



May 2022

Volume- 02 /2022 | Holy Cross Northeast India|

Provincial Speaks



Dear Confreres,

Peace of the Risen Lord. After the resumption of WAVES, you are now greeted by Volume-02 / 2022 of the Province Newsletter. I wish you all the Joy and Blessings of the Easter Season.

When I observe the waves on the water, they are many, one behind the other, determined to hit the shore. A wave is not alone, though it may appear to be single. I feel similarly when I observe the membership of the Province. We are individuals and single, but we are never alone. Supported by each other in the community, we are committed to making God known, loved, and served. Whenever we receive our Province Newsletter: *WAVES*, let us be reminded of the real waves and their purpose-filled movements.

These days are filled with many transfers, many *taking-over* and *handing-over* ceremonies. Still, some are on the wait to cross the boundary for something new and special. My gratitude, appreciation, and best wishes to each one of you.

We have a new priest in the person of Fr. Sharon CSC. Deacon Stephen is on his way to Priesthood, and a few more are in the making. In the context of having celebrated the Vocation Sunday, I offer my prayers to all the formees and my appreciation to all the formators. I urge you to frequently pray to the Lord of the Harvest for more vocations to Holy Cross in particular and the Church in general.

The Season of Easter is a season of New Life. It's a season to strengthen our faith in the Risen Lord. It's a time to marinate ourselves in the Peace of Risen Christ. Let us then resolve ourselves to express words of gratitude, words of peace, words of justice, and words of appreciation. God bless Holy Cross.

Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC,
Provincial Superior

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers of WAVES,

We are in the Easter season – a season of great joy and peace. The resurrected Jesus' message to his disciples was 'Peace.' Looking at ourselves and around us, we realize that we need the peace of Christ now more than in times past because of the uncertainties and socio-political scenarios.



Reflecting on Easter night, Holy Father, Pope Francis encouraged everyone to see the hopeful light of dawn as experienced by the women of the Gospel who discovered the empty tomb of Jesus. He says, "They show us the first rays of the dawn of God's life rising in the darkness of our world." The Pope recalled how the women who went early in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus were startled to find it empty while meeting two figures in dazzling garments telling them Jesus had risen. Holy Father Further added, "They saw, heard, and proclaimed."

We can see the 'hopeful light of dawn' in our difficult moments if we fix our eyes on Jesus. Jesus is our true peace and light. The intimate personal experience of the Risen Lord can remove every moment of darkness from our lives and make us proclaimers of the Gospel to bring peace wherever we minister.

This issue of WAVES has stories of our ministerial activities from our various centers that have brought light to many people's lives. The life story of our veteran missionary of North East, Fr. Lourthusamy CSC, who died on April 16, 2022, was a towering example of being a proclaimer of good news and bringing the hopeful light of dawn into the lives of many people. People like him stand as role models for each of us in our missionary activities. Let us be proclaimers of the light and bring peace to everyone and every situation.

Happy reading.

George Jacob, CSC
Chief Editor

HOLY CROSS PARISH, UMKIANG

INSTALLATION OF NEW PARISH PRIEST:

Holy Cross Parish, Umkiang is blessed with a new parish priest in the person of Fr. Francis Sebastian CSC. The installation took place during the Eucharistic celebration, held on 3rd April 2022 in the presence of 20 priests, many religious and the faithful of the parish. Parish Council



Secretary, Mr. Lumlang, welcomed everyone who had come to witness the



Installation-Ceremony.
Rev. Fr. Martin {Vicar General:
Jowai Diocese}, was the Main Celebrant of the Mass.

Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC {Provincial Superior: Fathers of Holy Cross} was also present. During the Installation Ceremony, Fr. Francis Sebastian professed the Profession of Faith, and the Tabernacle-Key was handed over to him, as a symbol of taking up the responsibility of the Mission. After a sumptuous meal, a cultural program was organized by the Parishioners, to thank Fr. K.O. Joseph CSC, the outgoing Parish Priest, for his committed service to the mission; and to welcome the new Parish Priest. The Parish Community, presented different cultural programs in honour of both the priests.

- Tharsis Marak CSC



ST. ANDRE PARISH, NYAPIN

INSTALLATION OF NEW PARISH PRIEST:



On 27th March, 2022, St. Andre Parish, Nyapin of Itanagar Diocese, witnessed tri-celebrations: *Installation of a New Parish Priest, Farewell program for the outgoing Parish Priest and Fathers' Day*. The entire tri-event was colourfully organized by the vibrant Parish Community. It was solemnly witnessed by Rev. Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC {Provincial Superior: Fathers of Holy Cross}, Fr. Gabriel Darlong CSC {Parish Priest: Holy Cross Parish - Koloring}, Fr. Thomas Lakra {Parish Priest: Ane Moriam Parish - Sangram}, Fr. Clement Amo CSC, Religious Sisters and other special invitees. Rev. Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC, installed Fr. Stephen Lohrii CSC as the new Parish Priest of St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, Itanagar Diocese, in the context of a solemn colourful Eucharistic celebration.

After the Mass, the entire faith-community of the parish bid farewell to Fr. Francis Sebastian CSC and expressed their sentiments of gratitude for his committed and generous service to the Mission. His tireless service, towards building up of this new Nyapin mission, for the past six and a half years, is note-worthy and praise-worthy. We gratefully acknowledge that Fr. Francis Sebastian has built the

center from the scratch to what it is now: A well-established & self-sufficient one.

The Parishioners happily welcomed the new Parish Priest and wished him well for his pastoral-ministry in Nyapin. The day was made more meaningful with the celebration of **Fathers' Day**. All the family-fathers of the parish were felicitated by the Youth and Women with a cultural program. The well-arranged programme was concluded with a community meal.

- Fr. Lawrence Wanniang CSC

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, CHAILENGTA

INSTALLATION OF NEW PARISH PRIEST:

St. Joseph Parish, Chailengta got a new Parish priest in the person of Fr. Joachim Harry D'Silva CSC. Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC DD {Bishop: Agartala Diocese} installed Fr. Harry as the new Parish Priest, on 3rd April 2022, during a solemn Eucharistic Celebration, held on the occasion. Bp. Lumen, in his homily, well- explained the essence of the celebration: *What it means to be a spiritual leader, shepherding the flock with utmost love and compassion*. The function was well attended and





witnessed by many priests, religious and the faithful of the parish.

The occasion was positively exploited to thank Fr. Thomas Pereira CSC, the out-going Parish Priest, for his committed services to the parish. Credit to him that he was the first Parish Priest; and he has built up the Mission from the scratch. The parishioners fondly and gratefully recalled the faith-journey they had, accompanied by Fr. Thomas Pereira. They profoundly remembered the adventurous activities initiated by Fr. Thomas, both in the school and in the parish. A mini-cultural Program filled with songs and dances, added beauty to the day.

- Friny Peter CSC

FORMEES GATHERING AT MIIT

REGENTS' MEET AT MIIT SHILLONG:

From April 5 to 7, 2022, the Regents gathered at MIIT Shillong for their Annual Meet. They are: Akhsi Kumar Wary, Eldho



Augustine & Tharsish Marak. The purpose of this meeting was to learn the art of integrating our Regency Experience with our Religious Life. This required an in-depth sharing and right-interpretation of what we experienced during our Regency. Fr. Mariaraj CSC {Formation Coordinator of our Province} animated the 3-day session. Apart from him, the other Resource Persons were: Fr. Roy Thalackan CSC & Fr. Theophilus Sohtun CSC.

Focusing on the theme, *Striving towards Personal Integration*, Fr. Theo, in his input session, helped us to be more aware of one-self and to be a balanced human person and good religious. He also made us realize that we give equal importance to the bodily, psychological, social & spiritual dimensions of our human life.

Fr. Roy, in his input sessions, dealt with: *Holy Cross as an international Congregation & Holy Cross Family Ministry*. He also encouraged us to be competent in all spheres of our life as religious; and to be ambitious for the better future of our Congregation.

We, the Regents, express our sincere gratitude to the Provincial Administration for having organized such meeting for us. As a whole, this meeting helped us to draw inspiration from the experiences of each other, in order to become convinced of our vocation to Religious Life in Holy Cross.

- Akhsi Wary CSC.

FORMEES GATHERING AT SACRED HEART STUDY HOUSE

PRE-NOVICES' GATHERING:

With a profound gratitude to God and with a deep sense of joy, I write this report, concerning our two-day session, organized for all the would-be-Novices, and held in preparation for the Novitiate. We were seven in all, namely: Marshal, Davit, John S, Wilbert, Emelius, Sarbin and Wantei. Due to the unexpected demise of Rev. Fr. Loudhuswamy CSC, we had to adjust with some inconveniences in terms of place, dates and duration. We gathered at Sacred Heart study house, Lembucherra in the evening of 18th April 2022, from different mission centers.



However, our formal sessions began only on 19th evening. On the first day Fr. Mariaraj CSC, our Formation Coordinator, kept us busy with his introductory cum instructional talks, as a preparation for the Novitiate life. Fr. Ishwar Happa CSC, Fr. Emmanuel Ralte CSC, Fr. Simon CSC {Provincial Superior} and Fr. Mariaraj CSC were the resource persons, who kept us active through various sessions.

Fr. Emmanuel instructed us on how we should live, behave and balance our life in the Novitiate. Fr. Mariaraj dealt with Religious and Community Life in reference to St. Benedict; he also spoke of the Pre-Requisites for the Novitiate, emerging from Canon Law and Constitutions. Drawing inspiration from the Parable of the Sower {Luke 8:4-15}, Fr. Ishwar accompanied us to understand the Priestly life from different perspectives; and what we should become from the Novitiate formation. Fr. Simon, our Provincial Superior, addressed us with joy and enthusiasm. He encouraged us to work hard in order to go forward and bring glory to God through the Congregation of Holy Cross. We all had a good interaction with our Provincial.

Animated by Fr. Mariaraj, in the last Session, we had a wonderful sharing of our mission experiences. We learnt a lot from each others' sharing. We are grateful to our Provincial Superior and Formation Coordinator for the trouble they took to accompany us, in the preparation for our Novitiate Formation. May God bless our Province. ...

- Sarbin Soren

INVESTITURE CEREMONY



St. Andre School, Bodhjunnagar



Investiture ceremony for the Academic Year 2022-23 took place on 12th April 2022. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary, Holy Cross Educational Foundation {HCEF}, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He, in his speech, stressed on the emphasis given by the HCEF, in all its educational undertakings: *to discover the leadership quality hidden in every child*. He encouraged all the **student-leaders** to lead their respective student-group with commitment, while themselves growing in their leadership qualities. Fr. Sijo Joseph CSC {Principal} and Fr. Iswar Happa CSC were present on the occasion.

- Sijo Joseph, CSC



Notre Dame H.C School Moharpara

Investiture means a formal investing of person with authority and dignity. Investiture ceremony is one of the most important ceremonies of a school. Notre Dame Holy Cross School at Moharpara organized its investiture ceremony on 13th April 2022. It reminds everyone of the trust and confidence, the school reposes on the students. During the program every



student-leader {who had been elected by the students themselves} pledged to dispense their duties to the best of their abilities and abide by the rules and regulations of the school.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest, Fr. George Jacob CSC {Secretary: HCEF}, reminded the students to be passionate about all that they do and relentlessly pursue after excellence. Fr. Arbok CSC {Manager of the school} and Fr. Alfred D'Souza CSC {Principal of the school} witnessed the ceremony, together with school-staff and the students. The program was made colourful with cultural dances performance by the students.

- Alfred D'Souza, CSC



Holy Cross School, Kumarghat

"A leader is the one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way." - John C. Maxwell.



On April 13, 2022 at 09.30 am, we had the Investiture Ceremony for this current Academic Year 2022-23. Inspector Partha Munda O.C. {Police Station: Kumarghat} was the Chief Guest and gave away the badges to the student leaders. Focusing on the message of leadership to the students, he also dealt with drug-abuse and women-empowerment related issues in the society. The Leaders of the classes and committees took oath to assist the teachers, to maintain discipline and to execute their entrusted responsibilities.

- Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC



Good Shepherd School, Jongksha

On an unusually bright day 18th March 2022, at Jongksha an investiture ceremony for the Academic



Session 2022-23 was colourfully organized. Rev. Fr. Theophilus Sohtun CSC, was the Chief Guest. In addition, Fr. Valerian Serrao CSC, Fr. Bobby John CSC, Fr. Michael Vanlalruata CSC {Principal} and Sr. Sabina Uchoi BS {Headmistress} were present in the function. The Chief Guest encouraged the students to be disciplined, by being good and doing well. During the program students who had topped in Classes X & XII were given cash awards, in order to motivate them to excel in their studies and life. This ceremony, being one of the post pandemic gatherings of the students in the school, brought



lots of joy on the faces of the pupils. Good Shepherd Higher Secondary School {Jongksha} is ready to begin the new Academic Year with a renewed hope. When it comes to the question of learning and imparting knowledge to the students, no stone will be unturned; because we educate the hearts and minds of the students.

- **Michael Vanlalruata, CSC**



Holy Cross School, Panisagar



Leadership is the challenge to be something more than average. The elected SPL, ASPL and all the leaders of the school took the oath of promise in the presence of the SDPO Shri. Souvik Dey. In his message he inspired the students to be a leader in every situation and not just in the class rooms. After the ceremony he also addressed the students of Classes IX and X on drug abuse and sexual misbehaviour.

- **Kanikkai Jeyaraj, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR:

There is a famous saying: *A leader is the one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.* It is also said that *Leadership is an action and not a position.* The word leadership has verities of meanings. In simple words, leadership is the ability

to positively influence people and systems to have a meaningful impact and achieve result.



Having focused this in mind, Holy Cross School, Agartala, organized a two day *Leadership Seminar* for its student-leaders from 22-23, April 2022. The short inaugural session saw the presence of Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC {Provincial Superior} and Fr.



George Jacob CSC {Secretary: HCEF}, encouraging the students to be leaders who inspire others. Fr.

Jilson Tom CSC {Principal of the school} animated the two-day Session with the help of Sr. Sunita BS {Headmistress} and teacher-animators. The



session included, talks, fun-filled activities, practical-segments, etc. "I have learned so much about various aspects of leadership in such a short time and it was really fun-filled learning" said one of the students who participated in the program. Every one learned so much about leadership and pledged to put it into practice.

- **Liza Saha, SPL**



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

SEND-OFF PROGRAM FOR CLASS X:

Class-X students of 2021-22 batch was given send off on 23rd April 2022. The program began with a



prayer service, followed by variety entertainment programs. Headmistress Sr. Bernadette D'Costa welcomed the gathering and spoke about the importance of the day. Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC {Manager of the school}, Fr. Lourdu CSC {Principal} and Sir. Tapan {PRO} gave their valuable messages to the outgoing students. The outgoing students thanked the teaching-staff who assisted them in their life journey.

- A student of Holy Cross School, Kumarghat.

WORKSHOP ON PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS:

A one day workshop on PEACE BUILDING for animators of Peace Club and CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS for students was organized at JUST, Agartala on 23rd April 2022. Two animators



and twelve students participated from our school. During these workshop themes like COMMUNITY BUILDING, COUNSELING AND DRUGS ABUSE was discussed. Everyone found it very useful and enlightening.

- Fr. Sahaya Lourdu Raj CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

APRIL 01: FAREWELL:

The school community bid farewell to Frs. Davis and Samy as they had been assigned new responsibilities



in different places. We place on record their hard work and service rendered for the development of the school and the locality.

APRIL 22: PEACE CLUB SEMINAR:



All times, peace is the need of the hour. JUST Agartala organised a seminar for all peace club members and seven of our students



along with their animator participated in the seminar held at Agartala.

APRIL 25: INAUGURATION OF KINDERGARDEN:



"The capacity to learn is gift; the ability to learn is a skill and the willingness to learn is a choice" says Brain Herbert. So 91 kindergarten kids of our school made a choice to begin their school life began their formal learning on this day in the presence of their parents and guardians. A formal inauguration and blessing ceremony took place amidst the colours and cries of tiny tots.

- **Kanikkai Jeyaraj, CSC**

ST. MARY'S PARISH - TUIKARMAW

LENTEN RETREAT:



The month of March was a very special time for the faithful of St. Mary's Parish, Tuikarmaw, who had gathered together to have a unique God-Experience

through a three day Lenten-Retreat. Each day of the retreat focused on a particular theme that helped boost their inner spiritual energy to live a committed Christian life. Bro. Vicky led the

community to prayer through his spirit-filled preaching. This was the perfect preparation for the Easter which was centered on the theme: *Repentance and Renewal*. Bp. Lumen celebrated the Holy Eucharist on the second day of the retreat, encouraging and inspiring the faithful in their effort to make the season of Lent, meaningful. The three day retreat was well-attended by the entire parish community.

- **Sojan Augustine CSC**

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, CHAILENGTA

BLESSING OF VILLAGE CHAPEL:

A new village chapel was inaugurated and blessed



on April 02, 2022 at Tuichando, under St. Joseph Parish, Chailengta. The chapel was blessed by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC {Bishop: Diocese of Agartala}. The unveiling of the inauguration stone was done by Sr. Natalina SRA. Bishop in his homily acknowledged the tremendous efforts put in by Fr. Thomas Pereira in building this place of worship and expressed his sincere appreciation to Sr. Nandita SRA for the help and contribution towards building the new Church.

- **Friny Peter, CSC**



ST. JOHN'S PARISH KHAWZAWL

PARISH YOUTH CONFERENCE:

Parish Youth Conference of St. John's Parish Khawzawl was held on 22nd to 24th April 2022 at Kawlbem village, one of the furthest villages of the parish. The theme of the conference was **"Inpumpekna" which means to consecrate oneself for God.** Cate. Joseph Lalnunzira, Cate. David Lalchhuanawma, Dr. Albert Lalhminghlua, and Cate. Mark Muankima were the resource persons who spoke on the theme of the conference and helped the youth to come closer to God. Quiz and short homily competitions were held for the participants. Daily Eucharists offered by Fr. Amal Valiyaparambil MCBS and Fr. Manu Jacob MCBS from Ngopa, and praise and worship animated by Fr. Teibor Marwein, CSC helped the youth to pray better during the days of the conference. The conference helped the youth of the parish to have a God experience. The next conference will be held at Vanchengpui branch.

- Christopher Lalrinpuia

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE



Our Formation House at Sumer had a number of special programs during the last couple of weeks. On 19th March 2022, the community went to Sohra

{Chirapunjee} for an Annual Picnic. It was a wonderful experience, exploring the caves and the woods.

On 22nd March 2022, we bid farewell to Fr. Stephen Lohrii CSC {Asst. Director & Dean of Study}. The community wished him all the very best as he is assigned with a new responsibility as Parish Priest of St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, Itanagar Diocese.

On 1st April 2022, our candidates made a pilgrimage to Orlo Hondo at Franciscan Brothers place. The day began with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Aneesh CSC, and later in the day all participated in the Way of the Cross, conducted in the campus there.

On the same day Fr. Jowelson Khongthani CSC reached the Formation House, and joined the Formators' Team. He was warmly welcomed by the candidates to the Formation House. In addition, Fr. Mariaraj csc {Formation Coordinator} was also present in the House. At present we have 21 candidates completing their first year of formation.

- Jomy Mathew CSC

TRAINING FOR SHGs of KOLORIANG AT ASHA

Association for Social Human Advancement {ASHA} aims at women empowerment and rights-based activities by catering to the marginalized and the needy in the far flung villages of Arunachal Pradesh. In the past one decade, ASHA has formed different Self Help Groups by focusing on Self- Sustainability, Self-Reliance, Gender-Equality and Gender-Justice. In addition, ASHA enhances and conducts several training Programs for SHG women to participate in



political activities, and to provide leadership at various levels.



Taking into consideration the requests received, ASHA provided need-based trainings for 15 SHG animators and members from Koloriang {Arunachal Pradesh} in collaboration with JUST Agartala, SHG Federation, Belbari, ICAR, Lembucherra and Agricultural College of Tripura. Resource persons from these organizations through their professional and scientific approach trained them, dealing with areas such as: Gender-equality, Gender-justice for SHG women, rights-based leadership, Mushroom cultivation, livestock management, horticulture, honey bee keeping & Vermin compose.



This exposure visit of SHG women of Koloriang was an eye opener for each of them. In fact, most of them are coming out of their home town for the first time. Hence it has been an enriching experience which they would actualize it; and I am sure that they would impart their knowledge with other SHG members at Koloraing in Kurung Kumey District of Arunachal Pradesh.

ASHA honestly acknowledges the immense contribution of Mr. Kundalai Francis, the president and founder of IVDP, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, who has been an inspiration for SHGs at Koloraing. ASHA will always remain grateful to him, for his constant support and generous contribution.

- Pappy Valan CSC

MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF BARUNGA MISSION



With the recent agreement signed between the Diocese of Aizawl {Barak Valley Region} and the Fathers of Holy Cross {Province of Northeast India}, a Holy Cross personnel has been assigned to help the diocese in starting a new seminary-formation program at Tikar Barunga for Barak Valley Deanery. Barunga is situated at the foothills of Jaintia and North Cachar Hills. The weather is fairly cooler as compared to Silchar, the second biggest commercial hub of Assam.

A saying goes: *Seeing is believing*. Those of our confreres, who had visited me at Barunga, went back home casting their last envious look!! There is a sprawling *arroconut* {kuva / kuwai} plantation and two large "lake-like" ponds teeming with plenty of fish. What more!



Barunga Parish has a co-ed High School with 800 enrolments. Boys' Hostel is attached to the school like any of our conventional mission centre. Religious Sisters of SABS look after the girls' hostel, while they also teach in the school. Pastoral care is a concern as there are 38 villages with a catholic population of about 2,000 to attend to with one elderly priest holding multiple major responsibilities. Khasi and Bangla are the languages used for communication at all levels.

We have not moved to the new seminary campus. There is a lot more to do, such as internal wirings, paintings, room furnishing, drinking water, etc. If all goes well, we hope to move to the new campus by the end of 2022.

- Clement Amo CSC

HOLY CROSS NE IS BLESSED WITH ANOTHER PRIEST



Deacon Sharon Piuse CSC was Ordained a priest on Thursday 5th May 2022 at St. Augustine, Church Pulikurumba, Kerala by His Excellency, Mar Joseph Pamplany, Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Tellichery. It was a moment of great joy for the

family of deacon Sharon and for the Congregation of Holy Cross, Province of Northeast India. About 18 Holy Cross priests attended the Ordination Ceremony along with number of other Priests, Religious and Faithful. In his homily, the archbishop exhorted the newly ordained priest to be compassionate while being firmly rooted in the Lord. A felicitation programme was organised soon after the Ordination and the First Mass to congratulate the newly ordained priest.

Sharon joined the Holy Cross formation programme at Sumer in 2011, followed by mission experiences at Good Shepherd Parish, Kathalcherra {Tripura}, and Holy Cross Parish, Koloriang {Arunachal Pradesh}. Then he went on to do his Philosophical studies at Christ King College, Shillong. He entered the Novitiate in 2017 and made his First Profession on 28th May 2018. From 2018 to 2021 he was at Holy Cross Seminary Pune doing his Theology at JDV. He made his Perpetual Profession on 16th October 2021 and was ordained as a deacon on the next day by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC {Bishop: Diocese of Agartala}.

Sharon spoke to the WAVES about his family, childhood and call to Religious Life in Holy Cross.

Waves: Would you mind sharing about your family, childhood-experience, spiritual upbringing, etc?

Sharon CSC: I belong to St. Augustine Church, Pulikurumba, Archdiocese of Tellichery, Kerala. I have one brother and one sister. My parents brought us up in Catholic spirituality. My family is very pious and spiritual, where prayer takes precedence over everything else.

Daily family prayer was compulsory and there was no exemption from it. Attending mass on Sundays was mandatory. My siblings and I were faithful to it. Regular Sunday catechism classes moulded my spiritual life.



Waves: What drew you to becoming a religious in Holy Cross?



Sharon, CSC: I came to know about Holy Cross through my cousin, Fr. Thomas John, CSC, who is a Holy Cross priest. Through his instrumentality, I joined the Congregation. During the years of formation, I was attracted to follow the charism and spirituality of Fr. Basil Moreau and prepared myself, mentally,

emotionally, spiritually, and physically to be a missionary priest in Holy cross. My stay in the formation houses and parishes in the North East as part of my formative years brought me closer to the life and ministry of Holy Cross Priests. I was also attracted to the spirituality of St. Brother Andre Bessette, CSC. I am certain that it is the Lord who drew me closer to Holy Cross and it's mission.

Waves: What drew you to the missions in the Northeast India?

Sharon, CSC: The experiences of visiting Holy Cross missions in different parts of North East, gave me an insight into the life and ministry in the missions. It was challenging but fulfilling and rewarding. Being part of it helped me to reflect on my own life and my call to be a missionary in North East. It also helped me to recognize what God wants me to be and through the Congregation of Holy Cross. So, I could say with confidence that it is not I who chose but God chose me {Jn. 15:16} to be a Holy Cross Missionary.

- *Jilsom Tom CSC*

OBITUARY



Fr. Lourthuswamy, CSC
(1954 – 2022)

A Joyful Holy Cross Missionary

Rev. Fr. Lourdhusamy, CSC, was born in Rangoon, Burma, to Lt. Yagammal and Lt. Savarimuthu on April 26, 1954, as the second of seven children. Josephine Mary is his elder sister. His younger sisters are Viyagula Mary, Victoria Mary and Packya Mary. Mr. Kulandai Sesu and Mr. Amalraj are his younger brothers.

His journey in Holy Cross began with Lt. Fr. Philip Payant CSC. He brought him to Holy Cross Seminary at Trichy, Tamil Nadu, where he completed his PUC and moved to Bangalore to continue his Bachelor's Degree in History. After a successful year of Novitiate, Fr. Lourthu made his First Profession in the Congregation of Holy Cross on May 30, 1977, at Yercaud in Tamil Nadu. He then went to Pune for his Philosophy and Theology degrees and made his Final commitment to the family of Holy Cross on July 29, 1983, in Holy Cross Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra. Subsequently, he was Ordained a



Priest at Somarasampetai, Trichy, Tamil Nadu on May 5, 1984.


His missionary journey in Holy Cross began with his first appointment as an associate pastor at Kathalcherra in October 1984. In September 1988, he was installed as the parish priest of the same parish and remained there until October 1991. In November 1991, he was elected as the Assistant Provincial and shouldered the leadership of North East India's missions. After his term as Assistant Provincial in 1994, he went to the US for his updates. In June 1996, he returned to the North East to shoulder the responsibility as the parish priest of Depacherra, where he served seven long years. During this long tenure, he faced many challenges at the Depacherra mission, like theft and other political unrest including an attempt to ambush the vehicle in which he and other co-missionary team members were travelling. Fr. Lourthu cherished this beautiful mission at Depacherra with great care.

After serving as the principal of Holy Cross School, Panisagar, he was appointed as the parish priest of Kumarghat in April 2004 where he served the next three years. In July 2007 he was back to Kathalcherra as parish priest till he retired due to ill health in 2012. From then on, he was a resident priest at Andre Home, Agartala, till the good Lord called him to his eternal reward on April 16, 2022. Incidentally this was ten days before his 68th birthday.

Fr. Lourthu was a great missionary, and he opted to work in the missions of North East India all along his life. He was a very affectionate and passionate pastor. He was an ardent, faithful religious of Holy Cross. He possessed a generous heart, especially for the children. He was a cheerful person with a positive attitude and an inspiration to many of Holy Cross religious. His passing to eternal bliss saddens us. But we celebrate his life here on earth, especially his missionary zeal and love for the people he

served. We will miss his physical presence but console ourselves with the thought that the Congregation of Holy Cross, Province of North East India, and the people of Tripura will now have a heavenly intercessor in the person of Fr. Lourthusamy, CSC. May his soul rejoice in the *Life-in-Fullness*.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"
(John 11:25)



In Loving Memory of
Rev. Fr. Lourthusamy CSC
(1954-2022)

Joyful Holy Cross Missionary of Tripura



Born	: 26.04.1954
First Profession	: 30.05.1977
Final Profession	: 29.07.1983
Ordination	: 05.05.1984
Died	: 16.04.2022

Holy Cross Provincial House, Agartala

Grateful to God for his priestly ministry

- Asst. Parish Priest, Kathalcherra : 1984-1988
- Parish Priest, Kathalcherra : 1988-1991
- Asst. Provincial, Agartala : 1991-1994
- Studies, USA : 1994-1996
- Parish Priest, Depacherra : 1996-2003
- Principal, Panisagar : 2003-2004
- Parish Priest, Kumarghat : 2004-2007
- Parish Priest, Kathalcherra : 2007-2012
- Resident Priest, Agartala : 2012 - 2022

You will be remembered forever in our hearts

Congregation of Holy Cross
Province of Northeast India

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