

Interfaith and Women



A woman speaker

June 25, 2011: The 'Faith Friends' third 'Women Interfaith Conference', was held with the collaboration of Diocesan Women Desk, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar.



Participants of the Conference

A good number of the women from different faith communities attended the Conference. Theme of the Conference was, 'The Role of Women in the promotion of Peace'. Women speakers from various faiths shared their religious views about 'Peace & Harmony' and the women contribution.



Conference in Progress

Mrs. Alishba Naseem and Miss Sarah Asghar of Christian Community, Miss Aisha Ayaz and Miss Fatima Noor from Muslim Community, Miss Harjindar Kor of the Sikh community, and Miss Sharda from Hindu community were among the main speakers. They all agreed that all religions teach love and peace, and discourage hate and

conflict. They believed that mothers as teachers can up-bring their children by teaching them to respect other faiths and to live in harmony with others.



The Speakers receiving Souvenirs

A few representatives of the different political parties and the NGO's also shared their point of views. Including, Mrs. Manawar Sultana, Member Provincial Assembly, Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province (KPK), Mrs. Najma Nowsherwan, Vice President, Muslim League (N) Women Wing, KPK, Ms. Shazia Naz, Leader, Tehrik-e-Insaf (Women Wing), KPK, and Mrs. Zubaida Firdous, Women Coordinator, Peace Foundation. All the speakers firmly believed that women hold the key to promote peace, and a culture of tolerance.



Participants of the Conference

The Diocesan Women Coordinator, Mrs. Reena Patrik thanked all the guest speakers and the participants for making this conference a success.

The Senior members of the Faith Friends, Qari Roohulla Madni, Prof. Qibla Ayaz, Allam Karavi (Muslim Community), Revd. Joseph John (Christian), Mr. Charan Jeet Singh (Sikh), Mr. Haroon Sarabdial (Hindu) were also present at this occasion. They also encouraged the women to come forward and play their due role in promoting interfaith, peace and harmony in the society.

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Thanksgiving & Prayer Requests



Diocese of Peshawar is grateful to God for His blessings and Mercies and also to the Donors/Partners for their financial and prayer support.

Please Pray for;

1. The War on Terror is still going on, kindly pray for those who are determined to eradicate this menace for good.
2. The Diocesan Relief Work in Pateka, Balakot, Earthquake victims (2005), and for the Flood victims (2010) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
3. Pakistan, Minorities and Inter-faith harmony in the region.
4. Pray for newly elected Bishop of Multan, 'Bishop Leo', and the Diocese of Multan.
5. Pakistan, as terrorism and the War against it has intensified after the death of Osama Bin Laden.

Special Prayer requests;

1. Please remember Christian community of Parachinar, as their salaries have once again been stopped, and they facing scarcity of food commodities; and the prices are beyond their reach.
2. Kindly pray for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Waziristan.

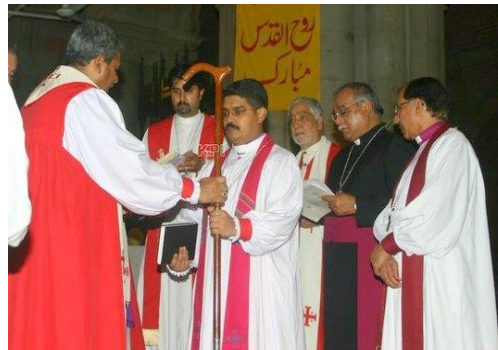
(The National Scenario)

New Bishop of the Multan



The Rt. Revd. Leo Rodrick Paul

The Diocese of Peshawar congratulates Revd. Leo Rodrick Paul on becoming the new Bishop of Multan. In June, 2011, Election of the Multan Diocese took place to elect a new Bishop. The Synod, Church of Pakistan and the Diocesan Council of Multan jointly declared Revd. Leo Paul as the new elected Bishop of Multan.



Bishop Humphrey handing over the Bishop's Staff to Bishop Leo

The Consecration ceremony of Bishop Leo was held at the Lahore Cathedral. The Rt. Revd. Samuel Azariah, Moderator, Church of Pakistan, along with other bishops blessed the newly elected Bishop to serve the Diocese of Multan.

The Peshawar Diocese has a long history of working closely with the Diocese of Multan, our previous Bishop of Peshawar, the Rt. Revd. Mano Rumalshah remained Commissary Bishop of Multan for a long time. Similarly, the Rt. Revd. Humphrey Peters, Bishop of Peshawar also served the Multan Diocese as its Commissary. The Diocese of Peshawar also played a vital role in the whole election process of the Multan Diocese.

We hope that the Diocese of Multan will further flourish and develop under the new leadership of the Rt. Revd. Leo, Bishop of Multan.

News from Hyderabad Diocese

The Rt. Revd. Rafique Masih, Bishop of Hyderabad retired on 23 June 2011, after serving the Hyderabad Diocese whole heartedly. After his retirement, the Rt. Revd. Irfan Jamil, newly elected co-adjutant Bishop of Lahore took charge of the Hyderabad Diocese as its Commissary.



Bishop Irfan Jamil

Kindly pray for the forth coming Hyderabad Diocese 'Bishop's elections', also pray for Bishop Irfan who will be responsible to supervise the Election process and proceedings. May God help all who will be responsible to choose a new shepherd for the Hyderabad Diocese.

Suicide bombing hit Christians

In our previous Newsletter we published a report about twin suicide blast at the entrance of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) training centre, Shabqadar, Charsadda. As a result, as many as 80 people died. Over one hundred were injured.

Bishop Humphrey Peters and the Diocesan Officers immediately visited the injured at the hospital. The Diocese also gave financial assistance to Christian injured. Revd. Yousaf T. M. Azam, and some members of the congregation of Charsadda Parish kept visiting them on regular basis. They provided them all the required medicines, plus food and non-food items. Special prayer services were also held for their quick recovery.

Thanks God! They have recovered and joined the congregation on the Pentecost Day. They were greeted by all the people, and together they rejoiced the day of Pentecost. On this occasion, they were also given gifts and were helped financially as well. This money was raised by the Charsadda Parish congregation, which shows their love and care for each other, which in fact is the essence of the true Christian Spirit, and a great witness.

Jesus said, "**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.**" (John 15:12)

Pak United School, Nowshera



The garrison city of Nowshera is situated on the bank of river Kabul. It's one of the cleanest Cantonments of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Nowshera is situated on the cross roads of Risalpur, Akora Khattak, Pabbi, Jehangira and Charsadda. Area wise it is the largest Parish of the Diocese of Peshawar, Attok Khurd, Akora Khattak, Jehangira and Pabbi all fall under the jurisdiction of the Nowshera Parish.



The famous/beautiful Christ Church of Nowshera caters for religious and social needs of the whole area, and it has become the 'hub' of educational activities, as well. In the year 1964, the 'FELM' established a school for local Christian students. Miss 'Laina' of Finland was its first Principal. This school is still running on 'charity basis', most of its pupils belong to religious minority groups; i.e. Christians, Hindus and Sikhs.

Mrs. Usha Walter, a local philanthropist used to run an English Medium 'Middle' School in a private bungalow in a posh locality of Nowshera. In the year 2001 she migrated to the USA, and before leaving, she requested Peshawar Diocese to take-over the School. After several meetings, Peshawar Diocese decided to adopt that school and shifted the school into the Church premises.

The Diocesan Directorate of Education decided to run this newly adopted School on the basis of self-support/self-reliance.

Shifting of the school's location created misunderstandings among the local public, as most of the students belonged to the Muslim majority, and they feared that the Church management might try to convert their children to Christianity.

Thus strength of the pupils took a nose dive. But the Diocese didn't give up and continued its efforts to provide quality education without any discrimination.



Gradually the faith and confidence of the local majority population was restored in the new management, and the number of students started to rise again. Within two years the school was upgraded and became a High school.



Today, total strength of the students (both boys and girls) is 500+. The number could increase, but at the moment there is no room for more students.

Total number of staff is 25, including the Muslim staff. It is a Co-education school, and the parents have faith in the 'Administration'. Ever since, the School has been upgraded it has been showing 100% results in the Matric Exams.

Apart from major 'National Days', religious festivals, such as Eid and Christmas are celebrated together, which further enhances understanding and promotes a culture of tolerance.

The School's co-curricular activities, such as, gardening, music, arts and sports, all promote positives attitudes among students, and help to develop a balanced personality.

The 'Annual Day' of the School is attended by the parents in large numbers, but special emphasis is placed on the 'Mother's guidance', and the female staff delivers lectures for their awareness, and this act is highly appreciated by the public.



Principal with children

The staff's training & development and refresher courses are organized on regular basis, thus the staff is introduced to modern teaching methods and techniques.



Now a days, the parents demand is to upgrade the School further, and/or Make it a Degree College, or at least an Intermediate College.

Mrs. Qamar Javed, Principal of the School has informed the Diocese about the parent's desire and has requested the authorities to establish a College. It is not only the parents but the 'Staff Wish' as well.

Distribution of Shoe boxes among children

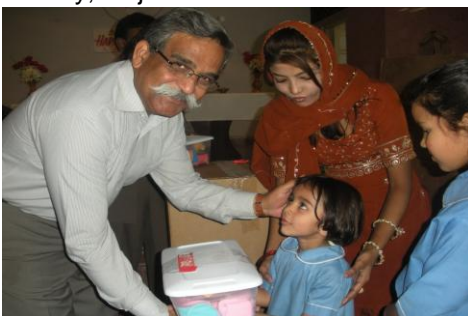


Revd. Ijaz Gill, Vice President (Clergy), distributing the Shoe-boxes

The Junior Church Desk of Peshawar Diocese promotes the Sunday schools Ministry, and also creates awareness about Kingdom of God among children.

The Sunday schools are established in almost all the parishes of the Diocese, and the Junior Church Desk holds Teachers Training Programmes, it provides syllabus and teaching material to the Sunday schools as well.

The Junior Church Desk has also started a Ministry to distribute shoe-boxes (gift packs) among the Christian children of various Sunday schools and educational institutions. This programme is run with the kind support and cooperation of Pakistan Sunday School Ministry, Gujranwala.



Col. (R) Kanwal Isaacs, Diocesan Treasurer, distributing shoe-box

The Shoe-boxes were distributed in the following churches and institutions, during last 3 months. On 10 April 2011, the gifts were distributed among 162 children, in the St. John's Catholic Church, Peshawar City, and on the same evening shoe-boxes were distributed among 150 children at the Tarnab Farm Church, which is a flood-affected area. On 15 April, the shoe-boxes were distributed among 250 students in the ABC School System, a charity institution, at Father's Colony, Yousafabad, Peshawar.

In St. John's Catholic girls school 174 children, St. John's boys school 190 children, Agricultural University church 95 children, University campus 143, Hassan Ghari (Flood-affected area) 54 children, Lala Zar Church 65 children, Forest college colony 194 children, Landi Kotal (a tribal area near Peshawar) 150 children.



A child with her gift

The children are always happy while receiving the shoe-boxes. Toys, school stationery items and other funny games inside them become a real source of joy for them.

In June 2011, the Junior Church Desk distributed the shoe-boxes in Kohat, Charsadda and Tarbella Parishes. Both the Parishes organized special programmes, in which the Sunday school children presented different hymns, skits and other items.

Mrs. Noureen Altaf, the Junior Church Coordinator encouraged the children, and also taught the teachers how to use new methods and techniques to improve their teaching skills.

**His Omni Presence!
Pentecost Day celebrated in hard-areas**

The Tribal, Orakzai and Kurram agencies are surrounded by the areas influenced by Talibans, even the people of Thall are directly affected by the suicide bombings and rockets attacks carried out by Taliban, hence their life has been turned into a living hell.

A good number of Christian community members reside in these areas.

The Diocese of Peshawar has an active Parish, and a beautiful Church, in Thall, built in 1942.

The Youth Group of the Parish often organizes different activities in the Church, and has initiated a few small scale projects for the uplift of their youth.



The Youth presenting an action song

On the Pentecost Day, the Youth Group organized a Youth Seminar in their Church. After the Sunday Service, a cake cutting ceremony was also conducted to celebrate the event.

Mr. Insar Gohar, Diocesan Youth Officer and Mr. Kamran Younis, President, Youth Council after a hard and tensed journey finally reached Thall, and led the Youth Seminar.

Mr. Insar Gohar's session was about "Our Identity as Christians". He mentioned that we are God's chosen people and God loves and protects us. He quoted the parable of 'Prodigal Son', who left his home, but on his return his Father rejoiced. "Similarly, we need to mend our ways and get back to our Heavenly Father, as He loves and cares for us more than any biological father on earth". He said.



Activity during the Session

Mr. Kamran Younis taught, 'How to run a better Youth Group'. The youth actively participated in his session, as he used different games and activities as teaching-aids.

In the end, the Youth Group and the Thall Congregation thanked both the guests, and said that their visit was a source of encouragement for them.

The Pentecost Feast

Pentecost Day was celebrated at the St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar, and the celebrations lasted for four-days. Various programmes and activities were organized by the Cathedral staff, and the Parish Council.

The main Pentecost Day Service was held at the Cathedral on Sunday, 12 June 2011. Scriptures and songs related to Pentecost Day were presented, and the special Pentecost message about 'Unity and Reconciliation' was delivered by Revd. Joseph John, the Priest In-charge. He emphasized on unity within the Church, and the desire of receiving the gift of Holy Spirit, "We need to work together to spread the 'Kingdom of God' all over the World," he said.

Pentecost and the Junior Church

On 13 June 2011, a special programme was organized for the children of Sunday School (Junior Church). Mr. Naeem Nazir, OTS Coordinator, gave a simple sermon about Pentecost, and made it easier for the children to understand.

Pentecost and Youth

14 June, 2011, the Cathedral youth group organized a seminar. On this occasion, the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was the honourable guest and the keynote speaker. In his sermon, he said "Pentecost is the greatest festival which marks the birth of the Christian Church by the power of the Holy Spirit". "This was beginning of the Holy Spirit outpouring, as the prophet Joel mentioned, i.e. "your sons and daughters will receive the Holy Spirit," (Joel 2:28-32), he added. The Bishop advised the youth to live under the guidance of Holy Spirit. The youth felt motivated, and received the blessings.

Pentecost and Women

15 June, 2011, In a Seminar organized by the Women Fellowship of Cathedral, Mrs. Reena Patrick, the Women Desk Coordinator, shared the Word of God.

All the programmes were well organized, and were attended by a large number of people. The Cathedral's Staff and Parish Council jointly arranged meals and refreshments for the participants.

On this occasion, the Church was nicely decorated with pictures, charts and banners highlighting importance of the Pentecost Day.

All other Parishes of the Diocese arranged special Prayer Services and activities to celebrate the Pentecost Day with religious zeal and dignity.

Confirmation Service at Cathedral, Peshawar



Bishop Humphrey leading the Service

June 19, 2011: A Confirmation Service, led by Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was held at St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar.

After the Praise & Worship, a beautiful message on the "New Birth" was delivered by Revd. Joseph John, the Priest in-charge. He quoted the reference (John 3:3), "*In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again'.*"



The Bishop confirming the Candidates

Bishop Humphrey Peters blessed/confirmed 60 young adults in a graceful ceremony. It was a spirit-filled service and the candidates received blessings of the Holy Spirit through this holy sacrament.

The Parish Committee of the Cathedral, along with the Congregation greeted the newly confirmed candidates. After the service, refreshments were served by the Parish Committee of the Cathedral.

Women Writers Workshops



Women during the Workshop

The Diocesan Women Desk organized two 'Writers Workshops' in the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar, on 6th and 13th May 2011. The women folk actively participated in these workshops and wrote different essays and articles.



Workshop in progress

The first workshop was held on 6 May, and its objective was to develop awareness regarding their writing skills by giving them an assignment to write essays or articles. And the second workshop was a follow-up of the first workshop. The participants did bring their written material and read it out in front of others. Thus the articles were improved through positive feed-back of others.



Participants with the Diocesan Officers

It was a good intellectual activity for the ladies, an activity different from their daily routine at home, to refresh their minds and to create something as well. Lots of good articles, essays, and health tips were selected for the upcoming Women Magazine.

The Earthquake affected areas



Students of the New Light Public School

The Diocese of Peshawar is still working in the Earthquake affected areas, i.e. at Pateka villages, Balakot, whereas many other organizations have left the scene. Rehabilitation can be long term process and the Diocese is very much there, as promised.

Programme Officer visited Shawal Health Clinic



A patient receiving treatment in Clinic

The Shawal health clinic is still serving the people of the area. A good number of patients visit the clinic every day and dedicated staff of the clinic treats the patients nicely. Last month, Mr. Rabnawaz, Programme Officer, Development & Relief, visited the Shawal Health Clinic and discussed various administrative matters with the staff.

The Clinic not only provides Medical-aid and facilities to the people of Shawal, but also caters for the communities surrounding the Shawal area.

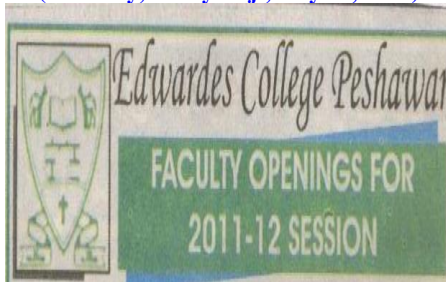
New Light Public School

The New Light Public School, Pateka, for Earthquake victims has shown 100% result this year in S.S.C (Matric) Examinations, as per their unbroken record over the years. It doesn't only show the hard work of students, but also demonstrates dedication of the staff as well.

The school will remain closed for summer vacation, i.e. 15 June – 31 August 2011, the Construction work of new classrooms is in progress.

Job opportunities in Edwardes College, Peshawar

(Courtesy, 'Daily Aaj', July 17, 2011)



The mission of Edwardes College, the oldest institution of higher education in Khyber PakhtunKhw, is to educate and develop professionals who will be leaders in meeting the opportunities and challenges of Pakistan today. We seek highly qualified faculty members who are /excellent teachers, innovative researchers and team players ready to engage toe expanding horizons of an exciting co-educational enterprise that offers 10 programmes, including those for associates, bachelors and masters students. Find out about us at www.edwardes.edu.pk. Applications are invited from suitable candidates in the following fields, which will be filled on a Contract basis, unless otherwise noted:

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chemistry 3 positions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physics 1 position |
| ARTS | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Journalism (Visiting). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pakistan Studies. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Philosophy (Visiting). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychology (Visiting). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statistics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Education. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urdu. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Science. | |

Minimum qualification is M.A. Or M.Sc. (1st or 2nd Division), M.Phil. And Ph.D holders are encouraged to apply. Duties, rank, (instructor, lecturer, professor, etc.), and compensation will be commensurate with qualifications, experience and publications. As an equal-opportunity employer, Edwardes welcomes applications from women and minorities.

Application form (Available at www.edwardes.edu.pk and at Administrative Office), curriculum vitae or resume, academic transcripts, recommendations and passport-size photo must be submitted by 10 August 2011 to: jobs@edwardes.edu.pk, shaw_eccp@yahoo.com, or to: Principal, Edwardes College, Mall Road, Peshawar 25000, Khyber PakhtunKhw.

Only short listed candidates will be interviewed.

**Revd. Dr. Titus Presseller,
Principal, Edwardes College,
Peshawar.**

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Graduation Ceremony of National Christian College



Bishop Humphrey distributing awards

June 11, 2011: The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Bishop of Peshawar was invited as the chief guest, at the Graduation Ceremony of the 'National Christian College of Prayer & Worship', Lahore. It was the very first Convocation held at the 'National Christian College of Prayer & Worship', Lahore. The graduation degrees were awarded to the successful candidates by Bishop Humphrey Peters.



Bishop Humphrey delivering a speech

The Bishop in his speech said, "We are called to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus, i.e. 'Go and make disciples of all nations,'" (Matt.28:19). He further said; "The new ministers through this college are prepared to fulfill the great commission". "I encourage you to serve the Lord our God with Christian zeal and spirit". He added.



Bishop Humphrey awarding D. D to Revd. Fayyaz Daniel

After the ceremony and distribution of the degrees and awards, a get-together was also arranged.