

A LITTLE ABOUT OUR NEW PRIEST, FR. BALA...

Father Ed Anderson has accepted the call to serve the parishes of St. Joseph in Rice Lake, St. John in Birchwood, Our Lady of Lourdes in Dobie and Holy Trinity in Haugen and the St. Joseph School in Rice Lake. This change comes as Father Jim Powers has been named to be our new Bishop. And so, to help our parish cluster prepare to welcome Father Bala, here is a brief introduction of him, (as taken from the website of his current parishes of St. Theresa in Three Lakes and St. Kunegunda in Sugar Camp. Please watch the bulletin for more information on any formal plans to “meet and greet” our new priest once he arrives in early February.



Father Madanu Bala Showry (affectionately known as Father Bala) comes from Nalgonda Diocese of Telangan State (the newly formed state in India in South Central India). He is one of four children.

He studied philosophy and theology in Sacred Heart College, Chennai, under the guidance of Don Bosco Fathers and was ordained on May 5, 1992. He also holds a Master of Arts and Master of Education. During his first year of priesthood he worked as a teacher in a diocese minor seminary. From there he was appointed a traditional parish priest and principal of a school and the rector of boarding homes for girls and boys, where he was for six years.

He then worked in his home diocese as secretary to the bishop for three years and additionally worked as the deputy general manager of diocesan educational institutions, where he served for nine years.

During the years as secretary he had a unique opportunity to help as a chaplain of Leprosy

Health Centre for one year. Father Bala served his diocese for next six years as the founder principal of a college where he had again attached boarding homes for girls and boys numbering about 475. The next post was with the diocesan social charities as the director for two years giving service as the chaplain of school for mentally challenged. In the last years leading up to his arrival in Northern Wisconsin he worked as a parish priest.

Father Bala has been described by some who know him as “a gem;” “extremely kind and joyful;” “he smiles and laughs a lot.”

In a reflection on the Epiphany published in the St. Theresa & St. Kunegunda bulletin for January 2-3, 2016, Fr. Bala shares, “God revealed himself to the Magi in a very real way and they were never the same. This event that took place some 2000 years ago means one very important thing for us: God is continually revealing Himself to us. The reality of Epiphany gives us the privilege of seeking God, just as the Magi sought (and found!) Him so many years ago. ...we all have a Savior who ...from the beginning of His life chose to reveal Himself to all who choose to seek Him. For us, this means having the courage to seek God in these everyday epiphanies. The reality of the Gospel is that God is constantly revealing Himself to us... We are called to do what the Magi did – to take in our experiences, look up and see how God could be using it to change our hearts. Part of the beauty in the story of the Magi is that they were forever changed because they chose to not only follow the path that had been set out for them, but they were willing to let the presence of God change them. This is something that we can learn from, the promptings we receive from God will always be clearer when brought to God in prayer. Everyday epiphanies are meant to remind us that God is working in a real way not only in our lives, but in our world. And just as the Magi travelled in a pack of three, we will find these everyday epiphanies with the companionship of others. God uses whatever He can to show us His will for our life, and this great feast of the Church is proof that the Christian life is often clearer when walked with other people. Let us take up the challenge as the Magi did – not following a star, but choosing to seek and find God in every part of our lives.”

