

TANGARPALI MISSION GETS CHURCH After 28 Years

“It will be a house of prayer for all people, irrespective of caste, creed and religion” said Most Rev. Lucas Kerketta, SVD, inaugurating the new Church at Tangarpali, one of the remotest parishes in the diocese of Sambalpur, on 25th November, 2012. Hundreds of the local Catholic as well as non-catholic faithful, many priests and religious and a big number of the local Hindu brethren participated in the celebration.



Speaking on the occasion Most Rev. Lucas Kerketta, SVD, invited all the faithful to become temple of the Lord and make a community living in harmony with the people of other faiths. Fr. Telesphore Bilung, SVD, the Provincial Superior encouraged the faithful to deepen the faith they have received. It was a great day for the Christians as well as others in and around Tangarpali who came in large

number to have a first glimpse of the beautiful Church and the inaugural ceremony. Fr. Joseph Puthur, SVD, the Parish Priest, expressed the hope that the new Church which has come up after 28 years of the mission, will help deepen the faith of all the people in the area.

Tangarpali Mission was started by Fr. Joseph Puthur, SVD in 1984 as a sub-station mainly for the development of the poor tribals who were settled migrants from Gangpur mission and for the spread of the Gospel among the non-Christian brethren. Soon he organized the tribals and made “Adivasi Sangathan” a registered organization in 1986. Under this organization Fr. Joseph Puthur started many developmental schemes and vocational



training for the poor and the uneducated villagers. In 1998 Tangarpali Catholic Mission sub-station was raised to a Parish in the Diocese of Sambalpur by Most Rev. Lucas Kerketta, SVD, Bishop of Sambalpur. There were about 80 Catholic families then with a population of 250 in 12 different centers. The need of a Church was met by a small Hall where 100 people could be accommodated. During feasts the Holy Eucharist was conducted in the open air.



Late Fr. Zacharias Pthalil worked as Assistant Priest for 9 years in Tangarpali Mission. He took keen interest for education of children through 'balwadis' (non formal Kindergarten). Though old he went on foot village to village to see that the work is done. Fr. Joseph K.J resided at Junani (one of the village centers of the Parish) for nine years and worked for the health care of the people. Since it is an interior place the Government health center is not available

in the vicinity. Therefore Catholic Mission started a small dispensary in 2002, which is run by the Samaritan Sisters Congregation. Fr. Francis Kiro, SVD, joined Tangarpali Mission as an assistant parish priest from June 2010. After 28 years, today the Catholic population has grown to 125 families with the population of 596. There are 12 centers or villages in the parish. There are two religious sisters already and a brother doing his theological studies from this parish. Fathers Jose Puthur and Francis Kiro along with Samaritan Sisters, Sr. Victoria, Sr. Grace Mary and Sr. Grace Paul, are fully committed to the all round development of the poor in the area.



Fr. Sunil Damor, SVD
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