

Inauguration Ceremony of New Church House



Honorable Fr. Carlus Toppo along with church community leaders inaugurated the new Church house at Tongi Shyampur under Dhanjuri Parish

BEHIND STORY OF NEW CHURCH HOUSE

OVERVIEW OF TONGI SHYAMPUR CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Tongi Shyampur congregation is located at Putimara union under Nawabganj sub-district in Dinajpur district. 71 members are living in 20 families those are all indigenous people. Most of families are always struggling to manage their daily needs through farming in others land and selling labor. Although they are believer in Christ Jesus, they had not had Church house to worship God in Sunday Service.

STARTED JOURNEY WITH UMOJA BIBLE STUDY PROCESS:

LAMB Church and Community Transformation (CCT) Project has been working in Nawabganj Upazila since 2017 with the support of Tearfund-UK and recently (2020) included CEDAR Fund-Hong Kong. To reach the project goal, CCT introduced Umoja Bible study process with this Church member. Project formed a Bible study group (BSG) consisting of 12 members in 2018. Through Umoja process Bible Study, group learned how to identify problems and seek ways to solve by using local resources. CCT team continued to motivate and encourage the BSG closely by visiting, monitoring, coaching, and training.

APPLIED UMOJA PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AND SOLVE THE NEED

Tongi Shyampur Roman Catholic Bible Study Group (BSG) and Local Church Coordination Committee (LCCC) identified the need of church house for worshipping God in their congregation. They started to pray as they could find the ways for solutions. In the meantime, while continuation of Bible study and prayer, one of church members Catechist Mr. Elarush Hasda along with 3 cousins shared their desire to donate 7 decimals land for construction of church house. Finally, landowner handed over the land to LCCC in January'2020. To construct Church building, LCCC members started to collect contribution from community members. Most of them contributed as per their capability. By giving maximum efforts of all church members, they have been able to build Church house by tin, wood, mud and bamboo on August 2020.

Landowner Catechist Elarush Hasda expressed, *“We are so glad and blessed today to donate land for building church house. It’s not only our desire but God’s desire - where all Church members will worship to Him together. We are thankful to LAMB CCT project from where we have learned and encouraged to identify our needs and seek to solve by using Local resources through Umoja process.”*

Name of Congregation: Tongi-Shyampur
Roman Catholic

Name of Denomination: Roman Catholic

Total Church Members: 71

Total Families: 20

Established year: 2012

Belong to: Dhanjuri Parish, Dinajpur Diocese,
Dinajpur, Bangladesh

Bible Study Group (BSG) Formation: 2018

Total BSG Members: 12

Umoja (Togetherness) Process:

To identify Church and community needs/problems and solve by using Local resources through Scripture reading

Principle of Umoja (Togetherness) Process:

- Bible study
- Prayer
- Action



Elarush Hasda
Catechist

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Inauguration ceremony of new Church house was held on the date of 13th September 2020. In the Inauguration ceremony, Dhanjuri Parish Priest Father Carlus Toppo was present and started ceremony at 11:00 am by procession with Santali song of all church members. Guests were welcomed with flower and washed their feet with water according to Santali culture.

Honorable Fr. Carlus Toppo said,

Today, on this joyful day, I offer my special greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, especially those who come from LAMB, work with Church and Community Transformation project, and those who are from this Tongi Shyampur Village. Today, I want to express my joyful feelings on the inauguration of this new Church establishment. We started the inauguration program through washing our feet, cutting the ribbon, and then entering the house for the holy Mass, by which we received the blessings of Christ. We all know that Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, I will raise it again in three days", and that temple is our body, our mind and soul. When we destroy our mind and soul, everything is destroyed. Brick-built temples are easily repairable after destroying, but if the temple of soul is broken, can never be rebuilt. It is only possible by the grace of God, and with that grace of God we have been able to establish this Church house. Those who contributed to build this house from this village, we thank you very much. In the coming days, after register of the land, we will rebuild and renovate this house newly so that we can rejoice again, God will be with us, and He will support us in this journey. We are requesting to LAMB Church and Community Transformation project representatives to focus on three factors: social, economic, and spiritual. We pray for you so that you can contribute for the development of the communities by caring their spirituality and education through focusing on these three factors. We wish for your good health. We the missionaries also wish to take care of the believers, and through our collaborative endeavor the indigenous may last longer in believing and their pilgrimage. Thank you all very much.

Honorable Deputy Director, CHDP-LAMB Mr. Bapon Mankhin expressed his gratitude to local Church leaders, BSG and Church members who have learned and practiced Umoja process. He also gave cordial thanks to Priest for dedicating holy mass in this inauguration ceremony. He said, LAMB believe that by the support of CCT project community people are being developed continuously by themselves by applying learning from Umoja Bible study process.

PICTURE THAT MADE NICE



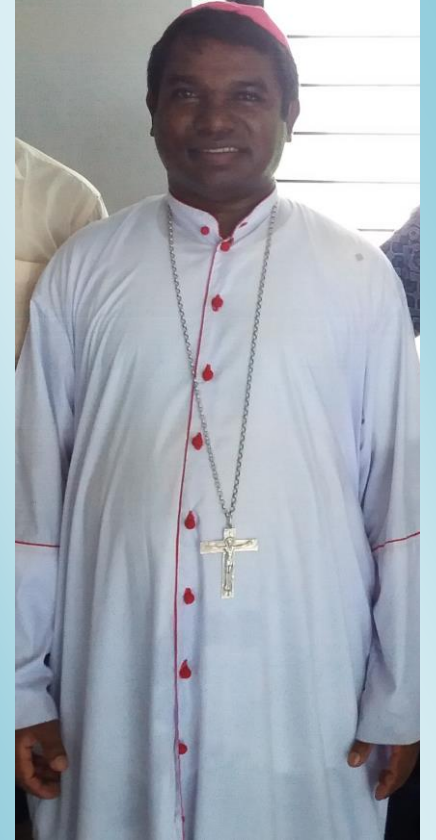
“I am so glad to hear the good news that Tongi- Shyampur Church people have donated land for church building and finally constructed the church house by own initiative. It’s a commendable achievement by them. I appreciate the initiative taken by LAMB Church and Community Transformation Project to form Bible Study group where Umoja Bible study process is implemented with good participation of local youth groups. I am very happy to have the youth in leading the church community as well. I hope they are being transformed themselves and it will be continued by these initiatives and local resource utilization. I recommend to LAMB to accelerate the activity of project among youth and encourage them to take in different IGA activities to be self-reliant. I pray to the almighty God that youth would have a good leadership skill to bring changes in the community especially financially and spiritually.”

Most Rev. Bishop Sebastian Tudu

Dinajpur Roman Catholic Diocese

Dinajpur, Bangladesh.

PICTURE THAT MADE NICE



Most Rev. Bishop Sebastian Tudu
Dinajpur Roman Catholic Diocese

Prepared by:

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