

Waves

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Provincial Speaks

Dear Confreres and Readers,



We have every reason to be grateful to God for our safety and security. What happened in Manipur has perturbed us a lot, and our sisters and brothers are still struggling to cope with the inhuman conditions at their relief camps. We have done what we could with our act of charity and prayer. I am glad that the North-eastern Church at large, in its filial love, has generously reached out to them in their suffering. Let us consciously continue to keep them in our spirit and prayer.

Every new issue of WAVES becomes bigger, running into pages. The Waves in articles and news items are swelling. Surely, every Holy Cross unit in our province has a right to be heard, and unless you speak, you cannot be heard. Thank you, Confreres.

Once again, September 15 is around the corner, reminding us of our Patroness, whose feast we celebrate as our congregational feast. We joyfully honour our Patroness, Bl. Virgin Mary, under the title: *Our Lady of Sorrows*. This feast day honours the Virgin Mary as the mother who shared the suffering and death of her Son, Jesus, on the Cross. The Congregation of Holy Cross looks to Mary as a model of faith, hope, and love amid trials and tribulations.

Our Founder Bld. Basil Moreau chose Our Lady of Sorrows as the Patroness because he wanted his religious family to imitate her virtues and unite with her in the work of redemption. In our Constitutions we read: ***"There stood by the Cross of Jesus his mother Mary, who knew grief and was a Lady of Sorrows. She is our special Patroness, a woman who bore much she could not understand and who stood fast. To her many sons and daughters, whose devotions ought to bring them often to her side, she tells much of this daily Cross and its daily hope."*** (C 8, 120) Let us then decisively celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows with prayer and liturgy, as well as with joy and gratitude for her maternal care and intercession. By venerating Our Lady of Sorrows, we affirm our trust in God's Providence and its commitment to serve God's people with compassion and courage.

Fraternally yours in Holy Cross,

Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC
Provincial Superior

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EDITORIAL

Our Lady of Sorrows:

A Model of Strength and Hope in Times of Trial

Dear Readers,

There stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother, Mary, who knew grief and was a Lady of Sorrows. She is our special patroness, a woman who bore much She could not understand and who stood fast. To Her many sons and daughters, whose devotions ought to bring them often to Her side, She tells much of this daily cross and its daily hope. (const.8:120)



The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows celebrated on the 15th of September, is the biggest feast day for the Congregation of Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters worldwide. Bl. Basil Moreau, the founder of the congregation, gave Our Lady of Sorrows as the patroness for us all.



Today's world faces many challenges and difficulties, such as natural disasters, wars, poverty, injustice, and violence. Many people suffer from physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual pain. How can we cope with these hardships and find meaning and purpose in our lives?



One way is to look at the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus, also known as Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary experienced many sorrows in her life, especially as she witnessed the passion and death

of her Son. She shared in his sufferings and offered them to God for the world's salvation. Mary did not lose faith or hope but trusted God's plan and providence. She also received comfort and support from her Son and the beloved disciple John, who stood by her at the foot of the cross.



Mary's sorrows are historical events and spiritual realities that can help us grow in our relationship with God and others. These sorrows can help us reflect on our own and those of others. They can inspire us to imitate Mary's virtues and attitudes during the trial. Some of these are:

Faith: Mary believed in God's promises and obeyed his will, even when she did not understand everything (Luke 1:38).



Hope: Mary trusted God's power and goodness, even when everything seemed hopeless (Luke 1:46-55).

Love: Mary loved God with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength and loved her neighbour as herself (Luke 10:27).

Compassion: Mary felt with others in their pain and misery and reached out to them with kindness and mercy (Luke 1:39-45).

Courage: Mary faced her fears and dangers with strength and confidence and did not give up or run away (Matthew 2:13-15).

Patience: Mary endured her sufferings with perseverance and endurance and did not complain or rebel (John 19:25-30).



Humility: Mary accepted her lowliness and limitations and did not seek glory or praise for herself (Luke 1:48).

By meditating on these sorrows and virtues of Mary, we can learn to cope with our own struggles and to help others in theirs. We can also draw closer to Jesus, the source of our strength and hope. He invites us to unite our sorrows with his so we may share in his joy and glory. He also gives us his Spirit, who comforts us in our afflictions and intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express (Romans 8:26).

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

George Jacob, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, BAGBASSA

Independence Day Celebration

Along with our entire nation, Holy Cross School, Bagbassa celebrated the Independence Day of our motherland with great pomp and joy. The chief guest of the day, Shri. Nawin Kumar Nirala, Asst. Commandant CRPF hoisted the national flag and gave an inspiring speech inviting the



students to study hard and grow in patriotism. During the celebration, the students performed



beautiful patriotic dances and Almaine Ranglong of KG II and Kallol Das of class X gave speeches highlighting the day's importance. The presence of Shri. Rajdeep Singh of CRPF; Fr. Joep Paul, CSC, vice principal and administrator of Holy Cross College, Agartala; Fr. Tarun Hrangkhawl, CSC, secretary of the school; and Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, principal of the school added joy to the celebration. Prior to this day, the school organised patriotic singing and dance competitions. Students participated in these with great enthusiasm. Congratulations to all the winners.

Health Camp

Uptakhali Primary Health Centre, in collaboration with the National Rural Health Mission, organised a medical camp in our school on August 24. TT Vaccines were given to the students as part of this camp.



Ajith Philip, CSC

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Tourism Club

The Tourism Club of the school undertook various activities, including a plantation drive. On August 18, the club members observed *Sadbhavana Divas* on the birthday of late Prime





Minister Shri. Rajiv Gandhi. The Sadbhavana Diwas pledge was taken by all the members.

Inter-House Football

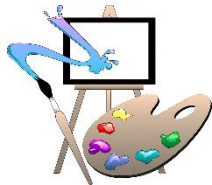
The sports committee organised the inter-house football competition under the initiative and leadership of class XII students, and all four houses



took part in it. The football match brought togetherness and fraternity among the students.

Drawing Competition

The art-integrated drawing competitions were conducted, and the paintings were exhibited to the students. The best paintings were sent for the competition the Department of Education, Tripura organised.



Independence Day

On the occasion of Independence Day, a patriotic songs competition was conducted among the



students to inculcate patriotism and love for the country. The school band group participated in the Sub Divisional level Independence Day programme, and our cultural dance group enthralled the audience with their beautiful steps.



Book Exhibition

We also had a book exhibition & sale initiated by Pauline Books and Media Centre Shillong. It was a new



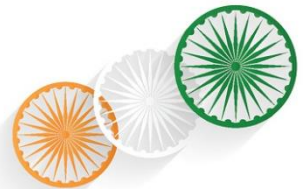
experience for the students. Many students purchased books with stories and morals.

- Iswar Happa, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL AGARTALA

A Unique Independence Day Celebration

Emotions of patriotism, the spirit of one India, and creativity at its height marked the 2023 Independence Day celebration at Holy Cross School Agartala.



The school began the celebrations and Inter-House competitions on August 01, 2023. There was Rangoli, Face-painting, Character Dramatization,



Poster Making, and Extempore Speech, to name a few. The paintings of many brave freedom fighters and our national symbols were displayed around the school. The school campus was decorated with flowers, flags, and posters, further building the tempo. There was patriotism to be seen galore in every contender.



The culmination of their allegiance to their country was the celebrations on the eve of Independence Day by the Morning Shift and August 15 by the noon shift. The festivities began with paying homage to the national heroes and hoisting the National Flag. The talented students coached and choreographed by the faculty displayed a quality-ensured cultural extravaganza.



A unique feature of the celebration was the tableau. The morning shift students had it in the school campus while the pageant of the noon shift left the

school in what seemed like a never-ending train



down the long stretch from Durjoynagar to Fire Brigade Chowmuhani. Since there were tributes to our brave warriors, India's contribution to G 20, the future of AI, etc., could Chandrayan be far behind? True to their characters, the children remained silent actors portraying the essence of patriotism through their roles. The colourfully decorated trucks and the marching steps were a feast for the eyes. The emotions created in the air were such that some spectators experienced goosebumps



while others had tears of joy. They returned edified that they had done their part in carrying on the traditions set by our ancestors to reiterate the ideas of patriotism, benevolence, and belief in our abilities to build a better tomorrow.

Another attraction of this year was the display of India's achievements by the morning shift. Seeing the little ones in G 20 leaders' costumes was a



delight. The best of all was the launch of Chandrayan 3. The audience was wonderstruck, and there was an



unanticipated emotional outpouring of applause as Chandrayan 3 took off from the ground.

The speakers on the occasion, Shri. Abhishek Chanda, Chandra IAS, Special Secretary of Planning, Shri Biswajit Gupta, former SCERT Director and former Principal of Ram Thakur College, Fr Simon Fernandis, and Fr George Jacob appreciated the students' talents while praising the precision and careful planning and execution of the day's



program. In their message, they called the gathering to work towards making India a progressive nation, opening the horizons of diversities.

It was a day of pride, love and respect spent fruitfully for our beloved nation. God bless our country and the Holy Cross.

- *Jilson Tom, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

Orientation Programme for Class XI students

On July 04, 2023, the school organised an orientation programme for Class XI students. This



academic year, we have 105 students in class XI. Different modules dealing with student life besides soft skills were dealt with. Fr. Davis Konuran, CSC, was the resource person of the day. Students appreciated the school administration's effort to shape and mould them into socially useful and productive citizens of India.

Foundation Day of Bethany Sisters

On the 102nd Foundation Day of the Congregation of the sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany (Bethany Sisters), a felicitation programme was held on July 14, 2023, at the school. We expressed love and appreciation for the three Bethany sisters working in the school. They were greeted affectionately,



and a short cultural programme was organised in honour of



them. The day ended with a refreshment given by the sisters to all the school staff.

Celebration of the 77th Independence Day

Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Kathalcherra, celebrated the 77th Independence Day with pomp and gaiety on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. A grand programme was organised to commemorate the day, which included Flag hoisting, March Past, Mass Drill, patriotic song competition among the houses, and patriotic dance. Fr. Davis Konuran, the school's principal, was the day's Chief Guest. In his address to the school community, he gave a clarion call to introspect whether we are enjoying true freedom now that the freedom fighters have visualised.



Peace Club Activities

The Peace Club members organised a drug abuse seminar on July 06, 2023. They also organised a cleaning drive on August 12, 2023, given the 77th Independence Day. Two animators and six students participated in the state-level



programme organised by JUST in Agartala on August 18, 2023. Different competitions were held on that day. Our school won first prize in the group song.

Inter-School Peace Club Football Meet

Jana Unnayan Samity Tripura (JUST) organised an inter-school football (boys) and throw ball (girls) meet for the north zone. It was held on August 19, 2023. Three schools – Holy Cross School,



Kumarghat, Holy Child School, 82 miles, and Holy Cross Hr. Secondary School, Kathalcherra, took part in it. Our school won first prize in both events. The best player of the match was awarded to one of the players from our school.

S.M. Cup School Football Tournament

In the state level S.M. Cup football tournament under 17 boy's categories, held in Kailasahar between August 05-06, 2023, Holy Cross Hr. secondary School, Kathalcherra, represented the Dhalai District as they were the champions of the district. Congratulations to the team, Mr. Paul Darlong and Mr. James Darlong, the coach and manager, respectively, from the school.

- Davis Konuran, CSC



ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

Feast Day Celebration

July 02, 2023, was a beautiful day at St. Paul Parish, Kumarghat, where the annual feast was celebrated with grace and devotion. Around 600 parishioners



from all 15 *mondolies* of the parish thronged the parish campus to participate in the annual festival along with several priests and sisters from the neighbouring parishes. The newly consecrated auxiliary bishop of Aizawl diocese, Most Rev. Joachim Walder, celebrated the feast day mass and carried the Blessed Sacrament on a beautifully decorated vehicle around the Kumarghat area. Hundreds of faithful participated in the Eucharistic procession, praying and singing despite the mid-day heat.



After the Holy Eucharist, as part of the Green Sunday initiative of the Diocese of Agartala, bishop Joachim

and Fr. Lancy, the Parish priest, symbolically planted the samplings and distributed them to the various *Mondolies*. To conclude the day, a fellowship meal was served to all the faithful.

- *Santan Nago, FS*

Mother's Day Celebration

Mother's Day was organised on August 20 by the Maria Sangha of the parish, with 110 women enthusiastically participating in it. The Eucharistic celebration began with a procession from the grotto, and it was presided over by Fr. Lancy, the parish priest. Mrs. Shefali Darlong gave a beautiful introduction highlighting the importance of the day. The input session that followed the mass saw Fr. Lancy as the resource person who spoke on the



important role of a mother in the family using various methods. Mrs. Agnes Darlong, another speaker, shared with the participants her own experience as a mother and invited everyone to be faith-filled mothers in the family like Mother Mary. The day ended with Sr. Vero Anthony, MC, thanking everyone for making this day special and a sumptuous lunch.

- *Ignatius Mary, FS*

Couples' Day

St Paul's Parish, Kumarghat, celebrated August 06, 2023, as Couples' Day. It was a beautiful day for the 80 couples from all the *mondolies* of Kumarghat parish, who gathered with their little children.



There were also a few singles whose spouses could not attend the programme, away from their homes for services elsewhere.



Before the Holy Mass, Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, the administrator of the Holy Cross Province of Northeast, gave a lively talk. Fr. Alfred highlighted the Christian values of a family with suitable quotes and interesting examples. During the Holy Eucharist, the couples renewed their commitment to each other and received special blessings for their families. After the Mass, Fr Lancy D'Souza, the Parish Priest, thanked the couples for their active participation in the event and distributed snacks to everyone. It was a memorable day for the couples as they felt strengthened and energised in their family bonds.

- **Santan Nago, FS**

Ecumenical Peace Rally

A silent peace rally was organised by Kumarghat Parish on August 03 2023 at Kanchancherra village. People from Kathalcherra parish, Baptist, and EFCI churches also joined the Rally. About 300 hundred people walked along National Highway 44 carrying lighted candles and placards with messages of peace, harmony, and justice in Manipur. The Dean of Kumarghat Deanery, Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC, urged the gathered to continue praying for peace in Manipur. Mr. Lala Darlong highlighted the situation in Manipur. He added that as Indians, the

constitution guarantees every citizen constitutional rights, and we must show solidarity to our wounded



brethren. Fr. Lancy then thanked all the participants and thanked the Police administration for rendering their support.

- **Roitua Darlong**

Youth Seminar

The parish organised a youth seminar on the "Youth and the Eucharist" theme on June 18, 2023. 190 youth from the parish participated and benefited from this seminar. The day began with a special Holy Eucharist organised especially for the youth. Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC, then conducted a session on



the Holy Eucharist and the youth, wherein he spoke on the importance of the Holy Eucharist in the life of a Catholic. Other resource people of the day were Sr. Vero Antony and Mr. Paul Sangma, who spoke on Youth Leadership, Youth and Prayer. Towards the



end of the day, an action plan was drawn up, and the youth wholeheartedly agreed to execute them in their respective villages.

- Francis Darlong

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

The G20 State Level NEP Conference and Life Skill Summit held at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Agartala, on July 26, 2023, was an enriching and transformative



event. We, Tapan Ghosh  (PRO) and Rintu Das, asst. teacher, represented Holy Cross School, Kumarghat. The summit addressed crucial aspects of 21st-century schooling, life skills, youth empowerment, and leadership development. The conference witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including 1) Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Director CBSE, New Delhi; 2) Swami Atmapriyanandji Maharaj, Pro-chancellor, RKMVERI, Belur Math, West Bengal; 3) Smt. Nidhi Chhibber, IAS, Chairperson, CBSE, New Delhi, 4) Smt. Chandni Chandran, IAS, Director, School Education Department, Government of Tripura, 5) Ms. Sonal Kalra, Author and Chief Managing Editor - Hindustan Times City Editions.

The esteemed speakers addressed the gathering on key topics related to life skills and well-being, wellness in 21st-century schooling, aspirational skill development for youth empowerment, and transformational leadership for school leaders.

The keynote speakers shed light on the significance of nurturing life skills among students to help them navigate challenges effectively and foster overall well-being. They emphasised that life skills are

essential in preparing students for the complexities of the modern world and ensuring their holistic development. Furthermore, the conference highlighted the need for wellness in educational institutions, underscoring the importance of incorporating practices that promote physical, mental, and emotional health within the school system. Another crucial aspect discussed during the summit was transformational leadership for school leaders. The speakers underscored the significance of visionary leadership in shaping educational institutions and inspiring teachers and students to achieve excellence.

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in interactive sessions, workshops, and panel discussions, fostering an atmosphere of



collaboration and knowledge sharing. The summit provided educators, policymakers, and stakeholders a platform to exchange ideas and best practices for educational improvement.

In conclusion, the G20 State Level NEP Conference and Life Skill Summit was a resounding success. The event's focus on life skills, well-being, youth empowerment, and transformational leadership exemplified the commitment towards shaping a progressive and inclusive education system. Participants left the summit with renewed enthusiasm and a determination to implement the



insights gained to pave the way for a brighter future in education.

- Sahaya Lourdu

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

Tree Plantation Day

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others," says Martin Luther King Jr. In answer to this pertinent question, the school organised tree plantation day on July 14 to bring understanding and awareness to the minds of students about the importance of a healthy environment. The presence of Shri. Subhas Acharya SDM, Shri. Pradip Kumar, SDWO and Tapan Ghosh, Range Officer, were an encouragement to each of us. The dignitaries, along with students, planted many trees on the campus.



Chess Competition

Students organising programmes for students is another way of building up leadership quality. The students of class X organised a Chess Competition on July 22. Rajat of class X, belonging to the yellow house and Debojit of class VIII, belonging to the red house, became the champions. It was very interesting to know the participants' curiosity, and



this competition has inspired many other onlookers to learn this ancient game of our nation.

Drawing competition

Drawing is one of the earliest forms of expression of art and culture. Students of the present time are multitalented, and we give opportunities for them to shine in every field. On the invitation from the Department of Education, we organised a calendar drawing competition on July 24 for the students of class VI to IX on national patriotic themes like – Dandi March/ Rani Laxmibai in battle/Quit India Movement/1857 Revolt. Nearly forty students participated, and the best three pictures were sent to the department.



Essay Writing Competition

Writing activates the neurons in our brain and helps young minds to be productive. So, as per the



directive of the Board of Education, we conducted an essay writing competition on July 25 on the topic 'Role of student in Indian Independence movement' / 'Impact of art and culture'.

Health Education for Girls

Awareness brings much-desired changes if properly addressed in time. A renowned local lady doctor, Mrs. Padmaja, had graciously agreed to address our



female students of Class VI to X on Personal Hygiene, Relationships, Good touch, and Bad touch. It was an educative and informative session for girls, and such interactions and information will help female students in the school and their families to be very cautious and focused. All the girls participated actively and gained much knowledge and experience.

- Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Independence Day Celebration

The School had a wonderful celebration of the 77th Independence Day on August 15. The national flag was hoisted by Chief Guest Shri. Julian Darlong, Circle Inspector, Santirbazar, in the presence of students, staff, and SMC members. He addressed

the students to be proud of our country, its freedom



fighters, and the value of freedom. The day was celebrated meaningfully with a march past, patriotic dance, songs, and fancy dress depicting the national leaders and freedom fighters. The celebration was well appreciated by all. Fr. Renju thanked all the participants and teachers for their great efforts for the celebration's success.

NCC Contingent rocks again

The NCC contingent of Boys and Girls participated in the march past during the Independence Day celebration held at the Sub Divisional level in Santirbazar. Like previous years, this year, too, they did well. NCC girls received first prize, and boys bagged second prize. Congratulations to both participants and NCC animators.

Parent-Teacher Meeting

Parent-teacher meeting was held on June 24 and July 01 in the school Hall. Each of the sessions was attended by more than 300 Parents. The important areas discussed during the





meeting were discipline and academics. There was an awareness programme on the use of drugs for the parents as well. Thanks to the initiative of ASHA Holy Cross and Fr. Thomas John, CSC. The meeting and session lasted more than three hours. Parents appreciated the school management for taking the initiative to organise the meeting and awareness programme.

International Children Painting Competition

Kerala Tourism's initiative offers a perfect opportunity for children worldwide to display their incredible artistic skills while discovering the captivating beauty of Kerala's destinations. A total of 182 students participated in the competition, which was conducted online. Thanks to all the participants for their great work.

Awareness Programme – Say NO TO PLASTIC

The NCC students organised an Awareness programme on 'SAY NO TO PLASTIC' on August 29 at



the market area, Manu Bazar. The programme participated in by 80 students, included a rally and a street play. The day's activities have brought a fresh understanding and awareness to keep the surroundings clean and tidy. As a result, we hope to

see an improvement in the school's cleanliness in the coming days.

- *Renju George, CSC*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH MOHARPARA

Women's Seminar

The women of Immaculate Conception Parish gathered for a day seminar in St. Mary's Church, Tuicholong. The prayer team from Nandannagar Parish, led by Stephen Debbarma, animated the workshop, which began with a Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Arbok, CSC. The seminar focused on the Word of God, the Holy Rosary, and



the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The resource person also spoke about the leadership role of women in the church and the need for women to assume responsibility in the church to bring about a Synodal Church where everybody walks side by side. The session ended with a Q&A session and a common meal.

Marriage Preparation

The parish conducted a marriage preparation for three days from the 10th to the 12th of August at the Parish centre. 18 participants from different sub-



centres of the parish took part in the event. The resource persons were Fr. Ivan D Silva, SVD, Mr.



Ashim Uchoi, and Catechist Aghore Debbarma. The participants were made to understand the sacredness of marriage, lifelong commitment, the importance of family prayer, and social media's impact on the family. In the end, the participants were given a chance to clear up their doubts and share what they understood. The program concluded with a common meal served for all.

Seminar for Families

A one-day symposium for families was conducted on August 20 at St. John's Church Debthang. Around 100 families from different sub-centres of the parish took part in the event. The program commenced with the Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Arbok, the



Parish Priest. During the holy Eucharist, special prayers for

families were offered, and an act of consecration of

families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was conducted. After the holy mass, a meaningful session on family prayer was animated by Mr. Manoranjan Debbarma and Binod Debbarma. They both stressed the famous saying of Venerable Fr. Patrick Payton, CSC, "The family that prays together stays together." The participants shared with one another their own experiences.

- Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC

NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MOHARPARA

KAIZEN FEST 2.0

Notre Dame Holy Cross High School, Moharpara, successfully organised its 2nd edition of Kaizen Fest with the theme: "One Earth, One Home" on the 15th and 16th of



August. Olive Hill Holy Cross School, Twithampui and Holy Cross School, Twichakma, also participated in the fest. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary of HCEF, Fr. Ishwar Happa, CSC, and Fr. Renju George, CSC, graced the occasion on the second day. The fest aimed to give the students a platform to show their





inner talents and boost their confidence for any challenges in life. The event was well appreciated by the participating schools for providing such a platform and allowing the students to compete positively.



Mr. James WC, who acted in remarkable movies like URI- The Surgical Strike,

Adipurush, and Tanhaji, along Miss. Biva Jamatia, a local celebrity and a social influencer, also graced the fest and gave a memorable experience for all. Their presence added vibrant colour and fragrance to the fest.

The fest was a total blast, coupled with valuable learning experiences. Special thanks go to Fr. Roby V. Menacherry, CSC, Sr. Pratima Jojo, SSpS, Mr. Martin Kaipeng, Mr. Surendra Debbarma, Mr. Micheal Jamatia, Miss Lalramngai Hrangkhawl and Mrs. Asha Jamatia.

- **Roby Menacherry, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MAWKYNREW

Result Day and Parents' Meeting

The result day and parents' meeting was held on July 14. It was a day when students got awards for their excellent performance during the half-yearly exams in the presence of their parents. Fr. John Valan, CSC, the school secretary,



was the chief guest, and he gave away the prizes to the students.

After the short programme, parents and teachers met in the presence of our principal, Fr. Sharon Piuse, CSC. Around 285



parents attended this meeting wherein we discussed how to motivate the students, the overall development of a child, the problems they face and the improvement of the academic environment in the school. The secretary reminded everyone that "the improvement of the students comes only when there is a mutual understanding and cooperation among parents and teachers".

- **Rikmen**

We Won a Prize

August 29 was a great day for us as we received awards and a cash prize for winning the medals at the Muaythai National Championship. One student received a cash prize of Rs. 45,000/- as first prize, three students received Rs. 30,000/- each as second prize and two students received Rs. 18,750/- each as third prize and three of us were selected to attend the championship in





Turkey. Maintaining our health and staying fit is what we learn from Muaythai martial arts. We are grateful to Holy Cross School, Mawkyntaw, for allowing us to be part of this team.

- *Evakordor, CSC*

HOLY CROSS PARISH, MAWPAT

Feast of the Assumption

Feast of Assumption, Independence Day, and Mothers' Day, a three-in-one celebration on August 15, attracted many faithful for the days' liturgy and cultural extravaganza. People from different villages gathered for the celebration. The liturgy, cultural programme and talks were focused on the role of Bl. Virgin Mary in the Holy family of Nazareth. All the mothers were honoured during the programme.



Family Seminar



The Parish Family Cell Team organised a two-day seminar at Mawpat on the 19th and 20th of August with the help of the Diocesan Family Commission. The purpose of the seminar was to build up healthy Christian families. One hundred and forty-five members participated

in the symposium. Family bonds, Christian values, social evils creeping into today's family, the need for family prayer, etc., were the topics of different sessions during the seminar.

- *Valerian Serrao, CSC*

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH, JONGKSHA

Youth Retreat

"The more you know yourself, the more clarity there is," says Jiddu Krishnamurti. A spiritual journey is one such aspect of knowing oneself more closely and making life progress with clarity. A journey of young life needs a moment of closeness with the divine and oneself that shapes the way of living more gracefully amidst the chaos of this world. To create a moment of being with the sacred and oneself is a mission that brings life and meaning to the lives of many young hearts. Good Shepherd parish, Jongksha, created and gave this opportunity for all the parish youth through a three-day retreat from September 1 to 3. There were more than 500



youth participating in this retreat. Physical, mental, and spiritual wellness in relation to the word of God was the focus along with the theme "To leave behind the worldly attraction and to follow the virtues of love, faith and peace". It was greatly experienced and witnessed the change of life and



life as a mission to be lived according to God's will. Focusing on their role in building relationships with God and people, Family Prayer, and leadership in church and society were other prime messages to be joyful living witnesses.

- *Antony Jose, CSC*

TEACHERS' SEMINAR FOR MEGHALAYA

Holy Education Foundation organised a one-day seminar for teachers working in Holy Cross schools in Meghalaya. It was held on July 31 at MIIT Shillong, and eighty teachers, principals and headmistresses participated. The main objectives of this training programme were to learn the skills to help the students learn things faster and develop interest in the students.



During the morning session, the resource person, Dr. Sudhir Singhal, used various techniques to drive home so everyone could learn better and faster. We need to train and learn the language of the mind. He used multiple exercises that helped us immensely to be effective in our classrooms.

The post-lunch session was animated by Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC, focusing on the Holy Cross way of education. He shared with the participants what it means to be a teacher, a catholic teacher, and a Holy Cross teacher. The entire day was a day of learning and introspection.

- *Priesslin Mynsong*

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, ZOWKATHAR

St. Joseph School, Zowkathar, is run by the Holy Cross Fathers at the international border between



India and Myanmar. Most of the students at the school are from the neighbouring country. These students, of whom the majority are refugees, attend school here because of the political turmoil in their country. The school undertook a special mission to provide housing to two families whose children are



studying with us. One tin roof house is already completed, and the other is in the building process. The school also made a new park for the small children to play in.

- *Paul Choorackal, CSC*



ST. JOHN'S PARISH, KHAWZAWL

Nurturing faithful at Khawhai village

My first pastoral visit in the parish was to Khawhai village on July 23. With forty members belonging to six families, the Catholics in this village are deeply rooted in their faith and united as one family. The Holy Spirit sisters run a school in the village and help in pastoral activities.



Altar Server Groups

The parish established two altar server groups, one in Khawzawl and another in Ngaizawl village. On August 13, they were officially inducted into the church service by the parish priest. They were given instructions about their responsibilities. The intention of forming this new group is to guide them in the right direction and inculcate the desire to become religious. We pray the Lord may send more workers to harvest in his field.



Feast of the Assumption

The feast of the Assumption of the Bl. Virgin Mary was celebrated at Chhawrtui village. The day began with the Holy Eucharist, followed by a debate competition, entertainment programmes and games. The day ended with a community meal.



Catholic Hmeichhe Pawl (DCHP) Kut

The Women Guild of St John the Apostle Church, Khawzawl, celebrated St Monica feast day on August 27 in Khawzawl. The Parish Priest offered a solemn Eucharist, and there was a special blessing



on all the mothers. The day was spent conducting various entertainment competitions and a meal together.

- John PKC, CSC

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, KHAWZAWL

Result Day

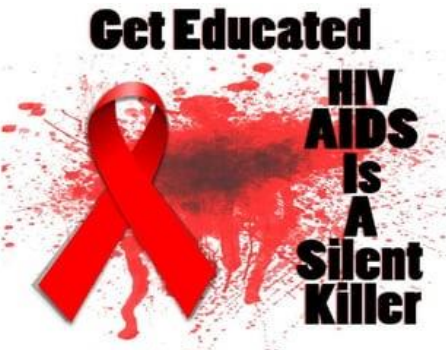
Congratulation is an act of appreciation to acknowledge the success of our students. After a short holiday, the school resumed the academic session for the second term on August 01. On



August 04, the results were announced, and the top scorers from each class were felicitated.

Red Ribbon Quiz Competitions

Mizoram is one of the most infected with HIV/AIDS in India. To bring awareness to the students, on August 29, St Joseph School, Khawzawl, conducted a Red Ribbon Quiz competition on HIV/AIDS and its consequences. The topics covered were personal hygiene, the meaning of HIV/AIDS, the symptoms and preventive measures, its effects on the community and society, how to care for oneself and others, etc. It was a very educative quiz program, and most students benefited greatly.



measures, its effects on the community and society, how to care for oneself and others, etc. It was a very educative quiz program, and most students benefited greatly.

- John PKC, CSC

FORMATION HOUSES

SACRED HEART STUDY HOUSE

Inaugural Eucharist

Ten new candidates and Bro. Andria, CSC, arrived at the formation house on July 14 to begin their college studies at Holy Cross College, Agartala.

After finishing their admission process and getting acclimatised to the new place, the new academic year 2023-2024 was inaugurated on August 03, 2023. On this auspicious day, we had Most



Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, the Bishop of Agartala, celebrating the Eucharist with us. The presence of Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, and the provincial and Holy Cross confreres from the neighbouring communities added joy to the day. After the Holy Eucharist, the candidates presented a short cultural



program and concluded the day with dinner. This year, we have 12 candidates, including one from

Bangladesh in the first year, 11 in the second and 4 in the third year.



Send off for Final Year Candidates

After finishing college, the final year students were ready for their yearlong community experience and ministry places. On August 16, we gathered as a community to thank God for these students and pray for them. The



Thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Kitbok, CSC. They will be spending their time in different communities in Tripura and Mizoram.

- *Kitbok Khongrymmai, CSC*

**ST. ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY,
 BODHJUNGNAGAR**

St. Andre Minor Seminary had a meaningful celebration of the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary and the 77th Independence Day of our nation.

The day began with a beautiful morning prayer and a solemn Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Vicky Lamin.

After the Eucharist, the community gathered for the flag hoisting in front of the house. The flag was hoisted by Fr. Bilingshar Syiemlieh, and the message was given by Mr. Banpyntngen Khongjoh, Assistant beadle of the house. In the afternoon, the cultural committee



organised an inter-committee blind volleyball match in which we witnessed a highly competitive and spirited game. The liturgy committee organised a special candlelight rosary procession from the house to the grotto in the evening. After supper, there was a quiz, group singing, and eating competitions. All the committees brought out their God-given talents and creativity. It was a day well spent.

- *Bilingshar Syiemlieh*

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE

Independence Day

The 77th Independence Day was celebrated at Sumer with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. The Seminary campus was beautifully decorated with flags and balloons to commemorate the day. All the community members gathered in the chapel for the Eucharistic celebration. In the presence of a gleeful gathering, the National Flag was hoisted by Fr. Theophilus Sohtun, CSC. In his speech, he paid a glowing tribute to the brave martyrs of the country



and explained the significance of Independence Day. The program ended with the National Anthem.



A Day of Recollection

The monthly recollection is a time set aside specifically to delve deeper into our relationship with God. It was an opportunity for our boys to spend a couple of hours praying and conversing with



God guided by meditation, spiritual reading, and examining conscience. The recollection was animated by Fr. Eric Mascarenhas, SFX.

Community Picnic

The most awaited day of the year was the community picnic in Sohra. Sohra gave us the experience of being surrounded by greenery, gorgeous

landscapes, incredible natural caves, spectacular waterfalls, and the



beauty of nature. We started at 8:30 am with a prayer and a feeling of a thrilling experience ahead. Indeed, it was a great day for everybody as it strengthened community bonding. It was a sound and safe return trip- 'Cheers'.

Experience the Joy of Paddy Plantation

Indeed, it was an experience of real farming life for most of our candidates, from selecting seeds to sowing, ploughing, and transplanting. We invited



our neighbouring village church believers to render generous service for the paddy plantation. Our candidates had a taste of other village activities like planting paddy and farming.

- Jowelson Khongtani, CSC

ST. PAUL APOSTOLIC SCHOOL, BARUNGA, CACHAR

Nineteen months have passed since I came to Barunga to help the Diocese of Aizawl in the pioneering work of their envisaged new minor seminary at Barunga. Cachar, Assam.

The Journey: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" is a common saying from the Chinese proverb. It had proven to be quite true in the Barunga formation mission. Whatever the success and consoling challenges, looking back on the months that had gone by, venturing into an unchartered land, unskilled builders and well,



conceiving a well-equipped seminary was the least I could think of.

July 02, 2022:

Four post-metric boys joined the seminary.



December 15, 2022: His Excellency Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, blessed the newly built seminary building.



24th to 26th of March 2023: Vocation Camp for Barak Valley was organised through the generosity of Holy Cross Family Ministry, N.E. India, in which 99 boys and girls participated.



June 11, 2023: We have finally shifted to the new seminary building with 7 boys - OC students-2, class X -2, Class IX-3. Much is left to be done, much more to be accomplished.



We have been able to reach thus far due to our confreres' fraternal support through your visits and valuable suggestions while keeping the flame of the Holy Cross missionary outlook burning, the hallmark and strength of our life and mission.

- *Clement Amo, CSC*

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

"Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39)

Gathered in the vibrant heart of Lisbon, Portugal, I had the privilege of attending World Youth Day 2023. This event transcended borders and united youth from 191 countries under the theme *"Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39)*.

We had a sizeable representation with 20 members of the Congregation (*along with Fr. Pinto Paul and Fr. Jerome Choroi of our Province*) representing the internationality and brotherhood in the Congregation of Holy Cross, with Bro. Paul Bednarczyk CSC, our Superior General, leading by example. I was humbled by the diverse tapestry of languages, cultures, and traditions that converged harmoniously under faith and brotherhood.

It was an extraordinary experience that profoundly nourished my faith and vocation as a priest in the Congregation of the Holy Cross. Amidst the vibrant array of cultures and languages, I had the privilege





of sharing my personal vocation story, our mission, and our ministry in the Holy Cross Congregation. Our booth became a meeting point for thousands of young people eager to learn and connect. Witnessing the curiosity and enthusiasm of the youth and engaging in conversations about our saints who exemplified unwavering faith and commitment was humbling and invigorating.



The vibrant liturgy, adorned with voices raised in harmony, painted a vivid picture of our shared devotion. The event showcased a breathtaking array of culture and music, each note and step a celebration of our differences embraced by a common love for Christ. Catechesis sessions ignited discussions that bridged geographical distances and fostered spiritual connections. Witnessing the long queues of young souls awaiting the sacrament of reconciliation was a moving reminder of the collective yearning for spiritual renewal.



Lisbon's streets, trains, and buses pulsed with an infectious joy, painted with a spectrum of colours and flags representing the multitude of nations present. Amidst this mosaic, people of different languages and backgrounds converged, their hearts speaking the

universal language of faith, love, and hope. The vibrant and alive church resonated with the youth's



energy, a living testament to the church's dynamism.

Amid this jubilant chaos, I stood in awe, my heart echoing the profound truth that the church is not confined by borders or language barriers. The World Youth Day was a radiant symphony of voices, cultures, and languages woven together by the thread of faith, a remarkable affirmation that we are



truly one in our diversity. Witnessing the fervent prayers, heartfelt worship, and the genuine desire to make the world a better place, I am reaffirmed that the youth are not just the future of our church but also the present bearers of Christ's light to a world in need.

- *Boby John, CSC*



IMPRESSIONS OF THE TEACHERS ON SEMINARS

The seminar organised by HCEF has impacted on our understanding of mindfulness and uses it to develop student's self-awareness and self-management skills.

- **English faculty: Notre Dame School, Moharpara**

The mathematics teachers' seminar helped us to learn calculation techniques, mental mathematics, and the application of Vedic mathematics in our live classes.

- **Mathematics faculty: Notre Dame School, Moharpara**

The science seminar was full of activities that helped us make TLMs readily available in and around us from ordinary materials. Through such TLMs, we can make our classes interesting and lively for our students.

- **Science faculty: Notre Dame School, Moharpara**

I had the opportunity to attend the seminars organised by HCEF. In the workshop for the science faculty, the emphasis was on teaching through experiments in science. The experiments shown by Mr. Paruck were simple and innovative. Mr. Singhal, on the other hand, introduced us to various games designed for students to develop an interest in mathematics.

- **Rini Datta, HCS Agartala**

The mathematics seminar taught us innovative teaching approaches and strategies to make mathematics more engaging and accessible for our students. The practical demonstrations and interactive activities helped us grasp the concepts effectively, enabling us to confidently implement these techniques in our classrooms.

- **Bipradip Chakraborty, HCS Kumarghat**

The Information Technology seminar broadened my understanding of Python programme capabilities and reinforced the significance of AI in various fields. I look forward to applying the knowledge to our students.

- **Kankan Das, HCS Kumarghat**

HOLY CROSS RENEWAL PROGRAM IN CANADA

The General Administration organised an international renewal program for the religious of the Holy Cross. It was held in Montreal, Canada, from June 25 to July 08, 2023. The theme of the program was 'The Strength of Our Vocation'. The Commission for Consecrated Life and Heritage of the Congregation, with Rev. **Andrew Gawrych, CSC, the 3rd Assistant General**, as its chair, planned and organised the whole renewal programme in close



collaboration with the province *Canadienne*: Saint Joseph's Oratory and *Le Pèlerin*, a Ministry founded by the Province of Canada, specialising in Spiritual Accompaniment. Fourteen religious from across the globe participated, though the expected number could not come due to visa-related issues. Among the 14 participants, half of them were from India and the rest from other parts of the world. The participants were accommodated at Jean XXIII Pavilion, ten minutes from the Oratory of St. Joseph.



The Highlights

- A 4-day spiritual accompaniment session exploring our filial identity in God and how our religious vows are pathways in renewing and deepening such identity.
- **An address and a conversation with Rev. Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Superior General.**



- Prayer at the tomb of St. Andre.
- Sessions on *Early Foundations of Holy Cross in Canada, Early Life of Alfred Bessette* by Fr. Jomon K., CSC, *Legacy of St. Andre & Mission* by Fr. Mario Lachapelle, CSC, *Provincial Superior, History of the Sisters of Holy Cross in Canada, Legacy of St. Andre in the world today* by Fr. Michael De Laney, CSC, *Rector of the Oratory, The Strength of our Vocation: Men with Hope to bring* by Fr. Andrew G., CSC.
- Prayer, Way of the Cross, Eucharist at the oratory.
- Visit to the oratory, original chapel, oratory museum, Holy Cross Cemetery, St. Laurent Church, *Mont-Saint-Gregoire*, birthplace of St. Andre, old Montreal, Quebec City, and Notre Dame College.

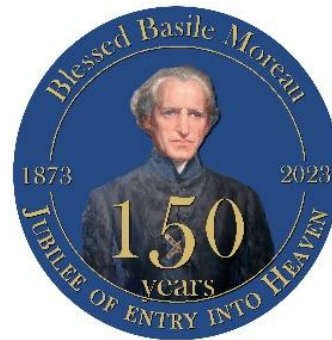
In Addition, Under the guidance of our Provincial Administration, Fr. Jomon organised special tours and visits to different places in French and English Canada, where our Confreres from India minister. We had the privilege of meeting all the confreres from India working in Canada and many of the Canadian missionaries who worked in India. The travels took us to Ottawa, Toronto, Welland, Burlington, Waterdown, Niagara and other places. There are thirteen Indian confreres from different provinces, ministering in Canada.

- *Mariaraj csc*

MOREAU'S COLUMN

WALKING IN THE FOOTPRINTS OF A GREAT BAND OF MEN

We are amid the 150-year celebration of the entry into the eternal life of our Beloved Founder, Blessed Basile Moreau. This is indeed a good opportunity to recollect the past and look with great hope for the future of the



Holy Cross worldwide, particularly for us on the sub-continent. In this short presentation, I would like to record the milestones of our Congregation, particularly in the context of the Province of Northeast India, for your ready reference and to point out our responsibilities for the future and our impact in the present.



Historical Milestones of the Congregation of Holy Cross with reference to the Province of Northeast India

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------|---|
| 1799 - | Birth of Basile Moreau | 1945 - | Creation of Separate Societies for Priests and Brothers |
| 1820 - | Establishment of the Brothers of St. Joseph by Fr. Dujarie | 1947 - | Indian Independence |
| 1821 - | Ordination of Fr. Moreau | 1950 - | Parishes in Halflong & Aizawl |
| 1835 - | Auxiliary Priests | 1952 - | Creation of Halflong Prefecture and District of NE India |
| 1837 - | Fundamental Act of Union/ - Association of Holy Cross | 1957-62- | Parishes in Silchar, Kolasib and Chingchip |
| 1838 - | Foundation for the Sisters of Holy Cross | 1959 - | Priests Establishment in South India - Yercaud |
| 1840-57 - | Rapid expansion period outside France | 1960 - | Brothers Establishment in South India - Salem |
| 1853 - | Arrival in Bengal, India | 1964 - | Creation of the District of South India |
| 1857 - | Papal Approval for the Congregation | 1964-77- | The rapid growth of Formation houses in South India |
| 1860 - | Extensive visits to Assam, Cachar and Khasi Hills | 1966-69- | Political Upheaval in Lushai Hills, Quit order for foreign nationals |
| 1866 - | Resignation of Fr. Moreau as Superior General | 1966 - | Resignation of Msgr. George Breen, CSC., Apostolic Prefect |
| 1873 - | Fr. Moreau's Entry into Heaven | 1966-69- | The arrival of New Indian CSC Priests to Northeast |
| 1876 - | Withdrawal from Bengal Mission | 1969 - | Second Parish in Tripura, Kumarghat |
| 1888 - | Return to Bengal Mission | 1969 - | Creation of the Diocese of Silchar |
| 1889 - | Creation of Assam Prefecture (Salvatorians) | 1975 - | Withdrawal from Mizoram |
| 1914 - | First entry to Mizoram | 1977 - | Re-entry into Mizoram, Parish in Champhai |
| 1927 - | The creation of the Chittagong Diocese under the Canadian Province included Sylhet, Cachar and Mizoram | 1977 - | First Parish in Meghalaya, Jongksha |
| 1927 - | Diocese of Dacca under the US Province | 1972 - | Amalgamation of the two Districts |
| 1927 - | Resident Priest in Bondashil (Badarpur) | 1998 - | CSC Sisters in Shillong |
| 1929 - | Establishment of Mission in Brookdene, Shillong | 1980 - | Communal Riots in Tripura |
| 1937 - | Resident Priest in Tripura | 1984 - | Creation of the Province of South India |
| 1939 - | Establishment of Mariamnagar Parish | 1984 - | Declaration of Tripura as a privileged area of Apostolate |
| | | 1988 - | Withdrawal from Cachar |
| | | 1980-90- | Creation of six new parishes in Tripura and one in Meghalaya |
| | | 1996 - | Establishment of the Diocese of Agartala and appointment of Bp. Lumen, CSC., Bishop of Agartala |



- 1998 - Creation of the District of Northeast India
- 2000 - Killing of Fr. Victor Crasta, CSC
- 2002 - Appointment of Bp. Stephen, CSC., Bishop of Aizawl
- 2003 - Establishment of the Province of NE India
- 1998 – 10- 11 New Foundations in Northeast India
- 2007 - Beatification of Father Moreau

Our pioneers have made innumerable impacts through their life and ministry. We are deeply indebted to each one of them. The foremost effect of the Holy Cross in the Northeast is a re-vitalisation of the mission thrust in the entire Congregation, including our confreres serving in overseas Missions. The second impact comes with the great ministry of the Holy Cross reaching out to those in the periphery. Through our ministry, we have ignited hope in the lives of numerous families, individuals and faith communities who live on the periphery. A third Impact is an enhanced visibility and identity for Holy Cross in Northeast India. Holy Cross is no longer to be taken for granted in the scenario of the Catholic Church and, in particular, the civil society in Tripura. Our institutions are doing yeomen services to the communities wherever we serve.

CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS
Province of Northeast India

State	Year	Founding Priest
Assam	1853	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1855	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1857	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1859	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1861	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1863	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1865	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1867	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1869	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1871	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1873	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1875	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1877	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1879	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1881	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1883	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1885	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1887	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1889	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1891	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1893	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1895	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1897	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1899	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1901	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1903	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1905	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1907	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1909	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1911	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1913	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1915	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1917	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1919	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1921	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1923	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1925	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1927	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1929	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1931	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1933	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1935	Fr. Moreau
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Assam	1997	Fr. Moreau
Assam	1999	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2001	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2003	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2005	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2007	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2009	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2011	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2013	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2015	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2017	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2019	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2021	Fr. Moreau
Assam	2023	Fr. Moreau

WE APPRECIATE OUR PAST

Year	Number of Members
1853	100
1855	150
1857	200
1859	250
1861	300
1863	350
1865	400
1867	450
1869	500
1871	550
1873	600
1875	650
1877	700
1879	750
1881	800
1883	850
1885	900
1887	950
1889	1000
1891	1050
1893	1100
1895	1150
1897	1200
1899	1250
1901	1300
1903	1350
1905	1400
1907	1450
1909	1500
1911	1550
1913	1600
1915	1650
1917	1700
1919	1750
1921	1800
1923	1850
1925	1900
1927	1950
1929	2000
1931	2050
1933	2100
1935	2150
1937	2200
1939	2250
1941	2300
1943	2350
1945	2400
1947	2450
1949	2500
1951	2550
1953	2600
1955	2650
1957	2700
1959	2750
1961	2800
1963	2850
1965	2900
1967	2950
1969	3000
1971	3050
1973	3100
1975	3150
1977	3200
1979	3250
1981	3300
1983	3350
1985	3400
1987	3450
1989	3500
1991	3550
1993	3600
1995	3650
1997	3700
1999	3750
2001	3800
2003	3850
2005	3900
2007	3950
2009	4000
2011	4050
2013	4100
2015	4150
2017	4200
2019	4250
2021	4300
2023	4350

The past 188 years of the history of the Congregation since the formation of the Auxiliary priests by Father Moreau in 1835 is indeed mighty, providential and is "God's work"! Northeast India has been blessed with a rich heritage and legacy of our pioneers for the last 170 years since the Congregation's arrival in Bengal in 1853. For the previous 170 years, our pioneers, those who have gone before us and those who continue to walk with us, have made deep footprints for us to continue to walk with courage and determination. We have been given an opportunity to create history like that of our pioneers. For this, we are called to fulfil our current responsibilities and be 'men with hope to bring' (C.8, 118), 'competence to see', courage to act' (C.2, 14) and 'cross borders of every sort'! (C.2, 17)

We are in the midst of making history for the future. The growth of our membership, particularly that of the indigenous members and the great variety of ministries, are good signs for Holy Cross in the coming years. Each one of us will turn out to be part of the great band of men for the future generations to come. We shall pledge ourselves to. "... go as educators in the faith to those whose lot we share, supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere in their efforts to form communities of the coming kingdom." (C. 3, 12)

- **Roy Thalackan, CSC**

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