



AGARTALA

Province Newsletter

VOLUME - 04 / 2024

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PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

A Call to Care for Creation: Embracing Our Role as Stewards

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to connect with you all through our province newsletter, WAVES. It is an honor to address you for the first time as the newly elected provincial. This platform provides a valuable opportunity for us to share our thoughts and various activities happening in the province.

On June 5th, the world celebrated World Environment Day, highlighting our shared responsibility to protect and nurture our planet. Our provincial chapters, including the recent one, have consistently emphasized this urgent call to care for the earth. We are acutely aware of the environmental crises around us, which have become all too frequent.

These crises are often the result of human selfishness and disregard for nature, straining the delicate balance of our ecosystems and leading to severe and widespread consequences.

The church, guided by Pope Francis, has been a beacon of wisdom in this area. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us of our moral duty to care for our common home. He calls for a profound ecological conversion, urging us to recognize the intrinsic value of all creation and our interconnectedness with it.

We are called to be co-creators in caring for the earth, working alongside God in the stewardship of His creation. This is not just a call to action, but a call to transformation. We must adopt sustainable practices, advocate for environmental justice, and cultivate a deep respect for the natural world.

I invite each of you to join this crucial mission. Let us unite in our efforts to protect and preserve the earth for future generations. As our holy founder, Fr. Moreau asked us to do, let all our services contribute to the making of 'a better world than ours' for the children of the world.

Warm regards,

Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC
Provincial Superior
Province of Northeast India



Province of Northeast India NEWSLETTER

JULY. 2024

VOLUME # 04

PROVINCE UPDATES



CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

EDITORIAL



Dear Confreres and Readers of WAVES,

As I sat down to write this editorial, I couldn't help but reflect on the recently concluded T20 World Cup, where the Indian team emerged triumphant. It had been a long time since India last won a World Cup in any format,

and I pondered how they achieved this victory despite being labelled as the "team of elders." The answer was clear: dedication, teamwork, and resilience. Their journey to victory offers profound lessons beyond the cricket field, especially for us as priests and religious. These lessons can inspire and guide us in our Christian life and calling.

Commitment to Excellence

Team India's success was rooted in an unwavering commitment to excellence. Each player devoted countless hours to training, honing their skills, and striving to be their best. This relentless pursuit of excellence reminds us to commit wholeheartedly to

our spiritual and ministerial responsibilities. Just as cricketers practice diligently, we must dedicate time to prayer, study, and service, continually seeking to deepen our faith and enhance our ability to serve others.



Teamwork and Unity

Cricket is fundamentally a team sport, and India's victory was a testament to the power of unity. Each player, regardless of their role, contributed to the collective success. Similarly, in our Christian life, we are called to unite. As members of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the wider Church, we must



The spirit of prayer is a sort of gravitation toward God by frequent longings, by the loving practice of the presence of God, and by the regular renewal of right intentions in all one's behavior.

—Bl. Basile Moreau, Rules



support one another, recognising that our collective efforts can achieve far more than individual endeavours. Unity in mission and purpose strengthens our community and magnifies our impact.

Resilience in Adversity

Throughout the tournament, Team India faced formidable opponents and challenging situations. Their resilience and ability to stay focused and positive, even under pressure, were vital to their success. This resilience is crucial in our spiritual journey as well.

We encounter trials and tribulations, moments of doubt and difficulty. We can overcome these challenges by maintaining our faith and trusting in God's plan. Resilience in the face of adversity enables us to grow stronger and more steadfast in our vocation.

The victory of Team India in the T20 World Cup offers valuable lessons that we can apply to our Christian life and calling as priests and religious. By committing to excellence, working in unity, and demonstrating resilience, we can fulfil our mission more effectively and faithfully. May we be inspired by their example to strive for greatness in our spiritual journey, always seeking to "make God known, loved, and served" in all that we do.

Warm regards,

- **George Jacob, CSC**



ST. ANDRE PARISH, NYAPN

Marian Procession

On May 31, 2024, St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, concluded the month dedicated to Mother Mary with a candlelight procession from the Parish Church



to Nyapin town. Parishioners from various villages and hostel residents participated with faith and devotion. The procession culminated in a Eucharistic celebration led by Fr. Stephan Lohrii, CSC, the Parish Priest. The evening concluded with a dinner, fostering fellowship among the attendees.

ST. JUDE SCHOOL, NYAPIN

Investiture Ceremony

On May 27, 2024, St. Jude's School, Nyapin, held its Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2024-25. Leaders from various classes and houses swore oaths as they entered their new roles. The



ceremony occurred on the school assembly grounds with all students and teachers.

Honouring Bl. Basile Moreau

To mark the culmination of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau's entry into eternal life, St. Jude's School, Nyapin,



organised drawing and quiz competitions on June 1, 2024. Students enthusiastically participated in drawing pictures of Fr. Moreau and a quiz on his life and legacy. These events helped students learn more about our founder, his contributions, and the Holy Cross Congregation.



International Yoga Day

On June 21, 2024, we commemorated the 10th International Yoga Day. The students of St. Jude's School, Nyapin,



enthusiastically participated in yoga exercises led by the teachers on the school campus.

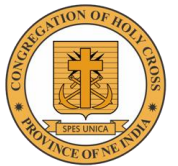
Parents' Meeting

As we began the academic session 2024-25, the School Management Committee (SMC) of St. Jude's School conducted a parent meeting on June 22,



2024. The meeting was well-attended by parents and was chaired by Shri. Tadar Dipu, an SMC member. The meeting commenced with a welcome note from Fr. Stephan Lohrii, CSC, followed by a report on the last academic year (2023-24) read by Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC. The attendees then discussed various agendas. It was a productive meeting where SMC members, teachers, and parents shared their views and concerns for the growth of the students and the institution.

- **Lawrence Wanniang, CSC**



HOLY CROSS PARISH, KOLORIANG

Holy Rosary Prayer and Marian Procession

Holy Cross Parish Koloriang organised a Holy Rosary Prayer for each family this year. The town was divided into five sectors, with prayers conducted daily in two or three houses within each sector. At the end of the month, we held a Marian Procession from the Helipad to Holy Cross Parish Koloriang. Despite the rainy weather, a large number of faithful participated. Following the procession, we celebrated a meaningful Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC.

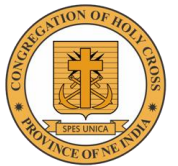


Sacred Heart Feast and Moreau Celebration

Koloriang Parish joined St. Andre's Parish Nyapin to commemorate the 150th death anniversary of our beloved founder, Blessed Basile Moreau. Eleven vehicles travelled from Koloriang to Nyapin, carrying 70 people, with two-thirds of the gathering from Koloriang. It was a joyful celebration. Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC, celebrated the Holy Eucharist, and Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC, delivered the sermon. We had a short felicitation program for the church leaders and well-wishers, followed by a meal. Although our journey was on a less-travelled road, we returned safely. The parish priest thanked all participants for their willingness to join and create lasting memories for the Holy Cross Fathers.



- **Prasanta Basumatary, CSC**



International Day of Yoga

Holy Cross School, Koloriang, celebrated the International Day of Yoga enthusiastically for the first time this year. The event began with a morning assembly introduction highlighting yoga's significance in promoting physical and mental well-being. Despite the inclement weather, a classroom was transformed into a serene yoga space with mats and soothing music. Selected students from Classes 2 to 5 participated in the sessions, showcasing their skills through various asanas and breathing exercises.



Teachers and students alike engaged in yoga sessions led by Mrs. Chate Roshni and Miss Bengia Ape, focusing on relaxation techniques and stress management. The atmosphere was vibrant as students demonstrated flexibility and balance, reflecting their dedication to yoga practice. Participants were encouraged to incorporate yoga into their daily routines. The event was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on all involved. The school remains committed to integrating yoga into its curriculum and extracurricular activities to foster its students' and staff's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Inspiring Minds, Embracing Legacy

Celebrating Blessed Basil Moreau Through Knowledge and Spirit



On Saturday, June 1, 2024, our school organised a quiz competition centred around Blessed Basile Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The event aimed to deepen students' knowledge of his life, teachings, and contributions to education and society. Five teams, each consisting of three members, competed in a series of rounds. The top-performing teams were recognised and awarded for their achievements.

The quiz competition successfully aimed to educate students about Blessed Basil Moreau's significant contributions to education and spirituality. It also served as a platform for students to actively engage with the school's mission and values rooted in Holy Cross traditions.

- **Stephen Malenu, CSC**



HOLY CROSS PARISH, CHAMPHAI

Youth Seminar—A Vibrant Gathering of Faith and Hope

From June 21 to 23, 2024, a three-day seminar for the parish youth was organised at St. Daniel Catholic Church in Vapar, the village of the late Fr. Daniel Munga, CSC. Around 65 youths from four substations enthusiastically participated. In addition to the youth, the gathering included sisters, brothers, catechists, fathers, diocesan youth leaders, and several village leaders, all contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of the event.

The seminar was graced by three esteemed resource persons: Dr. Melony, Fr. James Zodinlana, and catechist Joseph Thanga. The central theme of the



workshop, "Hope," aimed to inspire and guide the youth through three key objectives:

- ✚ Living with Christian values,
- ✚ Preparing the youth to become better instruments of the Church, embodying Christ's hands and feet, and
- ✚ Engaging in more meaningful activities within the Church.

The seminar provided an enriching experience for all attendees, fostering a more profound sense of community and commitment to their faith.

Jerome Chorei, CSC

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, KHAWZAWL

Birthday Celebration

On June 24, 2024, St. Joseph's School in Khawzawl celebrated the birthday of their Principal, Fr. John PKC, CSC, in a simple yet meaningful manner. Under the guidance of Sister and the teachers, the primary



students prepared a short and beautiful cultural program. This event provided an excellent opportunity for the students to showcase their talents and gifts.

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CHURCH, KHAWZAWL

From May 23 to 25, 2024, the Parish Pastoral Council of St. John The Apostle Church in Khawzawl organised a three-day seminar and leadership training program. Church leaders, including youth, women, and men from various villages within the



Khawzawl parish, participated in this event. The program featured Fr. Jerome Vungbiakdika, secretary of the Bishop of Aizawl Diocese, and Fr. James Lalruattluanga, Assistant Parish Priest of St. Thomas' Church Ramhlun, Aizawl, as resource persons. The leaders from different villages actively engaged in the sessions, hoping to apply the knowledge and skills gained to lead their church communities effectively.

- *Ishongkun Kurbah, CSC*



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

May 1st – International Labour Day

International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is celebrated annually on May 1. This day honours the contributions and struggles of workers and the working class. Its

origins trace back to the late 19th-century



labour movement, which fought for better working conditions, advocating for an eight-hour workday and fair wages. Our campus organised a festive meal for all workers to mark the occasion, celebrating their invaluable contributions.

continue to elevate our school's standards. After much thought and discussion, we broke ground on this important construction project in the presence



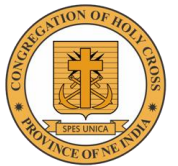
of all faculty members. May God bless all involved in this project, and may it be completed soon.

May 5th - Investiture Ceremony

Investiture ceremonies are pivotal events in schools, where students are entrusted with positions of authority and responsibility. This tradition shapes school culture and fosters a sense of belonging among students, teachers, and staff. We had the honour of welcoming Shri. Soumya Debbarma, SDPO – Panisagar, as our chief guest, who

May 3rd - Groundbreaking for Girls' Restroom Facilities

Good schools come from good students, and all students, especially girls, need adequate restroom facilities. It has long been a dream to provide more convenient restrooms for our female students as we




administered the oath of office to our new SPL, Sumedha Debnath, and ASPL, Malsawng Sangma,



along with other house captains and class leaders. He encouraged students to seize opportunities to become future leaders and advised them to avoid addictions to drugs and mobile phones, instead focusing on progressive societal contributions.

May 24- Holy Cross TBSE 100% Result

Hard work and dedication always yield excellent results. This year, all 83 students from class X who appeared for their final board exams passed with commendable results, bringing honour to Holy Cross School. It is a moment of joyful pride for both students and faculty members. The school management is grateful to God and our dedicated teachers whose efforts have borne fruit. Eleven students achieved distinction; twenty-five received



PANISAGAR HOLY CROSS SCHOOL





Moreau Nagar, P.O: Agnipasa, Dalubari, Panisagar North Tripura-799260

TBSE Madhyamik Result 2023-24

- TOTAL NUMBERS OF STUDENTS APPEARED : 83
- TOTAL NUMBERS OF STUDENTS PASSED : 83
- PERCENTAGE OF PASS : 100%
- DISTINCTION : 11
- 1ST DIVISION : 25
- 2ND DIVISION : 31
- 3RD DIVISION : 16

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS !

SCHOOL TOPPERS

1 st Prince Acharjee (88.8%)	
2 nd Imran Hussain (85.8%)	
2 nd Kallol Debnath (85.8%)	
3 rd Srabani Malakar (84.8%)	

first division, thirty-one secured second division, and sixteen passed with third division. Special congratulations to Prince Acharjee (88.8%), Shri. Imran Hussain and Kalal Debnath (85.8%), and Srabani Malakkar (84.8%). We wish them all the best for a bright future.

June 21st - Yoga Day

Yoga, a spiritual discipline based on subtle science, aims to harmonise mind and body. It is an art and



science of healthy living. In September 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed an annual Day of Yoga on June 21 during his UN address, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, holding special significance globally. Following this



proposal, the UN adopted the draft resolution titled "Day of Yoga" in 2014. Our students were reminded of the importance of this day, and a yoga session was held during the assembly. All students participated actively and enthusiastically.

- **Kanikkai Jeyaraj, CSC**



ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The Parish community celebrated Women's Day with 125 women participants from 16 villages. The day began with a Holy Eucharist by Fr. Lancy, CSC. In his homily, he praised the vital role of women in the family, society, and the Church, offering his best wishes and God's blessings upon them. He emphasised that women are the leaders who can build or destroy families and encouraged daily prayer for the sanctification of the family, insisting that "the family that prays together stays together."

During the animation program, Ms. Julianna Darlong from Kanchancherra spoke about families' current joys and challenges, urging women to adapt proactively to modern times. Sr. Vero MC highlighted the importance of family prayer. The enriching program concluded with the Parish Women's secretary thanking everyone for participating.



SINGLE WOMEN ANIMATION PROGRAM

St. Paul Parish Kumarghat hosted a single women's animation program for Ambasa and Kumarghat Deaneries, gathering 144 single women. The event was organised in collaboration with JUST. The organiser welcomed guests, resource persons, and participants from various parishes. The program aimed to organise single women and create a system to assist them with various government and NGO programs.

Mr. Paul Sangma, the first resource person, spoke about Christian leadership and how women have contributed to the growth of the Church, using numerous Bible quotations. Fr. Lathees Bosco, Director of JUST, and other staff members divided the group by parish to collect data required to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This was the first time JUST organised such a meeting, and the responses from single mothers were very positive. They wanted more future meetings to empower single women and mothers. The program concluded with the Holy Eucharist and a fellowship meal.



PARISH FEAST AND GREEN SUNDAY CELEBRATION



On June 30, St. Paul's Parish in Kumarghat celebrated its annual Parish Feast and Green Sunday. The celebration began with a warm welcome for Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, by the Parish priest and council members. Before the Holy Eucharist, Mr. Lala Darlong presented a brief history of the Catholic Church in Kumarghat.



The Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Bp. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, with several guest priests concelebrating. In his sermon, Bishop highlighted the significant role St. Paul played in his preaching ministry, particularly in evangelising the Gentiles. He also recounted the history of the Catholic Church in Tripura, acknowledging the efforts of early Catholic leaders and catechists who spread the message of Christ village by village. He urged everyone to become evangelizers and communicate their faith.



After the Holy Eucharist, the community participated in a Eucharistic procession, which was the day's highlight. Hundreds of Catholic faithful walked together in prayer and song, and many from the surrounding neighbourhood witnessed the event. The celebration continued with Green Sunday, where Bishop Monteiro and the Parish priest planted saplings. The day concluded with a fellowship meal, which all attendees thoroughly enjoyed.

- **Lancy Dsouza, CSC**



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." The Investiture Ceremony marks the start of the academic year's activities at Holy Cross School, Pabiacherra, Kumarghat. This year's ceremony, held on May 4, 2024, recognised and badged the leaders for the academic session 2024-25, who will lead all curricular and co-curricular activities with teamwork and commitment. The event was honoured by Mr. Kinkar Pal, Sub Inspector of Kumarghat Police Station, as the Chief Guest.

The ceremony began with a prayer dance by our young dancers, followed by a welcome address from Sir Bipradip. Our principal, Fr. Lourdu, highlighted the importance of the day and thanked the outgoing leaders. The Chief Guest's motivational address inspired students to succeed and develop as responsible members of society.

The Chief Guest, Headmistress, Principal, and Senior Teachers conducted the badging ceremony. The outgoing SPL, Mr. Anujit Debbarma, led the oath-taking ceremony, where all representatives pledged to uphold the institution's honour and glory. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem.



- **Ms. Jeneth Lalawmpuii Siakeng**

PEACE CLUB

The Peace Club aims to raise awareness and motivate students about the importance of peace and promote harmony in and around the school. For the 2024-25 academic session, new members from Classes VI to IX joined the Peace Club.



Nirjara Debnath was elected as Leader, and Denilson Debbarma as Assistant Leader. On May 6, 2024, a workshop for Peace Club members was held in the school auditorium. Mr. John Debbarma, the District Coordinator, was the keynote speaker. The topic was "Conflict Resolution Skills and Team Building." Students actively participated, learning about the causes of conflicts, prevention



strategies, and solutions. They also shared their insights and experiences during team training sessions. The animators: Miss Regina Darlong, Sir Joseph Marak, Sir Francis

- **Miss. Regina Darlong**

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNG NAGAR



STUDENTS' ORIENTATION

The school conducted a four-day orientation program for new students. Teachers and invited resource persons led introductory ice-breaking sessions, team-building exercises, and leadership activities, fostering unity among the students. Fr. Binoy John's presence was especially notable as he enlightened the students on the importance and qualities of leadership.



TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

On June 22, a workshop was held for teachers for the 2024 academic year. Dr. Tomina NS from Holy Cross College led the workshop, focusing on lesson planning and developing pedagogical teaching competencies. All teachers actively participated in the practical, hands-on sessions, enhancing their teaching skills.



INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

International Yoga Day was celebrated on June 21 at the school. Students and teachers participated in various yoga activities and demonstrations.



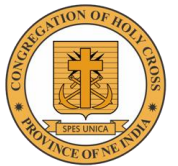
Students took the initiative to demonstrate several asanas and explain their benefits. The theme for Yoga Day was "Yoga for Self and Society." We extend our gratitude to all participants for their cooperation and demonstrations.



FRESHERS' DAY

On June 29, the school community welcomed newly admitted Class XI students. The students organised a colourful cultural program, and a Mr. and Ms. Freshers competition was held. Fr. Joe Paul, CSC, Vice Principal of Holy Cross College, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his short speech, he





emphasised the importance of forming good habits alongside academic excellence, stating, "Good habits lead to good health and better academic results." The celebration concluded with the announcement of Mr. and Ms. Freshers of the year. Congratulations to all participants!

- *Iswar Happa, CSC*

ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL AND HUMAN
ADVANCEMENT – ASHA

ASHA's Substance Abuse Awareness Program

ASHA recently organised a two-day awareness program on "FIGHT AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE" at Fatima School, Damdamia. The program aimed to



educate students about substance abuse, including its symptoms, causes, and consequences. Over 100 students from classes VII to X and 15 teachers actively participated. The attendees benefited greatly by asking relevant questions to understand better and combat this social issue. The event was supported by students from the BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) department of Holy Cross College, Agartala, who assisted in organising the program.

Sewing Machine Operator Training

The first batch of 27 trainees completed their sewing machine operator training within three

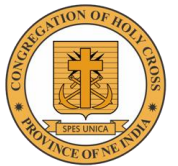


months. The training concluded with written and practical exams, supervised by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). This Skill Certification scheme aims to provide industry-relevant training to Indian youth, enhancing their employment prospects. The project, executed in collaboration with Madhevi Skill Academy, focused on college-going youth and women.

Quarterly Gathering and 10th Anniversary of SHG

In June 2024, a quarterly gathering and celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Self-Help Groups (SHGs)





were held. The event, organised by project coordinator Mr. Lingum Chadep and five cluster leaders, took place in various clusters, including Damin, Sarli, Parsi-Parlo, Sangaram, and Koloriang, covering 300 sq km and involving 600 to 750 Nyshi women. The meeting aimed to highlight the role of SHG women in society, poverty eradication, sustainable development, and financial stability through SHG activities. Additionally, SHGs underwent monthly monitoring and participated in two-day training sessions on documentation and bookkeeping in the Duski and Chakmaghat areas under the Holy Cross, Moharapara Mission. The training sessions were well-attended, with members eager to improve their SHGs' systematic functioning.

- Pappy Valan, CSC

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MOHARPARA

Annual Parish Sabha

Immaculate Conception Parish, Moharpara, held its annual Parish Sabha from June 14 to 16th, 2024, at the Parish Centre, under the theme "Be Rooted in the Living Word." The event began with a flag-hoisting ceremony and the lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome note from the Parish Secretary and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by Fr. Arbok. The evening featured a cultural



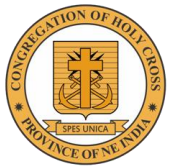
program where various mothas showcased their cultural richness and heritage.

On the second day, the event commenced with the Holy Eucharist, which was presided over by Fr. PJ Joseph SDB, the resource person for the event. An animated session on the theme was beautifully explained and elaborated by Fr. Joseph. In the afternoon, a question hour allowed participants to clarify their doubts on matters of faith. In the evening, the faithful warmly welcomed Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, with flowers and a welcome dance. This was followed by reports from the Parish Priest, Parish Secretary, various commissions, and different 'mothas', culminating in an address by Bishop Lumen.

The final day of the Parish Sabha featured a solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration led by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, alongside concelebrants Fr. Hormis John, CSC, Fr. Roby Menacherry, CSC, and Fr. Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC. The Holy Mass concluded with half an hour of praise and worship adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. As part of the Green Sunday initiative of the diocese, Bishop Lumen planted tree saplings in the presence of local church leaders and elders. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a meal shared by all participants.

Parish Level Marian Procession

Immaculate Conception Parish, Moharpara, organised a Parish Level Marian Procession on May 26, 2024, as part of the closing ceremony of Magnificat 2024, a month-long faith-filled event organised by the Holy Cross Family Ministry. The event began with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, the Provincial Administrator, Fr. Arbok, and Fr. Roby as concelebrants. On this Holy Trinity Sunday, Fr. Alfred explained the significance of the Holy Trinity,



highlighting the unity within the Trinity as a model for family unity. He urged participants to build holy and exemplary Catholic families and to live a good Christian life.

The faithful honoured Mother Mary with a Rosary Procession following the Holy Mass. Participants devoutly prayed the Rosary and sang hymns, praising and honouring the Mother of God as they



walked along with her statue. After the procession, a session on "Mother Mary as the Model of Christian Faith" was conducted. Fr. Alfred encouraged the faithful to incorporate daily Rosary prayers into their family routines, emphasising that prayer is essential for maintaining faithfulness to God, as exemplified by Mother Mary's life from the birth of Jesus to His death on the cross.



New Chapel Blessing

Divine Mercy Catholic Church in Twicholong, Moharpara Parish, celebrated the blessing of its new chapel on May 12, 2024. This long-awaited dream of the parishioners came to fruition through their hard work and dedication. The event began with a grand floral welcome for Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD. Fr. Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC, introduced and welcomed all attendees. Following the formalities, the new chapel was inaugurated by Fr. Hormis John, CSC, along with local church elders, and then solemnly blessed by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD.

After the blessing, the congregation gathered for the Holy Eucharist, presided over by the Bishop and concelebrated by Frs. Hormis, Roby, and Arbok. In his homily, the Bishop praised the faithful for their



dedication and encouraged them to attend Church regularly, emphasising unity and faithfulness to God. The celebration concluded with a short felicitation program and a meal shared by all.

- **Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC**



NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MOHARPARA

Investiture Ceremony

The school investiture ceremony was held on May 4, 2024, at Notre Dame Holy Cross High School, Moharpara. The event began with an opening speech by Fr. Roby V. Menacherry, CSC (Principal), who highlighted the significance of leadership and responsibility. The newly appointed House Leaders, Class Leaders, Student Pupil Leader and Assistant Student Pupil Leader were then sworn in.

Each student leader took an oath, pledging to uphold the school's values and serve their fellow students diligently in the presence of Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary (HCEF), who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Overall, the investiture ceremony was a solemn yet inspiring event, beginning a new chapter in the school's governance and student leadership.



Yoga Day

The celebration took place on June 21, 2024. It began with a warm welcome and an introduction to the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being.

Participants engaged in various yoga asanas and breathing exercises guided by experienced instructors. The session emphasised relaxation techniques and stress management through yoga practice.

Attendees expressed enthusiasm and enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere created by the yoga session. The event concluded with a closing meditation and a pledge to incorporate yoga into daily routines for better health.

- **Roby Menacherry, CSC**





HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Investiture Ceremony

On May 6, the school held its Investiture Ceremony for the new academic year 2024-25. This event is more than just symbolic; it reaffirms our confidence in our student leaders' abilities and qualities to guide our institution to tremendous success and excellence. By bestowing upon them the mantle of responsibility, we entrust them with the noble task of upholding the values and principles that define our school. Fr. Roby, CSC, Principal of Notre Dame Holy Cross School Moharpara, was the chief guest. He urged the leaders to contribute selflessly to the school's discipline, cleanliness, and conduct. SMC members, past pupils, parents, and well-wishers attended the function.



Nursery Inauguration

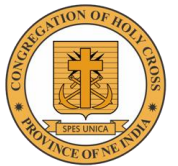
The school inaugurated the Holy Cross Nursery for the first time, marking a significant milestone in our journey of nurturing and shaping the future generation. Due to various local factors, the first batch consists of only seven students, but we are confident this is a promising beginning. The inauguration occurred in the presence of parents, SMC members, and teachers. There was great enthusiasm among teachers and parents for this much-awaited nursery opening.



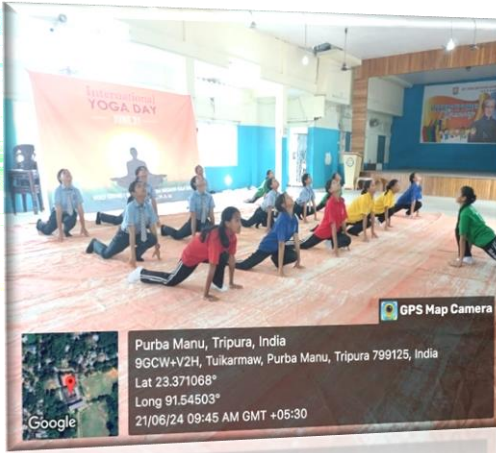
Visit of NCC Commandant Officer



Col. G. R. Sharma, Commandant Officer of the 71 NCC Girls Battalion, visited our school to interact with both boys and girls NCC cadets. He provided valuable suggestions for improving NCC facilities and encouraged preparing our students for various training camps nationwide. Plans are underway to provide obstacles and a firing range for our NCC students. His visit was fruitful, as he promised to assist our school in enhancing NCC facilities.



International Yoga Day



International Yoga Day, observed annually on June 21, raises awareness about the ancient practice and celebrates the physical and spiritual benefits yoga brings to the world.

Holy Cross School Tuikarmaw celebrated International Yoga Day on the school premises with great interest and excitement. The event heightened awareness of yoga's benefits in one's life. Students participated in various yoga demonstrations with enthusiasm and zeal, thanks to the efforts of NCC students and their animators.



- **Renju George, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA

Beginning of a New Chapter - Inauguration of Class XI-2024 and Felicitation of ISC and ICSE Rank Holders of 2023

Amidst celebration and festivity, the inauguration of the Class XI batch of 2024 and the felicitation of the rank holders of the ISC and ICSE batches of 2023 were held on June 26. It was a day where hope was reborn, dreams were reshaped, and a new journey unfolded.



The event commenced with a warm welcome speech by the Vice Principal, Fr. Agi Paul, who emphasised the importance of this transitional phase in the students' academic careers. This was followed by a cultural program that lifted the spirits of everyone present.

Our Chief Guest, Fr. George Jacob, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, delivered an inspiring speech encouraging students to make the most of their resources and guidance. The felicitation of all the ISC and

ICSE rank holders of 2023 followed, honouring those who achieved remarkable results in their board exams, including students who scored perfect marks in various subjects. It was a moment of immense pride and a testament to their hard work and dedication, cherished by all present.

The day concluded with an orientation session led by our Chief Guest, Fr. George Jacob.

- **Mandira Chakraborty**



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

Kindergarten Inauguration

In May 2024, the school campus buzzed excitedly as tiny tots entered for the first time. The new KG I and KG II students had their first day in the classroom, accompanied by their parents, teachers, headmistress, and principal. The school opened its doors to these young learners, marking the beginning of their educational journey. Parents attended an orientation program that covered the demands of the New Education Policy and student assessment criteria. Additionally, they received guidance on parenting skills to support their children's academic years at the school.



Investiture Ceremony

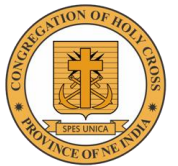
Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Kathalcherra, held its investiture ceremony on May 10, 2024, with Fr. C. Abraham, CSC, as the Chief Guest. Justin Ranglong from Class XII and Josephine Darlong from Class IX were appointed School Pupil Leader (SPL) and Assistant School Pupil Leader (ASPL), respectively. Captains and Vice Captains from various houses took an oath of secrecy, with the principal administering the oath of office to the council of leaders. The Chief Guest conferred sashes and badges to the leaders for the academic year 2024-25, which carries the motto "REST NOT, TILL I GIVE MY BEST." In his address, the Chief Guest spoke about the qualities and responsibilities of a leader, leaving a lasting impression on the students.



Remedial Classes

Recognising that difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations, the school assessed students based on their previous year's academic performance and re-examination outcomes. As a result, 150 students from Classes VIII to XII





received remedial classes during the first 15 days of their holidays (May 23-June 8). Both teachers and students found these classes highly beneficial.

Summer Holiday Project

To enhance learning and make holidays productive, all students were tasked with memorising multiplication tables and creating artwork. They brought their artwork on the first day back to school to decorate their classrooms. This class-wise decoration project resulted in vibrant, appealing classrooms that inspire learning.



Engaging Competitions

The school believes engagement is the engine of learning, so it organises competitions such as calligraphy, solo singing, class decorations, and house bulletin board contests. These activities keep students engaged, help prevent disciplinary issues, and foster a spirit of competition and camaraderie.



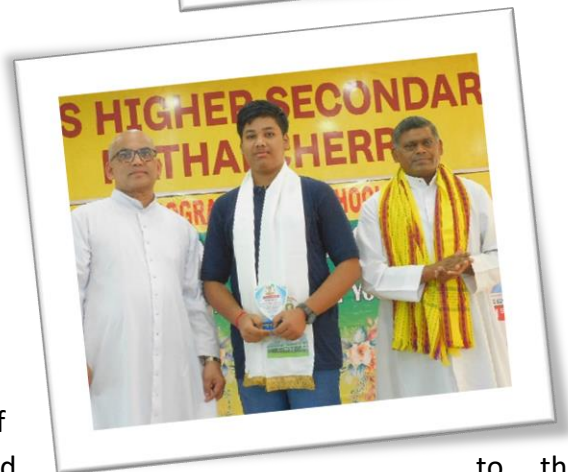
Visit of Fr. Alfred DSouza

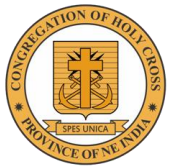
On June 25, Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, the province administrator, visited the school, adding joy to the community. He received a warm welcome during the assembly, with students expressing their excitement at his presence. The school choir performed a beautiful welcome song, and the principal honoured him with a traditional 'rishu' and a bouquet.



Felicitation Program for School Toppers

The school celebrated the achievements of its toppers on June 29, 2024, with a festive mood. Twenty-eight Madhyamik toppers and twenty-three higher secondary toppers were honoured in a special function. They received school 'rishas' and souvenirs. A short program recognised their achievements in the Madhyamik and Uchho-Madhyamik exams conducted by the Tripura Board of Secondary Examinations (TBSE). The toppers' parents were invited to the celebration, with many in attendance. The event included a cake-cutting ceremony by two distinction holders





from each section and congratulatory music. One guardian expressed gratitude for the school's role in their children's academic excellence. The program's chief guest was Fr. C. Abraham, with Fr. C.V. Jose as the guest of honor. After the felicitation, a social gathering took place involving school toppers, their families, class teachers, and staff.

- **Davis Konuran, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MAWKYNREW

NCC Cadets Excel at Annual Training Camp

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) provides students an invaluable opportunity to push their limits, expand their horizons, and develop essential qualities such as leadership, courage, character, and a spirit of adventure.



including drills, solo dances, solo singing, speeches, and debates. The cultural program was a highlight, with cadets showcasing their talents and enthusiasm.

On International Yoga Day, the students also actively participated in yoga sessions, further enriching their camp experience. The camp was a valuable opportunity, fostering leadership, courage, and a spirit of adventure among the students. Upon completing the training, all cadets were honoured with well-deserved certificates, recognising their hard work and commitment to a disciplined life.



- **Sharon Piuse, CSC**



GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH, JONGKSHA

Parish Youth Embrace Laudato Si'



In response to Pope Francis's invitation, the youth of Good Shepherd Parish in Jongksha have taken a commendable initiative to care for our planet. Each young person has planted a tree sapling in their village field or house garden. This act of environmental stewardship, undertaken in June 2024, has been warmly received by the parish community.

Approximately 700 saplings have been planted across various villages in our parish. To ensure the well-being of these plants, the youth have pledged to protect and nurture them. They will provide updates to the parish every two months by sending selfies with their growing saplings.

We are grateful for their dedication to caring for creation in such meaningful ways. God bless their efforts.

- Antony Jose, CSC

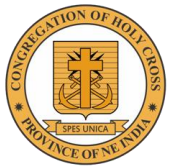
HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

What Goes Around Comes Around"

The adage "What goes around comes around" aptly describes the events of the evening of July 2, 2024, marking a significant milestone for Pine View Study House. On this memorable night, 23 new candidates from Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura joined together, creating a vibrant mosaic of cultures under the Latin motto "Spes Unica."



Our predecessors, Frs. Jowelson, Theo, and Aneesh, ensured a seamless transition, leaving no stone unturned. During the interim, Fr. Friny Peter and Regent Henry kept the momentum alive. We extend



our heartfelt gratitude to them. With the return of Frs. Clement and Shaiju, what had gone around has indeed come back around. We began the Sumer program together in 2010, and now we find ourselves reunited once again.

Inauguration of the Orientation Program

The program commenced with a solemn mass, presided over by Fr. K J Abraham, CSC, our

provincial. During the mass, candidates were presented with a cross and a handbook, symbolizing their valued place in the Holy Cross family. The ceremony was enriched with indigenous cultural dances from Meghalaya and Tripura, accompanied by tailored speeches from Frs. K J and Friny Peter.

Frs. Suresh, Theo, and John Valan also joined us, making a significant impact on both the candidates and our community.

- **Clement Amo, CSC**

ST. ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY, BODHJUNGAGAR

Annual Retreat

Candidates at St. Andre Minor Seminary (SAMS) had the privilege of commencing the new academic year with a yearly enriching retreat led by Fr. Aneesh Mathew, CSC, from May 29 to June 1. The retreat focused on God's call and our response to it. Throughout this period, candidates maintained a profound silence and demonstrated a serious commitment to renewing and rejuvenating their spiritual lives. They dedicated their time to prayer, reflection, and reading the Word of God. As part of the retreat, Fr. Aneesh and Fr. Kitbok heard the confessions of the candidates. A special highlight was the candlelight procession on May 31, marking the end of the Holy Rosary month, as the SAMS community honoured our Blessed Mother from the house to the Grotto.



Special Sessions

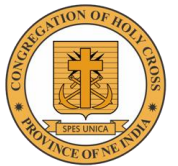
Following the retreat, candidates participated in two special sessions led by Fr. Aneesh and Fr. Pappy Valan. From June 3 to 6, Fr. Aneesh conducted



sessions on "Personal Happiness." From June 10 to 14, Fr. Pappy Valan led sessions focused on "Self-Discovery." The candidates enjoyed and appreciated these activities, contributing significantly to their learning and growth. The SAMS community extends its gratitude to both Fr. Aneesh and Fr. Pappy Valan for their insightful guidance.

Inauguration of the New Academic Year 2024-25

The inauguration of the new academic year 2024-25 took place on June 19, 2024. The program began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 6 pm,



short cultural program and felicitation ceremony were held to welcome the new provincial on his maiden visit and five new candidates from Sumer who recently joined the community. The event was graced by the presence of many Holy Cross fathers, sisters from various local communities, and SABS sisters from the parish. The SAMS community felt blessed and encouraged by their participation.

- **Bilingshar Syiemlieh, CSC**

presided over by Fr. K. J. Abraham CSC, Provincial Superior. Following the Holy Eucharist, a

SACRED HEART STUDY HOUSE, LEMBUCHERRA

Visit of Vicar General of the Congregation

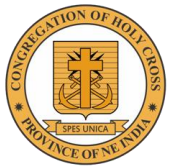
On May 19, 2024, Fr. Emmanuel, the Vicar General of the Congregation, along with Fr. K.O. Joseph, visited the Sacred Heart Study House. The day began with a holy Eucharist, celebrated by Fr. Emmanuel with Fr. K.O. Joseph, Fr. Kitbok, and Fr. Binoy as concelebrants. The community held a welcome gathering after the Mass featuring a welcome song. Fr. Kitbok, the director, introduced the guests to the candidates and praised their



significant contributions to the province. The celebration concluded with the candidates introducing themselves to the fathers and breakfast.

Birthday of Fr. Binoy John, CSC

The Sacred Heart community joyfully celebrated the birthday of Fr. Binoy John, CSC, on May 22, 2024. The evening festivities began with a holy Eucharist by Fr. Binoy, with Fr. K.J. Abraham, provincial superior of the NE province, Fr. Kitbok, the director, and other fathers of the province concelebrating. The celebration was made even more meaningful by the presence of five scholastics from Pune who renewed their religious vows. After the Mass, the community continued the celebration with a cultural program where the candidates honoured Fr. Binoy with dances, songs, and instrumental performances. The birthday wishing ceremony was a highlight, emphasising the day's significance. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal.



Words of Gratitude to Fr. Simon Fernandis

The Sacred Heart Study House community expressed deep admiration and respect for Fr. Simon Fernandis, who served as the provincial for the past six years and made significant contributions to the community's well-being. As a token of

gratitude, the community was privileged to have him officiate the Mass. We prayed for him and wished him luck in his new endeavours.



- **Kitbok Khongrymmay, CSC**

8th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The 8th Provincial Chapter of the Province of Northeast India commenced on May 14 at the Holy Cross Provincial House in Agartala, with the theme "Alive in the Spirit, for the Works of Resurrection." Forty-four delegates and seven observers attended the event, moderated by Fr. Gaspar Selvaraj, CSC, Provincial of the Tamil Nadu Province. Distinguished attendees included Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Bishop of Agartala, and Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, Bishop of Aizawl. The chapter began with a Eucharistic celebration led by Bishop Lumen Monteiro.



Keynote addresses followed, with Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, the Vicar, urging delegates to stay vibrant in the spirit for the works of resurrection as envisioned by the founder. Bro. Bertrand Nee, CSC, the 4th General Assistant, emphasised the chapter as a period of renewal and grace. Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, the Provincial, presented a report on the state of the province, which was followed by presentations from the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, the Association for Social Human Advancement (ASHA), the Holy Cross Family Ministry, the Moreau Institute of Integral Training, and the Financial Administrator.



and



Over the next few days, delegates deliberated on the chapter's working document, sharing their insights and perspectives. The chapter concluded on the evening of May 18. During the final session, observers shared their positive experiences, commending the chapter's spirit, quality, and professional organisation. Fr. Simon Fernandis expressed deep gratitude for everyone's contributions to the chapter's success and ceremoniously



passed a lighted lamp to Fr. Abraham K. J., symbolising the transfer of leadership. The closing Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Abraham K. J., during which he was installed as the provincial by General Assistants Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal and Bro. Bertrand Nee.

At the subsequent felicitation program, members of the province thanked Fr. Simon and his council for their six years of leadership and congratulated Fr. Abraham and his council, offering their prayerful support. The entire chapter facilitated interactive sessions, allowing capitulants to share their visions for the province and enjoy fellowship.





CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF BL. BASILE MOREAU

150th Anniversary Concludes with Grand Ceremonies Across Northeast India

The 150th Anniversary of the founder of the congregation of Holy Cross, Bl. Basile Moreau's entry into eternal life culminated in grand celebrations across Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya. These events, held throughout June, honoured Bl. Moreau's legacy and reinforced the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross.



TRIPURA

On June 7, 2024, the concluding celebration in Agartala drew a crowd of around 500 participants, including priests and religious members. The



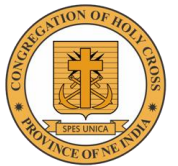
principal celebrant of the Eucharist was Most Rev. Joachim Walder, Auxiliary Bishop of Aizawl, who led the concelebration with 45 priests. The solemn Mass paid tribute to the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, reflecting his enduring influence and spiritual legacy.

A highlight of the program was a presentation by the candidates from the Sacred Heart Study House and St. Andre Minor Seminary showcasing Bl. Basile Moreau's inspiring journey and contributions. Four dedicated catechists were conferred the Spirit of Holy Cross Award for their exceptional service in spreading the Gospel. Additionally, a collection of articles on Bl. Moreau's life and legacy were released, offering a comprehensive look at his significant impact on the Church and the community.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

On the same day, the Arunachal region commemorated the Anniversary at St. Andre Parish, Nyapin. Participants included fathers, sisters, teachers, catechists, church leaders, youth, and students from various parishes. The day began with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC, the regional coordinator of the Arunachal Region. Cultural programs and quiz competitions on Fr. Moreau followed, with students from Nyapin and Koloriang participating enthusiastically. Prizes were awarded





to winners in recognition of their knowledge and efforts.

Catechists, church leaders, and youth leaders were honoured with commemorative cups featuring Fr. Moreau's image as a token of gratitude for their dedicated service to the Church. The celebration concluded with a meal, bringing together all participants in unity and joy.

MEGHALAYA

In Meghalaya, two programs marked the conclusion of the Anniversary. The first event, on June 22 in Brookdene, included a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh of Shillong. The celebration was attended by 200 friends, well-wishers, religious, clergy, and family members of many confreres from Meghalaya. The archbishop eloquently spoke about Bl. Moreau's spiritual legacy, urging everyone to continue living and proclaiming his heritage.

The second celebration at Holy Cross Parish Mawkyntew, held from June 28 to 30th, was more elaborate. It saw participation from 200 delegates from various parishes. The program included animation sessions on the history of the Congregation, Bl. Moreau's life, spiritual heritage, and the mission of Holy Cross in Northeast India. A



special Mass for the delegates was celebrated on June 29, presided over by the Archbishop of Shillong. The presence of Provincial Fr. Abraham K.J. added to the joy of the celebration. He presented the Spirit of Holy Cross Award to eight collaborators who had contributed immensely to the work of Holy Cross.

Despite inclement weather, Bl. Moreau's spirit was vibrant throughout the celebrations. The dedication and sacrifices of the regional confreres, particularly Frs. John Valan, Sharon in Mawkyntew, and Fr. Antony, the program coordinator, were commendable.



These celebrations, which concluded a year-long series of activities within the province, focused on spiritual renewal among its members and educating collaborators and well-wishers about Bl. Moreau's life and work. They not only honoured Bl. Moreau's memory also reinvigorated the spirit and mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross, inspiring all who participated to continue his legacy with renewed faith and dedication.

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