



# THE FRONTIER NEWS

August: 2018

Diocese of Peshawar – Church of Pakistan



Flag Raising Ceremony at St. John's Cathedral Church.



### Individual Highlights

- Independence Day 1
- Annual Clergy Retreat 2
- Interfaith Initiatives 2
- Youth Camp, 2018 3
- Diocese for CPEC 3
- HIV/AIDS Campaign 4
- A Unique Witness 4
- Army Chief honour Clergy 5
- A new bean of hope 5

## Diocese Celebrates Independence Day!



Bishop Humphrey Peters with Priest In charge and an Evangelist at Bannu

Church of Pakistan celebrated the Independence Day at Bannu with clergy, congregation of the Church of the Holy Name, Bannu , Pannell Memorial Christian Hospital's Staff and Pannell High School Staff.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters in his sermon mentioned that Christian Community is among the pioneer of Health and Education Sectors and plays a vital role to strengthen Pakistan.

“Christian are Patriotic Pakistanis in the real sense of the word. It’s our duty to be faithful to the State and abide the Law of the Land”. He said

The Christian community celebrated the Independence Day with traditional pomp and show, they sung national songs, offered prayers , exchanged greetings and distributed sweets to mark the occasion.

The Diocese of Peshawar celebrated Pakistan’s Independence Day at all churches and parishes throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan. Special prayer services were held at all the churches, and prayers for the prosperity of Pakistan were offered, including prayer for the new Government of Pakistan.

Flag raising ceremonies were conducted throughout the province in all churches and Diocesan Education and Health Institutions. The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peter, President Bishop,.



Celebrations at Pabbi Parish



Celebrations at All Saints' Church, Peshawar

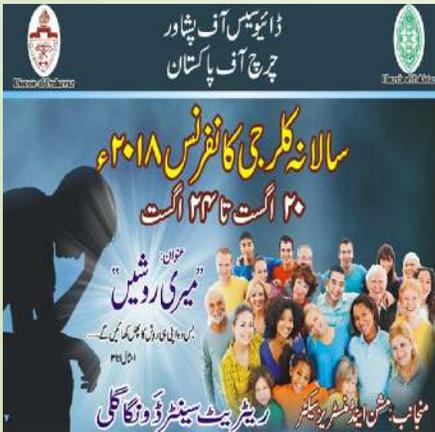


Celebrations at Bannu

## ‘My Approach ’ Annual Clergy Retreat, 2018



The Revd. Ghulam Shad, the Revd. Rafique, and the Revd. Chao



The Diocese of Peshawar’s ‘Annual Clergy Retreat’ was held from August 20-25, 2018 at Diocesan Retreat Centre, Donga Gali. The theme of the Retreat was “ My Approach” Proverb1:31. Around 40 Clergymen from all over the province were among the participants.

The keynote speakers of the Retreat included the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, Moderator/President Bishop, Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, The Rt. Revd. Leo Paul, Bishop of Multan Diocese . The Revd. Joseph John, Priest In charge, St. John’s Cathedral, Peshawar, the Revd. Waseem Ayaz, Priest In charge, The Church of the Holy Name, Bannu.

Every day started with prayer, devotion and Holy Communion Service. The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters during his sessions described the theme and its verse in detail. The participants took keen interest and felt as though their knowledge and skills have been enhanced.

During the retreat the participants were divided into groups, and were given various assignments, including the group discussions.

The Revd. Patrick Naem, Secretary Mission & Ministry Board informed the ‘Frontier News’ Correspondent that all the session touched their heart and it was a wonderful learning experience

The Clergy during Retreat and in their group discussions , meditation re-evaluated themselves, their call and conduct as the servants of God. It all helped them to overcome their weaknesses and they returned with new energy and positive attitudes.



## Youth Interfaith Initiatives



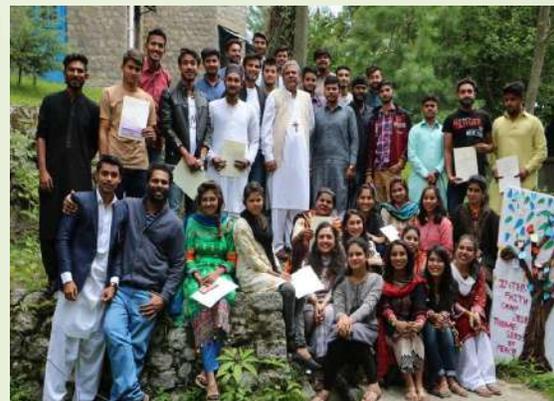
Working together as one team though belonging to different faiths at the interfaith camp

The Interfaith camp was held in August, 2018 at Khaira Gali, organized by Mr. Bukhtbuland H. Peters, Diocesan Events Coordinator, along with the Bishop’s Core Group Members. The theme of the camp was “Seed of Peace

The camp mainly focused on two aspects of the interfaith, i.e; Peace Building and Developing respect and understanding of each other’s faith . The organizers divided the 48 participants into 4 different groups, while maintaining equal representation of various faiths in each group.

The keynote speakers included Mr. Bukhtbuland H. Peters, Mr. Raja Mr. Raman Raj and Mr. Talha, the Youth leaders from Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Muslim community. All the speakers focused on Religious Harmony and emphasized to develop National Identity as Pakistanis.

On the last day of the camp the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, The Moderator/President Bishop, Church of Pakistan graced the camp by his presence and active participation. The honorable bishop in his session further sensitized the participants towards peace and harmony and encouraged them to come forward with new ideas to promote Interfaith Harmony.



## Youth Summer Camp, 2018



A Group Photo of Youth with organizers

The Youth Summer Camp was held from 13-17 August, 2018 at Diocesan Retreat Centre, Donga Gali, organized by the Revd. Alexander Mehboob, Youth Coordinator with the blessings of the Revd. Patrick Naeem, Secretary Mission & Ministry Board.

Around 43 Youth members from 17 Parishes of the Diocese of Peshawar participated in the camp. The theme of the camp was 'Hidden Wisdom'. The keynote speakers were the Revd. Amir Khan, the Revd. Alexander Mehboob, the Revd. Amir William and the Revd. Patrick Naeem.

The speakers shed light on different aspects of the theme, and quoted references from the Holy Bible. During camp, participants were divided into different groups and were assigned various tasks, including the group presentations.

The Revd. Alexander Mehboob informed 'The Frontier News'



## Diocese for CPEC



The Revd. Altaf Gohar, Secretary Development & Relief Sector of the Diocese of Peshawar encouraged young men from Mardan's Christian community to equip themselves with any kind of technical training which could enable them to earn their own living and become productive citizen of Pakistan. He also informed them that China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is offering skills training to the youth in various fields. The Revd. Altaf Gohar also promised the youth that he will pay Rupees 1500/- to the successful candidates of the training course.

After one year of his promise, around 15 young men returned as fully qualified Welders, Auto-mechanics and Electricians, etc, and reminded him of his promise. The Revd. Altaf Gohar congratulated and assured them that he still stands by his words.

Thus, in the month of August, 2018 in a special prayer service held at St. Paul Sarhadi Church, Mardan he distributed Rs.1500/- among the youth as promised. It was a token of love from the Development & Relief Sector, Diocese of Peshawar.

This news spread like a jungle fire and people from all walks of life highly appreciated this good will gesture of the Diocese.

## Killing two birds with one stone



HIV/AIDS Campaign in progress



The Diocese of Peshawar, Church of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Church of Scotland and Government of Pakistan's National AIDS Programme, has launched a two years HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme for the Christian Communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa .

On 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at the occasion of the Independence Day a mass awareness campaign was conducted to educate and inform all the Pakistanis about HIV/AIDS.

At this occasion, volunteers of the Development & Relief Sector disseminated pamphlets regarding HIV/AIDS along with the National Flag to the masses, and this friendship gesture was much appreciated by people from all walks of life. Many believed it was a brilliant idea to merge Awareness Campaign, with the Independence Day Celebrations.



## A Unique Witness



Group photo Diocesan Staff, Govt Officials and Hindu Delegates

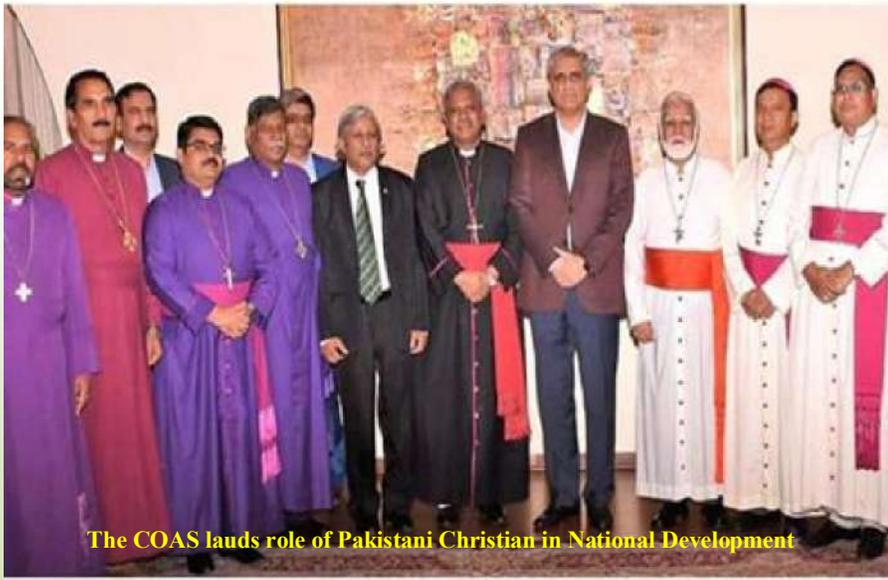
The Diocese of Peshawar is renowned for its philanthropic services and is a champion of Interfaith harmony in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The Diocese is involved in various Interfaith harmony programmes, including dialogue and activity base projects.

In August, 2018 a delegation of Hindu religious leadership approached the Diocese to help them regain and/or acquire their centuries old worship place called 'Mandar' located at the famous Chacha Younis Park which is illegally occupied.

The Revd. Shahzad Murad, Ex-Secretary Mission & Ministry Board discussed this matter with the Minister for Religious Affairs, Prof. Dr. Sarah Safdar, who also happens to be the Diocesan Secretary. She used her official power and moral authority of the Diocese and successfully completed the official paper work, soon the Hindu Community will rejoice to regain their worship place.

The religious leaders of Hindu community expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards the Diocese of Peshawar and said that "*it's a unique witness of one minority religious group helping out the other religious minority*", as only minority can feel and understand pain and sufferings of the under-privileged.

## Army Chief Host Dinner in honour of Clergy



August, 2018: The Chief of the Army Staff,(COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa hosted a dinner in the honour of leading Christian Clergy in Pakistan.

The dinner was attended among others, by His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Coutts and the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan.

The COAS lauded the contributions of Pakistani Christians in national development, including promotion of quality education, health care and philanthropic services, says a press release issued by the Inter-Services/Relations.

He made special mention of the outstanding role played by a number of minority members in the defense of the motherland.

He expressed deep respect for the Christian community and highlighted the need for promoting greater

Interfaith harmony in society in order to march towards Quaid's true vision of the united and progressive Pakistan.

In their notes of gratitude's, Cardinal Joseph Coutts and the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters appreciated the Army Chief gesture as an inspiration for Pakistani minorities to take greater and more active part in nation building and in restoring their faith in a cohesive and tolerant society. They expressed their resolve to take steps for more positive role by the Christian community towards national development.

The Church of Pakistan was represented by Bishop Irfan Jamil, Raiwind Diocese Lahore, Bishop Alvin Samuel, Silakot Diocese, Bishop Leo Paul, Multan Diocese.

## A New Bean of Hope



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan

The Diocese of Peshawar congratulates Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan for his newly formed Government. The Prime Minister Imran Khan was a star cricketer of his times, turned into a philanthropist and later became chairman of his own political party.

After, 22 years of struggle Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been successful to form its own government at the Center, Punjab, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. However, he is the most popular political leader at the time and his promise of eradicating corruption and corrupt leaders from the scene, and justice for all without discrimination and equal rights for the minorities has given new hope for a brighter future for all Pakistanis, including the religious minorities.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters also congratulated all the Chief Ministers, Governors, Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the National and Provincial Assemblies and expressed hope for a new prosperous Pakistan in the days to come.

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