I am able to come again to give, whatever talents God has given me, to the school and to the

people of your parish. We have lots to share with our group when we meet on the 9th and 10th of March for a retreat in Pune. Each of us will be sharing our experience in Ambassa”.

Ivan D’Silva

News bureau, Ambassa