



Waves

November 2022

Volume- 05 /2022 | Holy Cross Northeast India|

Provincial Speaks



Beloved Confreres,

Our Province News Letter, WAVES November Issue, is in your mailbox. Thanks for oiling the waves to ensure it's smooth movement. Your contribution in the form of news items is gratefully acknowledged. On the 1st of November, we reverentially honoured those in heaven. On the 2nd of November, we gratefully remembered those in Purgatory. We, the living, must follow their example by committing

ourselves to our Christian call. Let us draw inspiration from these two Holy days to live a Life of holiness and goodness.

Holy Cross School in Agartala celebrated its golden moments. I gratefully remember the pioneers of Holy Cross who planted and nurtured the seed of education at Holy Cross School, Agartala. Now, it stands firm, tall, and committed, bearing fruits in thousands. Many of our Confreres from the Province of South India and the Vicariate of Tamilnadu have a significant share in the glorious golden existence of the school. Some are with us, and others have gone to their heavenly abode. May God reward them for their goodness. We also had the Ruby jubilee of Holy Cross School, Tuikarmaw. This is another example of our commitment to providing quality education.

The Asian Educators Conference has just come to an end. Holy Cross Confreres, involved in the Educational Ministry of the Congregation in India and Bangladesh, gathered in Agartala at Holy Cross Provincial Housel for a three-day meeting from the 7th of November 2022. Drawing inspiration from the Vision of our founder Blessed Basil Moreau, let us continue to educate the hearts and minds of the students in the years to come. I hope all of us remain faithful to our vocation of being Educators in the Faith.

Have a pleasant reading of our Province newsletter WAVES November 2022.

**Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC,
Provincial Superior**

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers of WAVES,



Greetings from the editorial team of WAVES.

We are with another issue of WAVES. Thank you for your support and encouraging words over past issues.

We are about to enter the season of advent. As we approach Christmas, nativity scenes and cribs slowly enter our homes and communities. We look at the empty manger till Christmas night. It's not a unique or luxurious place, yet we patiently wait for the great event to happen. We wait patiently with hope for the new beginning knowing fully how the story is going to end. Our faith makes us realize that the birth of Christ must lead to the Cross. The Cross

transforms our world into a new life through the Kingdom of God: "already, but not yet" built in our lifetime. The building of the Kingdom calls us to continue the waiting, the work, and the struggle. The empty manger allows us to realize the fullness of new life in the Easter miracle!

As we meditate on the birth of Jesus, let's remember that God entered our world in an otherwise forgettable setting through his life. A king, born in a stable surrounded by livestock, changed our world and how we see our place in it. May we always remember what it means to empty ourselves into the lives of one another and to realize that the Christmas miracle continues to reveal itself in every moment of every day.

The stories found in this newsletter's pages are a testimony to the daily Christmas miracles happening in various mission centres. It sheds light on how people experience hope in the daily lives of their anxieties and struggles.

Wishing you all a grace-filled Advent and Christmas season.



George Jacob, CSC
Chief Editor

ASSUMPTION PARISH, BURUNGA

Debris of Flash Flood:

Come September! What a sigh of relief! After having had to wade our way through the debris of two consecutive flash floods during the last three months, our life is slowly limping back to normal.

Nestled on top of a beautiful hill, the sleeping giant Assumption Parish, Burunga, has woken up from its deep slumber. I compared it to "The Rip Van Winkle" adventure, a German folk tale by Washington Irving (1819-1820), who fell asleep due to a drink of liquor offered by a group of dwarfs. When he awakens 20 years later, he is an old man. When he returns to town, everything has changed.

The month of August – September saw the resurgence of Parish activities.

The Feast of the parish was held on the 20th of August. The



highlight of the Feast was the Marian procession. Three weeks later, on the 25th of September, the parish organised the first Holy Communion and Confirmation. Bishop Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, Bishop of Aizawl, was present for these two significant events.



On the 30th of September, St. John Mary Vianney School, Burunga, took part in the memorable NESNIM 2022 event at Agartala. We thank Frs. George Jacob, CSC, Alfred D' Souza, CSC, and their team for inviting our school to have this memorable experience.

St. Paul's Apostolic School (Seminary) building is nearing completion. The transformer is yet to be installed. The furnishing of the house is on the card. Presently four seminarians are pursuing an orientation program.



On the 22nd of October, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, our provincial, made his canonical visit to Burunga. Thanks to Fr. Simon for infusing us a renewed enthusiasm and connecting us with the rest of CSC's life and mission. He also spent valuable time interacting with and motivating the Diocesan seminarians of Barak valley.

 **Clement Amo, CSC**

HOLY CROSS MISSION, KOLORIANG



Teacher's Day Celebration

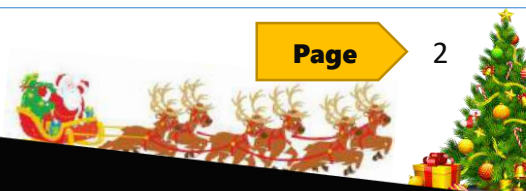


Holy Cross School, Koloriang, celebrated the birthday of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on the 05th of September as teachers' day. Before the actual day of the celebration, students were told to prepare greeting cards and gifts for their teachers, which were given to each one on the day as a surprise. On this particular day, the students honoured their teachers for their contributions to their lives. The program commenced with a short prayer led by Fr. Stephen CSC, which was followed by the welcoming of our teachers to the stage. Our talented students entertained the teachers and the audience with dances and songs throughout the program. Fr. Stephen CSC, in his address, gratefully acknowledged and appreciated the hard work of our teachers and urged them to keep the same spirit to cherish their lives as teachers and motivate the students to learn more for their future endeavours.



Celebration of the Congregational Feast

Our Congregational Feast, along with the congregational Feast of the Sisters of the Mercy of Holy Cross, was held both in the school and parish.





A cultural program was organised in the school on the 14th of September. Members of the School Management Committee (SMC) were invited to the program, which was anchored by Miss. Pristila. The program commenced with a short prayer led by Fr. Gabriel Darlong, CSC, followed by welcoming the gathering by Fr. Stephen, CSC. The excellent performance of our little kids on the stage mesmerised the audience. The entire program was applauded by everyone present and will always remain a beautiful memory in the hearts of one and all present.

The feast day celebration in the parish was also well-organised. A cricket tournament was organised during our Feast in the morning hours. In the evening, a solemn Mass was presided over by Fr. Gabriel Darlong CSC, the Parish Priest, which was concelebrated by our confreres from Nyapin Parish. It was followed by a short cultural program and a fellowship meal. A good number of our parishioners joined us in this celebration.

Annual healing retreat was conducted from the 20th to the 23rd of October in the Parish Church. It was animated by Fr. Francis Belo, MSFS, and Team from Holy Redeemer Retreat Centre, Kayeng, Siang District. About 600 faithful from eight villages participated in the retreat. During the retreat, many shared their testimonies.

Visit of MC Sisters



On the 13th of September, four MC Sisters from the Guwahati region came to our parish for a month to help the parish in different works of evangelisation. They visited all the families of our parish and interacted with them.

Cleanliness Drive for Swachh Bharat

'Cleanliness Drive' was conducted in our school on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the 01st of October. The students of classes 3 to 5 actively participated in the program. The primary purpose of this program was to create awareness among the students regarding cleanliness and its benefits. We thanked the parents, guardians, teaching staff, and all the students for their collaboration and support in making this day successful.

The month of the Rosary

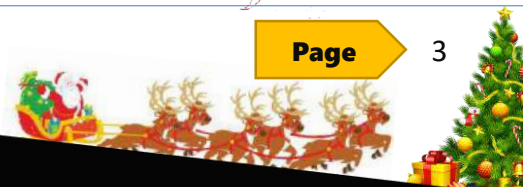


The month of the Holy Rosary began on the 01st of October by praying the Rosary at the grotto of our parish. The life of Mother Mary was shared with faithful believers.

Annual Healing Retreat



Gabriel Darlong, CSC & Stephen Malneu, CSC





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MOHARPARA



Bishop's Pastoral Visit

Immaculate Conception Parish Moharpara witnessed God's blessing through the pastoral visit of our beloved Shepherd, Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD Bishop of Agartala, to St. Jude's Church Dhanlekha on the 18th of September. The faithful welcomed our beloved Shepherd with joy and enthusiasm in their beautiful traditional attire. Bishop celebrated the Holy Eucharist, where eighty people received the Sacrament of Confirmation and



twenty-five children received the First Holy Communion. Bishop explained the importance of the sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist during his homily. He also exhorted the faithful to keep the faith by attending church regularly.

Soon after the Holy Eucharist, a short felicitation program was kept in honour of the bishop and other dignitaries. The event ended with an agape meal being shared by all the faithful.

Marriage Preparation Course

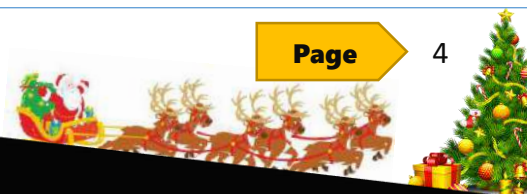
A three-day marriage preparation course was conducted for couples from the 22nd to the 24th of September. The course was led by Fr. Amalraj, Secretary of Diocesan Family Commission, Dr. Ashok Debbarma MBBS, Fr. Hormis John CSC, and catechist Thomas Hrangkhawl. The couples were encouraged to be fully in communion with the church through the sacrament of Marriage. Activities during these days included sharing the Word of God,



communicating about their family problems, input sessions, question hour, and evaluation. The participants were made to understand Marriage as a Sacrament, Christian family, natural family planning, marital commitment, and respect for women during their period and pregnancy.

Maria Sangha Seminar

The women of Moharpara Parish came together for a one-day seminar in St. Joseph's Church Twithampui on the 25th of September. The workshop's focus was to encourage women leaders to come forward and take the initiative to build





prayerful families and bring unity to the family and the church.

The program was organised to strengthen the families and to help families to be prayerful. The input sessions focused on the role of Mother Mary in the wedding at Cana, the role of Mary Magdalene in proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus, and the role of women in the family and in the church.

At the end of the session, the new office bearers for Maria Sangha were elected, and a blessing was implored upon the new team who will lead the group for the upcoming three years.

Thanks to the resource persons Sr. Valsina SSpS, Sr. Sushilla Xess SSpS, Mrs Gita Debbarma, and Uttam Jamatia for their interactive and lively input sessions.

Annual Youth Retreat

The Moharpara Parish Youth Movement gathered



for three days for the annual youth retreat from the 14th to the 16th of October at the Parish Center. The programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp. The resource person for the event was Fr. Amalraj, Secretary for the family and Bible commission. Activities such as praise and worship, action songs, adoration, sharing, and sessions helped the participants to spend the days meaningfully.

The youth were allowed to experience God's forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation.

The three-day event concluded with the Holy Eucharist, and all shared a meal. A short evaluation was held, and many young people expressed their joy and happiness, especially about the sessions and the lessons they learned for life.

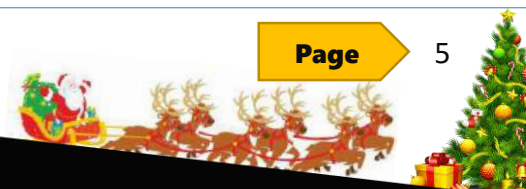
Bible Camp for Children

The parish witnessed the joy of children who attended the Bible Camp for two days from the 22nd



to the 23rd of October. The event commenced with the enthronement of the Bible by the children in their traditional attire. Praise and worship were conducted to make the children experience the presence of God. The resource person Fr. Abraham C. CSC, Parish Priest of Good Shepherd Parish, Kathalcherra, facilitated the event with different activities such as talks, video presentations and storytelling. The event concluded with the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration and the common meal shared by the participants.

Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC





HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR



Silver Jubilee Celebration of Sister's Arrival

Sisters of Charity, popularly known as Capitanio Sisters, arrived at Panisagar in 1997 to collaborate with the Holy Cross Fathers in the ministry of Education. This year marks the silver jubilee of their arrival. In gratitude to God for the pioneering works of the sisters' community, a mega celebration of thanksgiving was held in our school. Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, presided over the thanksgiving Eucharist and our Provincial Fr. Simon Fernandis expressed gratitude and presented gifts to the sisters. Many religious communities were present for the program, along with the representatives of our neighbouring villages.

Teachers' Day Celebration

Teachers' Day is celebrated all over India as an occasion to appreciate and acknowledge our teachers' efforts and hard work in making our



children responsible individuals. Celebrating teachers' day in the school is one of the best memories for each of us. Our students prepared

and presented a beautiful program expressing appreciation and gratitude. At the end of the program, all the teachers were given a gift and had a common fellowship meal together.

Parent-Teacher Meet

Coming together enriches the experiences of each other. So on the 10th of September, a Parent-



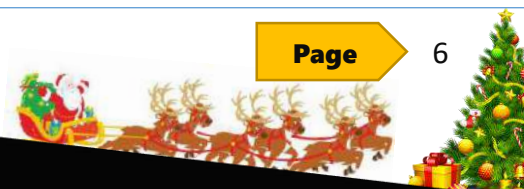
Teacher meet was organised in the school. It was the first attempt to bring together the parents of each student and the subject teachers of their children. There was an overwhelming response from the parents, and they were all much appreciative of this effort.

Holy Cross Feast

The school celebrated the patronal Feast of Holy Cross Fathers, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, on



the 14th of September. The staff and students prepared and presented a cultural program depicting the congregation's motto – 'Cross, Our only Hope'. On the same day, the school's principal





was also honoured with flowers and gifts as he was to celebrate his birthday on the 17th of September.

Mizo Idol, Felicitation

Talented people express their uniqueness in various ways. Mr. David Lal Chawisanga Darlong, an



alumnus of our school, participated in Mizo Idol - 2022 and stood among the top three. The family of Holy Cross is proud of his achievement, and as he visited our school on the 26th of September, the staff and students felicitated him with flowers and songs.

In-Service Training Programme for Teachers



A two-day training program was organised for the school's teaching faculty to energise them for the second part of the academic year. On the 13th of October, the principal addressed the teachers and inspired them with the Ten Commandments for an effective teacher, and on the 14th of October, all the teachers went to Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, for an integration program. Fr. Lourthu, the principal of the school, animated the session for the teachers at both schools on some practical usage of computers while preparing and presenting question papers.

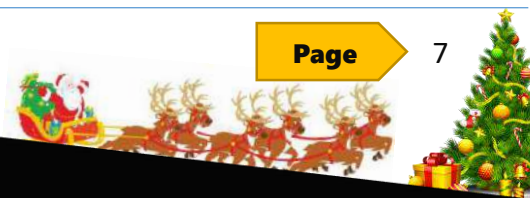
Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT



Teachers' Day Programme

The teachers' Day celebration was held in our school on the 03rd of September for the pre-primary section and for the students of classes 1 and 2. The students' performance made their teachers happy on teacher's day. On the 05th of September, the students from classes 3 to 10 celebrated Teachers' Day. We had the teacher's day celebration in two consecutive intervals. The first was held for the students of classes 3 to 6 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The celebration began with a hymn invoking God's presence and the lighting of the lamp as a symbol of guiding students from darkness to light. Sr. Bastian D'silva graced the occasion as chief guest and inspired the students and teachers with her speech. Fr. Lancy D'Souza, the Manager of our school, was the chief guest for the programme by the students from classes 7 to 10. He enhanced the day's celebration with his presence and delivered a powerful and valuable speech to the children and teachers. The students presented various events





like skits, dances, songs, etc., expressing gratitude to their teachers for being their future builders.



Sr. Lahunsuklang Marwein

Holy Cross Feast Day Celebration

“Ave Crux, Spes Unica” – “Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope” is the motto of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is celebrated on the 15th of September, the most important feast day for the Congregation of Holy Cross Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters worldwide.



Blessed Basil Moreau placed the entire Holy Cross family under "Our Lady of Sorrows" patronage. It was our privilege to celebrate Holy Cross Feast on the 14th of September 2022 in our school. Students and teachers gathered in front of the school to join the celebration. The program began with the lighting of the lamp by Fr. Abraham CSC, the Parish Priest of Kathalcherra, who was the day's chief guest. To commemorate the special occasion, Fr. Abraham unveiled the portrait of Blessed Basil Anthony Mary Moreau and the image of Jesus Christ. We also had a beautiful festal song to wish our fathers by students of V and VI. Fr. Abraham gave a short message about the Congregation of Holy Cross and its missions in South and Northeast India, especially in the field of Education. A short session was organised for the students in which the vision, mission and educational philosophy of Holy Cross were shared with them, followed by a quiz competition in which classes IV to VII students participated. It was conducted by Sir Apu Kumar

Roy and his team based on the session's input. Sweets and snacks were distributed to the students and staff; thus, we had a meaningful Feast Day Celebration of Holy Cross at the school level.

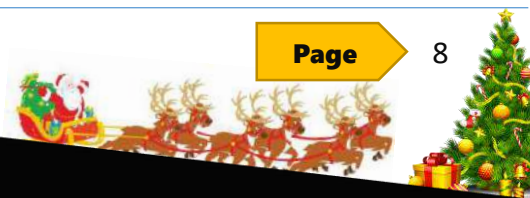


Ms. Sukjai Khriam

Teachers' Training Session

A one-day teachers' session on 'how to set the question paper using MS word and present photos for the reporting' was organised on the 14th of October at Holy Cross School Kumarghat. Fr. Lourdu, CSC, the Principal of Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, animated the session. Along with the teachers of Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, Fr. Kannikai Jeyaraj, CSC, the Principal of Holy Cross School Panisagar, and his team of teachers also made their presence to attend the session.

The session began with Fr. Lourdu welcoming the teachers and reminding them of the importance of their profession with the help of an inspiring video. He appreciated the efforts of teachers in integrating technology into their teaching practices as demanded by the pandemic crisis. Therefore, teachers must be well-versed in how they perform





every new method that's being implemented in the teaching field.

Beginning with typing question papers in the proper layout using MS Word, Fr. Lourdu showed the teachers the crucial components of MS Word that should be used to make the question papers' design and layout more efficient and more accessible. As images are an essential component of every document, he also showed the teachers how to insert pictures in the document file. He also taught the teachers different styles of clicking photographs focusing on the importance of the image that would convey the message for presenting a report. Following the above, all the participants of the session practised typing questions and reports and clicking and inserting images in the document files at the Computer Lab under the supervision of the Lab Assistant. The session was intended to train the teachers in preparing reports and setting question papers in a presentable and proper style using MS Word. It was an efficient session and is believed to be very helpful for the teachers to be more profound and excel in their profession further ahead.

NYAPIN MISSION, ARUNACHAL PRADESH



Inter-Parish Youth Gathering 2022

The Holy Cross Arunachal region conducted the Inter-Parish youth gathering from the 2nd to 4th of September at St. Andre Parish Nyapin, Arunachal Pradesh. The gathering was between the youth of St. Andre Parish Nyapin and Holy Cross Parish Koloring. There were around 60 youths who

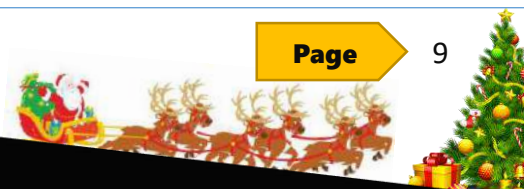
participated in the three days programmes. Many events and programmes were organised during the three days of the get-together. Fr. Gabriel Darlong, CSC, Parish Priest



of Holy Cross Parish Koloring, led the participants in their reflection on topics such as *Sacraments and Church teaching, the importance of the youth in the church and society, and knowing about the Bible. Cultural and sports competitions organised during the meet increased the participation of the youth.* It was indeed a memorable day for the youth to come together and share their life as a youth. The gathering was concluded with the Eucharistic Celebration along with the parishioners of St. Andre Parish and a meal together.

Sports Week

The Annual Sports Week of St. Jude's School Nyapin commenced on the 03rd of October and ended on the 07th of October 2022. The main motive of the sports week was to bring out the innate talents of every child. This platform initiates and provides opportunities for children to develop individual characteristics, abilities, and self-confidence, along with training in promoting discipline and leadership qualities. The children enjoyed themselves and





were excited to be part of various events. On the



concluding day, Shri. Otem Jamoh, the ADC of Nyapin, was the Chief Guest. He expressed his happiness in being part of our sports week. It was indeed his first visit to our school. In his speech, he complimented the Catholic Institutions for their contribution to the lives of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. He also appreciated our school's efforts in providing quality education to the children and promised to support the school.

Fancy Dress

St. Jude's School Nyapin conducted a fancy dress competition on the 14th of October. It was based on



the Bible Characters from *Old Testament and New Testaments*. One could see a lot of joy and fun on their faces as they dressed up as different characters from the Bible. At the same time, children got a lot of information and teaching as they imitated and acted on the various characters.



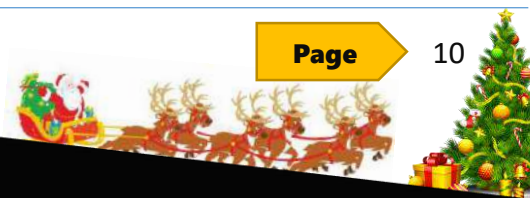
Lawrence Wanniang, CSC

SKILL-BASED REFRESHER COURSE FOR IN-SERVICE AWW AT ASHA

ASHA Holy Cross Training Centre at Damdamia, in collaboration with the Dept. of Social Welfare & Social Education (SW & SE) TTAADC, Khumulwng organised a ten-day refresher course for the in-service Anganwadi Workers (AWW) from the 20th to the 29th of September 2022. Twenty participants



who have passed Class X & XII were identified and selected from two districts of Tripura, Dhalai & North Tripura. They represented six ICDS Jurisdictions such as Jampui Hill, Kanchanpur, Damcherra, Manu, Chawmanu and Dumburnagar. The Training program was inaugurated by Smt. Dolly Reang, the Honourable Executive Member (EM) TTAADC, Khumulwng, on the 20th of September at 10.00 am in the presence of Rev. Fr. Simon Fernandes, the President of ASHA Holy Cross, and many other invited guests. Honourable EM was hopeful that ASHA Holy Cross would undertake such





NEWS FROM THE FORMATION HOUSES

training with competence and complete it with great success. She expressed her conviction that these refresher courses will enhance our AWW to bring quality change among the children in our society.



The seven-member professional team dealt with thirty-five different curriculum topics masterly by conducting six hours of daily classes with multi-dimensional activities and skills. The participants were also kept engaged with inputs on health & hygiene, means to a sustainable livelihood, cultural competitions & Poshan Tracking App, etc., through informal gatherings every evening. We also organised exposure visits to neighbouring primary schools and provided interactions with the teachers and students of lower primary classes.

The first of its kind, this initiative from the Dept. of SW & SE, TTAADC Khumulwng, is undoubtedly a huge step forward in reaching out to the participants who are mothers in the villages and who are not sufficiently appreciated and remunerated. The training concluded with Certificate distribution to the participants at the valedictory function on the 29th of September at 4.00 pm. Shri. R.K Noatia, TCS, SSG, Additional CEO, TTAADC, concluded the training programme with his words of appreciation for recognising the importance of AWW by taking up this project. The participants belonging to SC & ST communities from interior villages of the state were full of confidence, happiness, and gratitude at the concluding ceremony and put up various entertainment programmes on occasion.

Fr. Thomas John, CSC Director of ASHA Holy Cross, and Fr. Pappy Valan, CSC, the Program Coordinator, were full of appreciation for the participants who collaborated with ASHA Holy Cross in a disciplined manner during their stay.



Thomas John, CSC

ST ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY (SAMS), BODHJUNGNAGAR



The last two months were full of activities and learning experiences for our candidates here at SAMS. Besides the academic studies, there was a one-day recollection organised on the 28th of August for all the candidates, animated by Fr. Theophilus Sohtun, CSC, and Fr. Arul J., CSC, was the confessor on the occasion.



The Congregational Feast of the Holy Cross was celebrated meaningfully on the 15th of September. There was a Solemn Holy Eucharist followed by a short cultural program in which the candidates wished the fathers and themselves festal greetings and concluded with a delicious feast day meal. On the same day, SAMS also organised a small farewell program for Fr. Emmanuel Ralte CSC to express our gratefulness for the support and help he





rendered to SAMS before he left for Canada.

Our candidates also got ample opportunities to visit important places like Lake Palace, Matabari, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Holy Cross School, and Holy Cross Provincial House. They also had the chance to participate in the NESNIM 2022 inaugural function and concluding ceremony. They also



briefly visited some of the important Puja Pandals in Agartala.

After finishing their midterm examination on the 30th of September, the candidates remained in the seminary for two weeks of the Puja Holiday. During those days, special classes were conducted by Fr. John PKC, Fr. Vicky, and Fr. Pappy Valan, CSC, on different topics. The Spiritual Director, Fr. Thomas John, CSC, met all the candidates for the first time during their holiday. We are grateful to both fathers for their contribution and generosity in extending their support to our Seminarists. Besides these, a one-day seminar was conducted by Dr. John Lalsangzela on "Health Care and Personal Hygiene". He is from Mizoram, currently working in GB Hospital, Agartala, and we express our sincere gratitude to him for sparing his precious time for our students.



During the last two months, we had some important visitors who, with their presence, inspired the seminarists to be faithful to their call. We thank them for their inspiring presence in the seminary.

 **John PKC, CSC**

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER



The Congregational Feast was celebrated grandly and festively with a beautiful decoration of the entire house and the holy mass. The community was blessed with the presence of Fr. Paul CR, CSC, the principal celebrant, and Fr. Binoy John, CSC, who inspired us with his reflection on the origin and history of the Holy Cross Congregation.

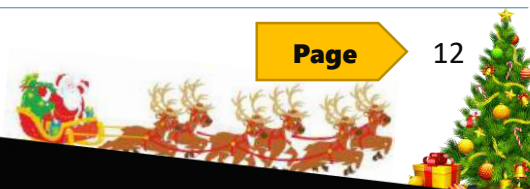
Holy Cross Pine View Study House, Sumer, organised a send-off program in honour of Fr. Jomy Mathew, CSC, highlighting the commendable works and services he had rendered to the community in his capacity as the director for the last three and a half years. The program was witnessed by priests and religious from neighbouring communities. The program began with a small Prayer Service led by Fr. Jowelson Khongtani and was followed by a cultural program. Fr. Jomy expressed his thoughts and sentiments and thanked everyone who have been of great help to him during his tenure as the superior and director of the Sumer Community.

 **Jowelson, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY, PUNE

Feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows

The Congregational feast was celebrated with much pomp and festivity. The fathers and the scholastics prepared themselves spiritually, beginning with a triduum reflecting on different themes based on the





four pillars of Holy Cross Spirituality. The feast day mass was offered by Fr. Aloysius, CSC, the Parish Priest of Christ the King Parish, Pune. The Jnana Deepa College and the different religious communities were invited for a High Tea to have more festivity in our celebration. Since it was the celebration of the Congregational Feast, the Holy cross Confreres from the Pune region gathered in the evening to show comradeship through the festive meal.

The Canonical Visit of the Provincial



On the 24th of September, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC Provincial Superior of North East India, reached the seminary for his canonical visit. He met the scholastics belonging to the Province of North East and had a meaningful interaction about their life in Pune.

The Final Profession Celebration



On the 28th of September, Holy Cross Seminary Pune witnessed the Final Profession of four scholastic - two belonging to the Province of South India and one each from the Province of North East and Vicariate of Tamil Nadu. Fr. Simon, CSC, received the vows of Scholastic Ishongkun, CSC of our province. Family members of the Scholastics and invited guests and friends were present to grace the occasion and bless the scholastics with their prayers.

Ordination to Diaconate



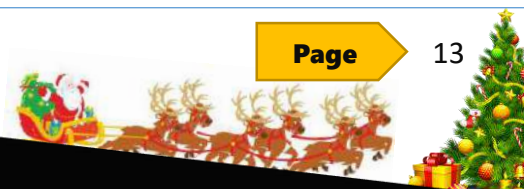
On the next day, the new perpetually professed, namely Amala, CSC (TN), Ishongkun, CSC (NE), Naresh, CSC (SI), and William, CSC (SI), were ordained to the Order of Diaconate by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona Diocese. The Celebration of the Ordination to Diaconate was marked with the theme "Imitating Christ in Service", on which Bishop Thomas Dabre gave a meaningful Homily.

The month of the Holy Rosary



October is a special month in the seminary. The scholastics dedicate this month to praying for each other, their families, and their intentions during the Rosary. On the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, Fr. Alexander, CSC, gave a meaningful presentation on the Feast and the importance of Mother Mary and the praying of the Rosary as taught by Venerable Patrick Payton, CSC.

Picnic and Outing





After successfully completing their semester exams, the scholastics went out to different places to refresh themselves and rejuvenate their friendship. On the 17th of October, the second year, Theologians went to Mumbai, and on the 18th, the Philosophers, along with three third-year theologians and Fr. K.O. Joseph, went to Ajanta and Elora.

The Visit of Sr. Mary Joseph, MC



The seminary was blessed with the visit of Sr. Mary Joseph, the Superior General of the congregation of the Missionaries of Charity. Her historic visit to the seminary was a rich experience for the scholastics.



Community Day Celebration (CDC)



The CDC began with Marathon on the 21st of October, and the official events began on the 24th. The Scholastics were divided into two teams, Shapers and Makers of ten each, along with all the Holy Cross Confreres in Pune. Four of the Scholastics headed the events with Fr. Rector as its Animator. Within these three days of CDC, the two teams participated in more than fifty outdoor and indoor events projecting the best sportsmanship and community spirit.



Anupam, CSC

ST. ANDRE'S SCHOOL, MUANA VENG, AIZAWL

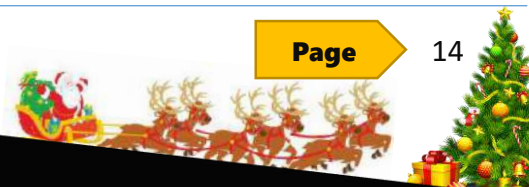


Teacher's day is celebrated on the 05th of September each year on the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who was known as a fantastic teacher of his time. We joined with the entire



nation to celebrate, recognise, appreciate and make the teachers feel unique and valued. The program was held in the school hall, beautifully decorated with flowers and balloons. Fr. Valerian Castelino, CSC, was the day's chief guest, and he, along with teachers, was welcomed with flowers. The students performed various activities like dance, song, recitation, drama, etc. Dimmuansangi of class IV delivered a beautiful speech on teacher's day where she expressed the importance of teachers and how teachers are the nation's builders. Fr. Arokiasamy, CSC, the principal of our school, gave a brief speech and explained the significance of the day. The chief guest appreciated the students' performance and thanked them for their wishes.

Gilderious, CSC





ZOWKATHAR MISSION



St. Joseph School, Zowkathar, is a ministry by the Holy Cross Fathers in Mizoram at the border of India and Myanmar. We can call it an international school as many students from the neighbouring country attend the school daily. Fr. Paul Choorackal, CSC, took charge as the school's principal on the 12th of October in the presence of many cross confreres including Fr. Alfred Dsouza, CSC, Province administrator, and Fr. Abraham C., CSC, provincial counsellor, and teachers and students. Presently the school has a student strength of 520.

Paul Choorackal, CSC

NESNIM – NORTH EASTERN STUDENTS' NATIONAL INTEGRATION MOVEMENT



NESNIM 2022
 "Teen Health: Our Wealth"

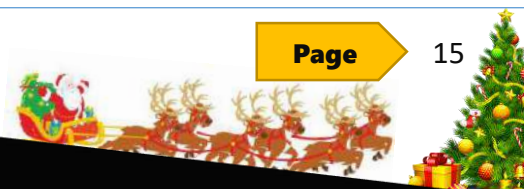
"Cultivating a healthy mind and body is the key to the overall development of a person," said Prof.(Dr.) Manik Saha, Chief Minister of Tripura, while inaugurating the 13th edition of NESNIM (North Eastern Students' National Integration Movement). He lauded the Holy Cross Fathers for their efforts in providing for the overall development of the students. NESNIM, an initiative of Holy Cross Educational Foundation (HCEF) under the aegis of



Holy Cross Fathers, NE province, is a student-based peace initiative. It is an extended program to inculcate the values of peace and foster respect and love for one another among the students of the Northeast.



NESNIM was first held in 2001 as a response to the then-volatile political situation of Northeast India and Tripura in particular. There were destructions of life and property and disharmony all around. People lived with great fear. Holy Cross then came forward to contribute their might to bring about greater peace and harmony in the society for a harmonious living. We have been victims of troubled times as one of our priests was killed, and another was injured, losing one of his eyes in an ambush in 2000.





In organising such an event, Holy Cross Fathers believed that tremendous respect for one another, openness to each other's cultures, and an awareness that we are brothers and sisters of our beloved nation was the way forward to bring peace and harmony. Holy Cross visualised that students are best suited to live their diversity which will have a more significant and lasting impact on society. Thus emerged NESNIM, a live-in experience for students of diverse cultures for the Education of "Heart and Mind."



Building a harmonious society is an ongoing process that never completes in a one-time event. Thus, this year from the 30th of September to the 03rd of October, Holy Cross Educational Foundation organised the 13th edition of NESNIM at Holy Cross School, Agartala. From its initial stages, NESNIM has grown to be a mega-event with about 500 students and 100 animators from 25 schools, representing over fifteen diverse communities across Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram, and Tripura participating in it enthusiastically. This year with the theme TEEN HEALTH: OUR WEALTH, the focus was on the positive aspects of student's life to eliminate harmful energies and addictions.

The sessions and activities during the NESNIM focussed on harnessing the vibrant energy and potential and enabling the students to face their future confidently. The three-day live-in experience helped them to understand and appreciate their

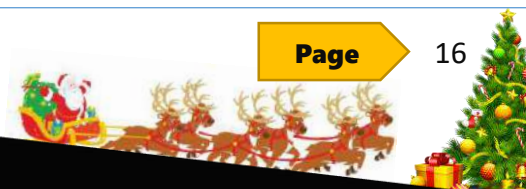


potential and that of others, thus connecting lives for the well-being of our society. The sessions were animated by FAYTH Clinic, Mumbai. Afternoon time was spent on outdoor competitions, and every participating school had the opportunity to do a thematic presentation on the stage and an artwork.



The four days event saw the presence of Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Bishop of Agartala, Shri. Abhishek Chandra, IAS, Special Secretary,

Department of Industries and Commerce, and Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Fathers, and in their speeches, they lauded the efforts of Holy Cross Educational Foundation and invited the students to create a healthy body and mind for the wealth of our society.





"NESNIM taught me many things. From discipline to time management, teamwork to unity, peace and love, and many more. Despite diversity and differences, we learned to match our vibes and to interact with everyone. I can surely say that the lessons I have learned from NESNIM would help me shape my destiny much better." This was the response of Subhamit Deb of Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, when he was asked about his experience of NESNIM. All the students echoed the same sentiments and were appreciative of the efforts of HCEF in bringing together students under one platform.

The 13th Edition of NESNIM ended with a pledge by the participants to keep themselves healthy for a better nation and society.



IMPRESSIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

NESNIM 2022 gives me a lot of learning as well as a new experience in my life. Through the sessions, I learned how we are slowly killed by drug, alcohol, and smoking addictions.



- *Jutika Jamatia*
Olive Hill Holy Cross School, Twithampui

NESNIM 2022 has opened our eyes to new things in life. It allowed students to stand in front of others and express themselves. The sessions gave us practical knowledge, and we hope to use it for the good of the students and society.



- *Francis Rammuanawma*
Headmaster
St. Joseph's School, Zokhawthar, Mizoram

It was an excellent opportunity for all my friends and me to participate in NESNIM 2022. We did all our activities with great enthusiasm. Participating in sports and group activities was a platform for us to learn new skills and present ourselves in front of others. While learning new things, we also gained confidence. We are thankful for being a part of NESNIM -2022.

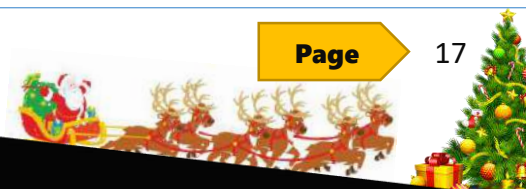


- *Andy Sangma*
Holy Cross HS School, Kathalcherra, Tripura

NESNIM, 2022 was a wonderful experience for me. It was a great privilege to meet many beautiful students and animators from different schools. Sessions on 'Teen Health, Our Wealth' has given me a new perspective on real addiction and depression situations. The competitions and various other activities made the program so much more fun. It was a great learning experience and has genuinely infused us with the hope of building the younger generation more positively strong, powerful, and healthy.



- *Ruthi Ngulthangchim Ranglong*
Holy Cross High School, Bagbasa





Sixty educators from India and Bangladesh had gathered at Holy Cross Provincial House Agartala from 07th to 10th November for an educators' conference. The theme for the conference was '(Re) Visioning the Holy Cross Education for the 21st Century'. The three-day conference organised by the Holy Cross Educational Foundation brought together Holy Cross educators in the context of the emerging paradigm shift that has been evolving in the field of Education due to the accelerated changes in communication technology, political ideology, environment, global ethos, and developmental constructs across the globe.

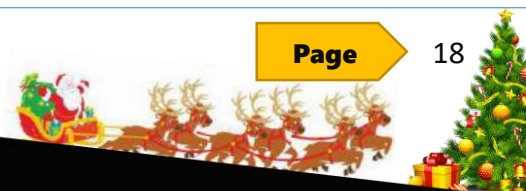
dealt on 'Why and How of Revision....!' Prof. Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Off-Campus, shared with the participants her thoughts on 'Re-aligning Curriculum and Administration.' Prof. Gayatree Goswami, Professor and Dean, Professor Qoumrul Hoque School of Education (PQHSE), University of Science and Technology Meghalaya, in her presentation focused on 'Redefining the role of teacher and teaching in the 21st Century.' Mr. Pavan Kumar A., Director, Variance Edventures, Learning and Development



Bro. Prodir Placid Gomes, CSC, 2nd General Assistant inaugurated the conference and exhorted the delegates to root themselves in the

tradition and charism of Bl. Basil Moreau while exploring new possibilities to be relevant, credible, and spiritual in our educational ministry. During the conference, eminent educationists shared their expertise with the delegates on 21st-century skills. Dr. Vincent Darlong, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development Studies, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, in his keynote spoke on 'Reimagining Holy Cross Educational Roadmap for Healthy Learning Environment for Whole Child Education and Skilling for the 21st Century Aspirational Society.' Fr. (Dr.) Paul Pudussery, CSC,

Specialist, NEP 2020 State Focus Group Member, Curriculum and Pedagogy, School Education – Meghalaya dealt at length 'What influences teachers to change their professional practice: Reviewing the insights from Behavioral Science' and 'Understanding the need, opportunities, and challenges of embedding the 21st Century skills into our educational Practices.' Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC, gave a presentation on 'Catholic Education in Holy Cross Tradition – An insight from Blessed Basil Moreau, Founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.' Fr. (Dr.) Biju Thomas, CSC, spoke on 'Collective Leadership – A Holy Cross Perspective.'





The delegates, during the group work and general sessions, explored our response as Holy Cross educators, rooting ourselves on the core values of the Gospel and our call to be educators in the faith. The detailed and purposeful deliberations enabled us to understand the good, the worrisome, and the ambiguous nature of the new narrative while, as Holy Cross, exploring possibilities to participate in Nation building to engender a better world by "Educating the heart and mind" of the students.



education and creating the best next-generation scholars.

Blessed Basil Moreau, the founder of the



Congregation of Holy Cross, sent a group of missionaries to Dhaka for the first time in 1853. While in Dhaka, Holy Cross missionaries travelled periodically on horseback from Dhaka to look after the spiritual needs of an existing Christian (Catholic) settlement in Mariamnagar near Agartala. Recognising the educational needs of the people in Mariamnagar, from 1937, Holy Cross missionaries stayed permanently in Tripura with the permission of the ruling King. Thus, the Congregation of Holy Cross established its first Centre at Mariamnagar in Tripura. Holy Cross served the local community at Mariamnagar with a Bengali Medium School and opened separate boarding houses for boys and girls. Holy Cross Fathers served the local community for many years.

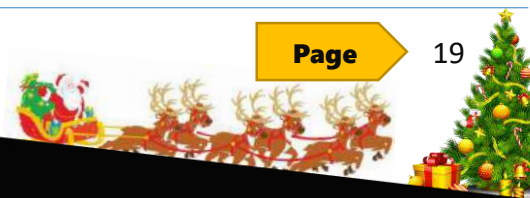
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA – 50 YEARS JOURNEY

Excellence, Brilliance, and Virtuous - all these words are synonymous with Holy Cross School Agartala, an establishment of holistic development. It is an institution of true wisdom, a scholarly temple of joy where the mind and the heart find equal importance. It is a foundation that has churned out the best erudite souls. In the last fifty years of its journey, Holy Cross School Agartala has built a name that resonates with the belief in providing quality

When Fr. Roger Marcel, CSC, a Canadian Holy Cross priest, was the Parish Priest at Mariamnagar, a group of leading businessmen and citizens of Agartala approached the Holy Cross father to start school to provide quality education for Agartala People. Fr. Roger Marcel CSC obliged in consultation with the then District Superior, Fr. Jean Charles Descary, CSC, and initiated the process of





starting an English Medium School at Agartala. Fr. Marcel contacted Sr. Macrina, BS, the Superior General of the Bethany sisters, for assistance. With the sisters' support, Fr. Marcel was ready to begin. But there was no building, no staff, and no money. However, God had a plan for the people of this state. Shri Manoranjan Dhar, a local contractor, rented his new two-storied building at Abhoynagar near the circuit house. Holy Cross is indebted to Mr. Dhar for his generous heart and for predicting, "A day will come when people will stand in long queues for admission into this school." This rented building paved the way for Tripura's second English medium school. Thus, Holy Cross established its first English medium school in Tripura.



In the meantime, the Bethany sisters agreed to provide the core staff. Holy Cross School began its baby steps in June 1970 with thirteen students on the rolls and three pioneering Bethany sisters: Sr. Greta BS, Sr. Pierine BS, and Sr. Clerilla BS, on the teaching staff. Shri Sen, a garage owner, offered his old bus for transport facilities. The hard work, loving care, and dedication of the fathers and sisters became the talk of the town and earned the school a reputation.

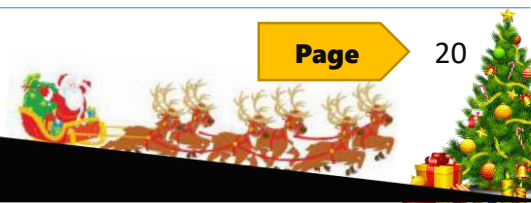
However, misfortune struck like a bolt shaking the very foundation of the embryonic school in 1972 within two years of its commencement. Fr. Roger Marcel, CSC and Fr. George Lakclair, CSC, the then principal of Mariamnagar Bengali medium school, were asked to quit Tripura due to the government's political strategy that asked all foreign nationals to leave Northeast India. Holy Cross school Agartala had two options. The first was to close the school in its infancy, and the second was to hand it over to someone else.

Fr. Mathew Ullattil, CSC, a visionary Holy Cross priest, came to the rescue. Fr. Marcel passed the



baton to him. With his daring nature Fr. Mathew took over the school in 1972 in addition to his responsibility at Mariamnagar. With his vision for the school's future and deep faith in God for its life ahead, he helped Holy Cross School to take its baby steps toward progress. Sr. Rosette BS and Sr. Clarilla BS greatly assisted with the schoolwork. With the establishment of a Bethany convent at Abhoynagar, Sr. Audrey BS, Sr. Alice D'Souza BS, Sr. Berlinda BS, Sr. Lucious BS, and Sr. Carol BS joined the band.

Soon, Fr. Mathew and V. V. Joseph, a vehicle inspector, started looking for a plot of land for the school around Agartala town without success, as the financial resources were minimal. Finally, the local village Pradhan at Durjoynagar, Shri Debnath, was contacted. He agreed to find a place for Holy Cross and convinced people of the possibilities of jobs, Education, and health care for the residents in the vicinity. Six families agreed to sell twenty khans of land at Durjoynagar. With the support of the district





council, Fr. Mathew laid the school's foundation and held the fort until 1973.



In 1973, Fr. Yvan Martin, CSC, the then-District superior, appointed Fr. Joseph Kunnath, CSC, a daring young Holy Cross priest, to complete necessary studies in Haflong while helping to develop the school at Durjoynagar. Fr. Kunnath came to Mariamnagar in July 1973 and began his work earnestly, the most crucial being registering land and finding financial resources for the school project. Fr. Kunnath was entrusted with constructing simple structures on the recently acquired land at Durjoynagar. Subsequently, the classes were run in temporary sheds with bamboo walls and tin roofs. From then on, Holy Cross School Agartala started its steady journey.

Fr. Joseph Sarpathil, CSC, is another significant Holy Cross priest who joined the bandwagon in 1975.



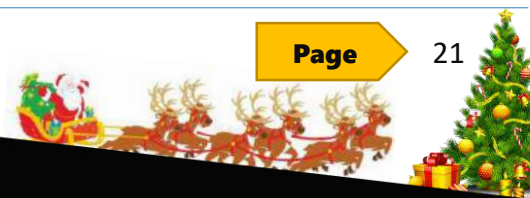
This adventurous priest resided at Mariamnagar and travelled between school and Mariamnagar on his bicycle. He was assigned to supervise the construction of the school building and the residence for the sisters. He completed the needed structures at Durjoynagar within a year and moved the school from the circuit house to the present campus in 1976. The Principal, Fr. Kunnath, CSC, resided in one of the classrooms converting it into an office cum bedroom. The first Holy Cross students studied up to class VII because the school didn't have the ICSE Board affiliation yet. So, after convincing the guardians, the whole class managed to secure admission at the Central School, Agartala.

The communal unrest in 1980 was a setback for the school. But that did not hinder the spirit of the fathers and sisters, whose main motto was to educate the heart and the mind of the students. So, with a revived enthusiasm, Holy Cross School,



Agartala, affiliated with the ICSE board. The first class of ICSE students appeared for their exams in 1982. As the years rolled, a series of scholarly priests and nuns with a band of dedicated teachers and support staff joined the institution to help this institution stand tall in the state. The school progressed steadily with more buses, admissions, and infrastructure.

As time passed, Fr. Kunnath was assisted by Fr. Leo D' Souza, CSC (1977-1979), Fr. CV Jose, CSC (1979-1980), Fr. PV Joseph, CSC (1980-1982), and Fr. Luke Padipurackal, CSC (1982-1983), as vice principals. The first concrete building was planned by Fr.





Kunnath with architect Shri Deb Roy which stands even today as the flagship building of Holy Cross School, giving it an aesthetic face. Fr. Kunnath left for his higher studies, and the construction was completed by Fr. Luke Padipurackal, CSC, who served as principal from 1984. Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, joined Fr. Luke as the vice principal from 1985 to 1987. The annual magazine, school emblem, and school anthem were introduced during this period. Fr. BR Nathan served as vice principal from 1987 to 1989, while Fr. Gordon D'Dierserre, CSC. Fr. Kunnath returned to school and served a short term of two years (1989-1991), and Fr. Jose Chakkankunnel, CSC (1989-1992) supported him as the administrator.

Fr. Leo D'Souza, CSC, was appointed principal in 1991 and was instrumental in upgrading the school to the higher secondary level but was withdrawn after two years. Fr. Leo had to leave the school in 1992 due to his appointment in Rome as the Assistant superior general. Fr. CV Jose, who assisted Fr. Luke as the vice principal, was appointed principal. Fr. Lumen Monteiro, CSC (1992-1994) and Fr. Paul Pudussery, CSC (1994-1998) assisted Fr. CV as the administrators and vice-principals. The Sacred Heart Block was built during this time.

In 1997, Fr. Emmanuel was appointed principal. Fr. Paul and Fr. David Adaikulam CSC assisted Fr. Emma for a year. Fr. Justine Diraviam, CSC, was appointed



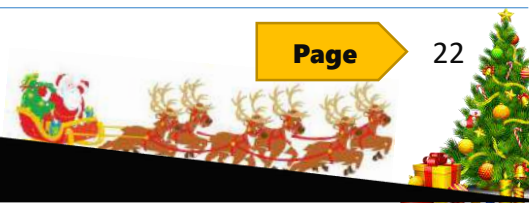
administrator and Fr. Davis Konuran, CSC, vice-principal, in 1998. Fr. Kanikkai was appointed vice-



principal and administrator in 2001 and replaced by Fr. Pinto Paul, CSC, in 2003. During this period, there was a rapid leap in the school's growth. There were many infrastructural developments. The science and library block extension of playgrounds and recreational facilities, nursery section, oasis, grotto, open stage, jubilee gate, etc., were some of the infrastructural additions. During this time, with the assistance of the Tripura Tribal Welfare department, hostel facilities for boys and girls were provided separately, and the higher secondary was reintroduced, which continues to date.

In 2003, Fr. David Adaikulam, CSC, was appointed school principal. The school received national recognition, with Fr. Adaikulam as the principal and Fr. Pinto as the vice principal and administrator. The school's effort to provide state-of-art facilities for the students received recognition when the school was awarded President's Award for "Computer Literacy Excellence" in 2004. Fr. Shaji ML, CSC, was appointed principal in 2005 and contributed much to the school's academic excellence. The construction of the Moreau block was initiated by Holy Cross Congregation.

Fr. CV Jose succeeded Fr. Shaji as principal, and Fr. Joe Paul, CSC, succeeded Fr. Pinto as vice principal and administrator in 2010. Additional classrooms were built in Andre block to accommodate the increasing number of students. In 2012, Fr. Kanikkai Jayaraj, CSC, was appointed principal, and during his





tenure, the construction of the administrative block and other infrastructural development occurred. The Quisaster, a quiz program organised and conducted by the outgoing ISC class, received much attraction in Agartala town. Fr. Joe Paul was succeeded by Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC as the administrator and Fr. Sojan Augustine, CSC as the vice principal. Fr. Boby John, CSC, took over the baton from Fr. Kanikkai in 2015. The assembly square, eloquent gates at the entrance, and several other aesthetic beauties were added apart from academic excellence. In 2019, Fr. Agi Paul, CSC, was appointed vice principal and administrator. Fr. Boby passed the baton to Fr. Jilson Tom, CSC, the present principal, while Fr. Agi continued his responsibility.

The Bethany sisters, especially Sr. Greta, BS, Sr. Clementia, BS, Sr. Cleopha, BS, Sr. Titus, BS, Sr. Noeline, BS, Sr. Edleburgh, BS, Sr. Jean Marie, BS, Sr. Audry, BS; Sr. Caron, BS, Sr. Sapientia, BS, Sr. Chrissette, BS, Sr. Sumitha, BS, Sr. Sajana, BS, and Sr. Sunitha, BS shared the burden of school administration as noon shift headmistress. The morning shift headmistresses were Sr. Alice, BS, Sr. Hedwige, BS, Sr. Melita, BS, Sr. Severine, BS, Sr. Shareena, BS, Sr. Teresa Monica, BS, and Sr. Juliana, BS.

From a humble beginning in 1970, Holy Cross School has grown by leaps and bounds. It now stands tall and proud with impressive infrastructures, state-of-the-art teaching technology, expansive playing fields, beautifully landscaped gardens, and a student roll of over five thousand five hundred. We are delighted to say that now our school occupies a

place of pride in Tripura, Northeast India. The school has grown to this altitude under the leadership and guidance of 14 Principals, 17 vice principals, 10 Administrators, 19 Headmistresses, five student counsellors, dedicated religious women, passionate teachers, keen parents, and talented students.

For 50-plus years, Holy Cross has provided a rich lineage of administrators and scholarly priests for Education in this part of the world, proving their dedication and commitment to society. Holy Cross School, Agartala, in all these excellent years of growth, has stood tall with its mission of educating the heart and the mind. The well-placed alumni are a witness to the commitment of Holy Cross School, Agartala, over these years.

Every student who comes inside the premises of this mammoth learning hub leaves with wisdom and a set of moral values to face the world of realities. This is possible because the virtuous pillars of the school are strong, the classrooms' spaces and walls echo the objectives of divine learning, and most importantly, the entire school community come together to spur the student's core. This makes Holy Cross School Agartala stand apart in delivering Education to society.



In the last fifty years of struggle, growth, and staying true to the mission with the contribution of committed teachers and staff, Holy Cross School, Agartala has garnered gratitude not only from its students but also from every other stakeholder. As





an Alma Mater and home to many, this school has always created the backbone for thousands of students who build a future in today's fast-paced world. Whether art, science, sports, or any other field of study, this institution has nurtured the germ and enthusiasm of excellence in students. That is why the distinction of Education in Holy Cross School, Agartala, will always have a long run.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CLOSING CELEBRATION



*Here's to a golden future
Based on a golden past
This is our hope for tomorrow
A dream that has to last*

The Golden Jubilee celebration of Holy Cross School Agartala ended on the 04th of November with a scintillating cultural extravaganza performed by over 1000 students at the school ground. The event was witnessed by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC,



Bishop of Agartala, Most Rev. Stephen, CSC, Bishop of Aizwal, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial Superior, and a host of other dignitaries, including many of the past principals, vice principals, administrators, and headmistresses. Past pupils, parents, and guardians witnessed and participated in the programmes. The entire Holy Cross Family, the administration, the non-teaching staff, the ex-students, the faculty, present student community worked zealously throughout the year to make our collective dream come true. In all of it, what was made very apparent is the sheer unity and determination that we share as a family. The school, decked up in lights, looked resplendent and stood tall in all its glory.

The administration, Father Jilson, CSC, Principal, and Fr. Agi Paul, CSC, our Vice-Principal, led the activities from the front. All the past principals, vice-principals/administrators, headmistresses, teachers of yesteryears, and veteran teachers of the present time were felicitated during the programme. The event was seamlessly executed by each one who took part in it. May the Lord bless Holy Cross as she moves from Golden to Platinum and Centenary.

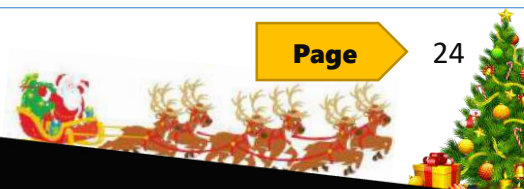


Madam Padmakali

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW – RUBY JUBILEE



Holy Cross School, Tuikarmaw, was started by the UPC (United Pentecostal Church) in 1982. The founder of the said school was Mr. Santirai Rieng, now a TCS officer holding the responsibility as Dy. Collector at Belonia. He was an active member of the UPC. He was both the pastor and the





headmaster. Initially, it ran pretty well, with only a



few students. Soon some internal troubles took place; the UPC withdrew its support and supervision. However, the local people and the guardians continued their interest in Education, especially English Medium. They formed a committee and renamed the school 'Tuikarmaw English Medium School'. Some of the members of the committee were Sri. Chotor Rieng, Pabitra Kumar Rieng, Madhab Cha Rieng, and Priyalal Rieng.

They ran the school for two years with the help of their personal contribution and local collection. Then they approached the Holy Cross Fathers at Mariamnagar. Holy Cross Fathers agreed to help them from outside with the bishop's consent. A teacher, Shri. Thanda Chandra Uchoi (Francis) was appointed to work in the school and was paid by the mission. Soon most of the responsibility began to rest on him. Then with gradual meetings and certain agreements, Holy Cross decided to run the school



and the boarding without taking up the financial responsibility. Till the end of 1986, we managed it in this fashion. In 1987 we took the entire management.

Shri. Sushil Sangma, a part-time catechist, was put in charge of the boarding. He was also taking a few classes, especially Bengali. While residing at Agartala, Fr. Jose Sarpathil, CSC, continued to guide and support the project. Gradually two boarding houses were built with the help of the local people in the new location. The school was still at the old site.

By the end of 1987, Holy Cross priests started to stay

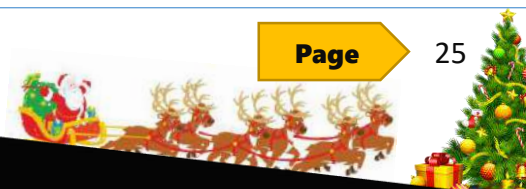
at the new site in a small, thatched shed. Many exciting events took place in the initial stages.



Brother Chacko Kannikkatt, a member of the Holy Cross brothers, started staying with us for more than a year. As an able administrator with an exciting personality, he began to level a football court and uprooted old tree trunks from the compound. He was an excellent karate master, and children loved to practice this martial art under him. Chacko was instrumental in several project proposals for the place.

In the meantime, Mariamnagar Centre also had some changes. By November 1986, Fr. Issac Kelampambil, CSC, was appointed as Parish Priest at Mariamnagar and Fr. Jose Sarpathil, CSC, was the assistant who then gradually settled at Tuikarmaw.

As the events were in progress, the school had risen to class V. We were requesting and corresponding with many congregations of sisters to take up the work and supervision of the boarding for girls. Finally, the Missionaries of Mary Help of Christians from Shillong responded positively. A group of





three sisters came and opened the convent in April 1988. The pioneer of the convent was Srs. Annie Mathew, Stella Umdor and Mercy Luke. They were put up in a small bamboo shed built by the local people. The Sisters had to put up with many hardenings, as they were new to such interior areas with new Language and culture. They had finally learned to accept the unique visits of snakes, scorpions, etc., even at any time and place, including their beds. By the same year, Fr. Luke Padipurackial, CSC, former principal of Holy Cross School Agartala, was appointed as an assistant at Tuikarmaw. From then till today, the school has grown leap and bound under the leadership of many illustrious Principals, managers, and headmistresses. Today it has a strength of 1450 students, and the school is upgraded to the higher secondary level. The school continues to illumine the hearts and minds of students who walk through the portals of this great institution of learning.

students at the school enthralled the parents, teachers, and guests with dances and songs. The school management acknowledges the contributions of each and everyone to make an incredible 40 years of the school's journey and gratefully remembers all the stalwarts whose vision and hard work bear great fruits. The efforts of Fr. Renju George, CSC, the Principal, Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC, the Manager, staff, and students have brought great joy to everyone.

- *Renju George, CSC*

UPCOMING PROGRAM

- Visit of Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C, Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross to the Province from the 7th to 13th December 2022.
- Decennial Jubilee Celebration of Holy Cross School Bagbasa, Tripura on the 10th December 2022.
- Golden Jubilee Celebration of Good Shepherd Parish Jongksha, Meghalaya on the 18th December 2022.

RUBY JUBILEE CELEBRATION



The Ruby Jubilee Celebration of Holy Cross English Medium Hr. Sec. Tuikarmaw was held on the 05th of November on the school grounds. A mega cultural evening was held to mark the 40 glorious years of the school. Shri. Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, bishop of Agartala, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial Superior, Shri. Pramod Reang MLA, Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary HCEF, former Principals, Holy Cross fathers, invited guests, and parents were present for the programme. The

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