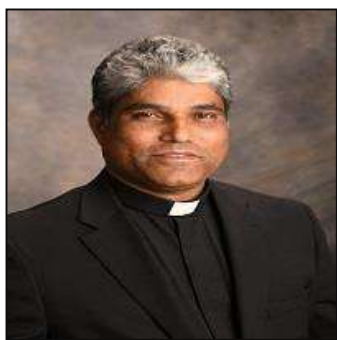


September 2022

Volume- 04/2022 | Holy Cross Northeast India|

## Provincial Speaks



### Beloved Confreres,

The newsletter of our Province, WAVES, actively salutes you with its September 2022 issue. Our Waves, to keep its momentum, needs your support through your articles. My appreciation goes to those who have fuelled this issue with their contributions. Kindly be, Waves-Oriented.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, the nation observed Teachers' Day. Teaching is a noble profession. I am glad that all of our schools actively celebrated it, honouring our respected teachers. Our Province is blessed with many teachers, lecturers, and professors in our educational institutions, who are our collaborators in the Ministry of Education and impart knowledge to the students. Let us thank them for their untiring service to our institutions. I pray that all our teachers may be blessed with good health and good spirit. May they become more knowledgeable in this modern world.

Our Scholastic Ishongkun Kurbah is about to complete his Final Profession preparation in Pune. His Final Profession and Diaconate are closer than ever. Let us keep him in our prayers.

Our Congregation is gearing up for the grand celebration of our founder's 150<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. Let us also tune our religious life to the charism of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, as we plan for the same.

Have a pleasant reading of our province newsletter ... WAVES.

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

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**EDITORIAL**

*Dear readers of WAVES,*



When we think of September, the first picture that comes to our mind is Teachers' Day. Teachers have been acclaimed for their selfless service worldwide from the beginning of time. They have been considered as makers of a nation. As it is said, the formative years of a child determine the kind of person they would grow up to be, mainly in the hands of their teachers.

For the kind of dedication teachers show, it would be wrong not to express our gratitude. To laud the teachers for their accomplishments and service, UNESCO started the tradition of celebrating Teachers' Day all over the world in October 1994. However, in India, Teachers' Day is celebrated on the 5th of September every year in honour of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a scholar, teacher, and politician, for his exemplary contribution to the field of education.



For Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, "education is the art of helping young people to completeness." Every teacher has this sacred duty of leading their students to completeness - making

them progress in knowledge and virtue. Moreau said, "We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart" (CL 36). The job of a teacher has become much more difficult in the present times. It demands hard work. It requires a great devotion to continue in the calling as a teacher. With gratitude, we remember all teachers in our educational institutions who lead their students to completeness with commitment and dedication.

For us, Holy Cross, the month of September is important because of the celebration of the feast of our Lady of Sorrows, our patroness. She persevered through all her sorrows and remained faithful to her son Jesus. May our calling be strengthened by Mary's perseverance through these trials. Through her example of steadfastness and love, let us draw near to Christ amid our sufferings.



Happy Feast to all!



*George Jacob, CSC  
Chief Editor*

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL - AGARTALA**



**VAN MAHOTSAV 2022:** Van Mahotsav, a movement initiated in 1950 by K. M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, had a



ripple effect on Holy Cross School Agartala. As conscientious citizens, the school has followed the



same path for the past years, even during the pandemic.

Again, this year, the school community assembled on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to celebrate the historical Van Mahotsav 2022 and to recall that the gifts and blessings that nature endowed on us are priceless and crucial to conserve them for a better future and life. The programs and activities included colourful dances, honouring mother earth, musical drama, speeches, and planting trees geared to re-imagine, re-create, and restore our primordial relationship with the creation.

The Chief Guest, Dr. K. Sasikumar IFS, Chief



Conservator of Forest, Tripura, graced the occasion not only with his presence but also through his localised, interactive, and informative speech, which

reminded us that we owe a great deal of respect and concern for the trees that breath for us. Finally, Van Mahotsav 2022 had its best moment when 30 trees were planted in the school-campus by the dignitaries and teachers to participate symbolically in the nationwide Tree-Festival.

*Jilson Tom, CSC*

## TEACHERS' TRAINING PROGRAM: MIZORAM REGION



One-day Teachers' Training Program for the teachers of our Holy Cross Schools, Mizoram Region, was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Holy Cross Parish, Champhai. The Program got started with the welcoming of the participants and resource persons Mrs. Hnamte Rebecca Lalbiakdiki, Acting Principal of DIET, Champhai}, Dr. C. Lalnuzira and Mrs. Sandeep Kandulna, CSC, Principal of Holy Cross School, Champhai, moderated the programme. Teachers from Holy Cross School Aizawl, Holy Cross School Champhai, St. Joseph's School





Khawzawl, and St. Joseph's School Zokhawthar participated in the program.

The resource persons spoke on various topics during the training. In the first session, the speakers dealt with Corporal Punishment and its adverse effect on the children, illustrating with examples.

The second session was based on the Classroom Activities, giving equal importance to each subject, evaluation of the students, and Post-COVID behaviours of the students. The resource person requested the teachers to pay attention to each student and provide equal opportunities to learn every lesson.

The last session of the day was on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century way of Education. The speaker touched upon the concept map. Each teacher was made to realize that s/he has to reach out to each student according to his / her interest.



In the evaluation, all teachers expressed great joy in attending such a programme, which was indeed a Learning Process. During the valedictory function, Fr. Prasanta Basumatary CSC, Principal of St. Joseph's School Khawzawl, thanked everyone for their wonderful participation. On behalf of the Mizoram-Region, he mainly thanked Holy Cross Educational Foundation for its support in organizing such a programme.

 *Prasanta Basumatary CSC*

## ST. ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY, BODHJUNGNAGAR

### Inauguration of the new Formative Year:

St. Andre Minor Seminary, Bodhjungle, inaugurated the new Formative Year 2022-23 on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Fr. Simon Fernandis CSC, Provincial Superior, Fr George Jacob CSC, Council member, and Fr Jayaseelan CSC, Parish Priest of St. Andre Parish were present for the occasion. They encouraged the candidates to pursue their studies and in their call to religious life with commitment and dedication. The solemn inaugural Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Provincial, during which he prayed for the success and good health of all the candidates and for Fr. Vicky Lamin Gayang CSC, the new Asst. Director. The Cultural Program, presented by the candidates, showcased their talents and was a feast to our eyes and ears.

This year, SAMS is blessed with 29 Candidates,



pursuing their Higher Secondary studies. Thirteen are in Class XII, and 16 are in Class XI. With our great expectation and hope, they begin their regular classes at St. Andre School, Bodhjungle. Best wishes and prayerful support to the staff - Fr. John Pau Khaw Chin CSC and Fr. Vicky Lamin CSC as they guide and lead these young men.



**Farewell and Best Wishes:**

St. Andre Minor Seminary bid farewell to Fr. Shaiju CSC, for his generous contributions and support during his stay here for the last six months. We wish him the best in his studies and future endeavours.



St Andre Minor Seminary expresses its sincere gratitude and congratulations to the outgoing class XII students who have successfully passed their examination this year with flying colours. Out of 17, 10 have decided to continue in Holy Cross and moved to Sacred Heart Study House - Lembucherra, for their Graduation Studies.

 *John PKC, CSC*

**HOLY CROSS MISSION, KOLORIANG**



**Welcome**

Fr. Stephen Langsianmunga CSC, the newly



ordained priest, was given a warm welcome on 21<sup>st</sup> July. He is appointed as the new assistant priest at Holy Cross Parish Koloriang. The Arunachal Pradesh Region welcomed Fr. Stephen, CSC, on 4<sup>th</sup> August 22.

**Grandparents' Day:**

Grandparents' Day was observed on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Our senior citizens were present in large numbers. Apart from felicitating them, special prayers were offered for them by the faithful.



**The Solemnity of Assumption:**

The Assumption of Mother Mary was observed by praying the Holy Rosary at our Grotto. The parishioners came to pray the Rosary for the intentions of their families and the well-being of our country.



Fighters and Patriotism. Like every year, this year too, on 15<sup>th</sup> August, our students participated in the



Independence Day Patriotic Cultural Competitions, held in the District Headquarters. Our school secured the third position.

### Ethnic Day:

Holy Cross School, Koloriang, introduced Ethnic Cultural Day this year. Accordingly, the students will come to the school in their traditional attire every Saturday to promote, uphold and preserve their respective cultures and traditions.



Gabriel Darlong, CSC

### ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT



### Independence Day:

Har Ghar Tiranga was celebrated as part of the Independence Day celebration at Holy Cross School, Koloriang. The national flag was hoisted by Fr. Gabriel Darlong CSC, in the presence of a few SMC members, staff, and students. He spoke on the importance of Har Ghar Tiranga, the Indian Flag, Freedom



### Parish Feast Day:

The faithful of St. Paul Parish Kumarghat gathered at the Mission Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> July to celebrate the Parish Feast. Fr. Lancy, CSC, hoisted the flag to mark the beginning of the celebration. A talk delivered by Mr. Lala Darlong on the history of the Parish, kept the parishioners well-informed. The Main Celebrant of the day, Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, Bishop of the Diocese of Agartala, was welcomed by all the parishioners with 'Risha'



and flowers. At the beginning of the Mass, Mr. Roitua Darlong, Secretary of the Parish Council,



introduced and welcomed Bishop, priests, sisters, and faithful present for the occasion. In his homily, Bishop Lumen encouraged everyone to be ardent Christians and live in unity and love. A three-day Prayer Service {**Triduum**} preceded the feast to prepare the faithful spiritually.

The day was also marked as 'Green Sunday' in the Diocese, and Bishop planted a sapling on the occasion. Saplings were distributed to different 'mondolies' of the Parish to be planted as a symbol of caring for Mother Earth. The festive day came to an end with a few games conducted by Sr. Bastian FS and Mr. Francis Darlong for the people. As usual, a festive meal was the last part of the celebration.



**Bernadette, FS**

### SCC Training for the Village Leaders:

One hundred and six people gathered for a one-day Training Program for village SCC Leaders of Kumarghat Parish. The resource persons for the day, Fr. Lancy CSC, Mr. Lala, Mr. Roitua, Catechist Subia DebBarma and Sr. Bastian, FS, dealt with various aspects of the Church and SCCs. Participants were kept occupied and focused, and actions-songs were sung during the training sessions. A Bible sharing was done to enlighten the participants and help them to animate the same in their respective villages. Post lunch session was spent in group discussions and common sharing. Participants acknowledged the day's learning and the



importance of such program. We also collectively decided to organise more such SCC related activities / prayers in their villages.



**Bastian, FS**

### Marriage Preparation Course:



Two days of marriage preparation course was organised on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June with 13 couples in attendance. The resource persons were Mr. Lala Darlong, Catechist Subia Debbarma, Fr. Joachim Kullu SVD, Fr. Lancy CSC, Sr. Vera Anthony, MC and Sr. Bastian D'Silva FS. They spoke on the various aspects of family and married life, such as marriage as a sacrament, family prayer, parenting, natural family planning, health and hygiene, abortion and its effects on health and tips for happy married life. During the sessions, the resource team prepared the couples to rectify their marriage/s. On 25<sup>th</sup> June, all the couples received the Sacrament of



Marriage and other Sacraments. Fr. Lancy, CSC, the Parish Priest thanked all the participants for their active participation, and the resource team for taking the classes on various subjects and for educating the couples on family life.

Bastian, FS

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY CENTRE



States. They come from 6 dioceses. On the last day of the same month, the community went on a picnic in Sohra.

Jomy Mathew, CSC

TIDINGS FROM HOLY CROSS COLLEGE - AGARTALA



Inauguration of the Academic Year:

The formal Inauguration of the Orientation Programme for the formative year 2022-23, was held on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Theophilus Sohtun CSC, the Vice Provincial of the Province. During the Holy Mass, the candidates were given a cross each as a symbol of invitation to begin their journey in Holy Cross. All



the vocation promoters of different regions were also present. We have 30 candidates from four Indian

Approval of PG & Additional Seats in UG Programs:

With the vision and specific target of increasing the number of seats in different streams and introducing



the PG programs, the college administration applied to the University of Tripura to upgrade the status of the college from UG to PG. In response to the application, an Inspection Team of the University visited the college campus on 7<sup>th</sup> April. The team was welcomed by the Principal, Vice Principal, teaching staff, and students, along with Fr. Simon Fernandis, Provincial, and Chairman of the College, Fr. George





Jacob, Secretary of HCEF, and Valerian Castelino, Financial Administrator of the Province. The Tripura University granted permission on 29<sup>th</sup> June for the additional seats in UG for three Departments, namely: Human Physiology, Botany & History; and Masters Degree in Political Science & English Literature. It was yet another milestone in the annals of the history of our College and a cherished dream, fulfilled.



### Farewell to Final-Year Students:

It was a heart-touching family affair and a nostalgic moment for the Final Year Students of Holy Cross



College on 8<sup>th</sup> July, as they bid fare well to their Alma Mater with gratitude and a sense of fulfillment in their learning experience. The 4<sup>th</sup> Semester students organized a farewell program with cultural events, a party, and a souvenir for each one to retrieve the sweet memory later. "For many of us, in the Sixth Semester, Holy Cross had been a father figure who welcomed his prodigal son/daughter with open arms. Holy Cross has accepted us, given us a new start, a new inspiration to stand tall after failures and dream again." These were the words of Serya Paul from the Department of Political Science who expressed her sentiments on behalf of the outgoing students. Another student from the Science Department expressed her emotions and gratitude to their juniors, teachers, and college administration for

the conducive atmosphere of learning and friendship. At the end of the programme, a photo session for all the outgoing students of the departments was organized; and of course, several selfies with their best friends and favourite teachers filled the session.

### Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Day:

As the nation celebrated the completion of 75 years of its Independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Holy Cross College community, along with the local people, came together to mark the day by paying homage to the freedom fighters of our nation. The programme



started at 9.30 a.m. with the flag-hoisting, by Dr. Reba Chakravarthy, Senior Member of the Teaching Faculty in the presence of Fr. Benny KJ, Principal of Holy Cross College, and Fr. Joe Paul, Vice Principal, and Administrator. On this auspicious day, Dr. Debasish Datta, HOD, Dept. of History, the main speaker, expressed his view that the independence of India was not an effort of a single or a few members but a collective outcome. A sentiment that started locally and gradually shaped a Pan-India movement. In his speech, he reiterated: "The national flag is not merely three pieces of cloth stitched together with three different colours; it is a symbol of unity in diversity, love, and sacrifice which is incorruptible under any circumstances. People and leaders will come and go, but the integrity of the flag will remain the same for eternity." The celebration ended with



the distribution of snack packets and with taking 'selfies' by the participants with different attires.



**Binoy John, CSC**

**NEWS FROM MOHARPARA MISSION**



**Leadership Training:**

Immaculate Conception Parish, Moharpara, organized a Leadership Training Session for all the church leaders on 30<sup>th</sup> July 22. The training commenced with prayer and words of welcome by Fr. Arbok Lyngdoh, the Parish Priest. The resource person Fr. P. J. Joseph SDB helped the leaders to understand the various rubrics during the liturgy and how to make appropriate gestures properly in the Church. He also gave them hints to preach the Word of God, especially in the absence of a priest. The 50 participants, from different sub-centers of the Parish,



have significantly benefitted from the training. One of the participants said: It is an eye opener. Another said:

I understood the symbolism of priest/s kissing and reverencing the altar during the Eucharist. At the closure of the training, the participants were given a chance to ask questions and clarify their doubts. The meeting ended with a shared meal, and the leaders returned home, with their enthusiasm and faith increased.



**Training for Married Couples:**

A Day of training and sharing was organized for married couples who have finished five years of their married life, on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Around 20 participants took part in the event. The program was organized for the first time, especially for young couples, as a follow-up and helped them to build holy families. The program began with a short video clip about



family problems and solutions. Mr. Amar Prem Jamatia, the parish secretary, assisted and facilitated the couples to share their family issues and how to tackle them. Mr. Thomas Hrangkhawl, Catechist, shared with the couples and encouraged them to have



a fine family-life according to the plan of God. The couples expressed their happiness about the program. The day's event came to a close with a common meal shared among the couples.



### National Youth Sunday :

Moharpara Parish Youth Movement celebrated Youth-Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> August at St. Sebastian's Church Singlwng. The festivity commenced with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Arbok CSC, the Parish Priest. After the Mass, a short session was conducted by Sr. Shilla Rani HCC, followed by a brief meeting and planning for the day's event. The participants from different sub-centres of the Parish attended the session and expressed their joy in meeting each other to celebrate their day. The gathering ended with a simple common meal, shared among them.



Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC

### FROM KATHALCHERRA MISSION



### Foundation Day of Bethany Sisters:

The Foundation Day of Bethany Sisters was celebrated on 16<sup>th</sup> July. A solemn Holy Eucharist

was celebrated, followed by a short felicitation program. Parishioners and school children gathered



in large numbers to thank God and express their gratitude to Bethany Sisters for their selfless services in this remote area of Kathalcherra. The Bethany lay association members renewed their vows and began year-long activities on this day.



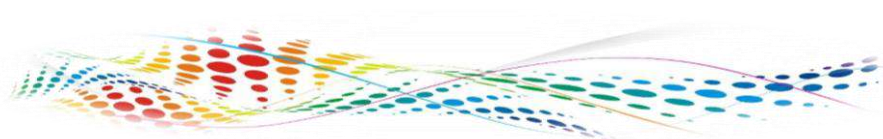
C. Abraham, CSC

### SNIPPETS FROM HOLY CROSS SCHOOL - PANISAGAR



### TBSE Madhyamic Result 2021-22:

It was yet another year of 100% excellent board results for our Class X students. We profoundly congratulate all the seventy passed-out students and appreciate all our teachers who constantly worked hard for their success. The result included 14 distinctions, 46 first-division, and ten second-



division. Samrat Nath secured the first position in the school with 96.8 %, followed by Debankan Mohanta with 96 % and Rohan Debnath with 91.4 %.



### Junior Mathematical Olympiad:

It was a proud moment when three of our students, namely Sanjoy Ram Karmakar, Srishty Das, and



Satarshi Datta of Class X, won the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively, in the Mathematical Olympiad conducted, district-level. Our senior teacher Mr. Dipankar accompanied our students to this award giving ceremony, held on 5<sup>th</sup> July. We gladly congratulate our students and appreciate our Mathematic teachers for preparing the students effectively.



### Art Competition:

Drawing is a gift and an art. To inspire and encourage the students of all classes, an art completion was organized in Ramakrishna Vidyamandir in Panisagar, on 04<sup>th</sup> August and many of our students participated in it. Our students Moumita Das of VII B and Milody Reang of VI A bagged the first prizes.



### 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day:

With freedom in our minds, faith in the words and pride in our souls, we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup>

Independence Anniversary of our country. All students participated in the week-long talent show, and the best were awarded certificates. All students participated in the cleaning drive; our senior boys went on the roadside to clean and clear the bushes. On the day proper, our Chief-Guest Dr. Somendra Kumar, Senior scientist and the Head in-charge of KVK,



North Tripura, and our Guest of Honour Mr. Biswajit Das, Headmaster Balakmanisch - Agnipasa received the guard of honour and felicitated the winners. Amidst the colourful programmes, we honoured the great sacrifices of our fearless freedom fighters for their extraordinary sense of patriotism. It is our blessedness that we are born and are living in a free country. God bless India.



### Parents cum Teachers Meet:



Parents are partners. Active participation of a parent brings immense change in a kid's academic performance. Hence, we invited the parents of LKG to Class V students to discuss and listen to the teachers on 20<sup>th</sup> August. The response was gratifying, and many parents came with their wards to learn about their growth and development. It was a wonderful experience to build up a good rapport with the parents.



**Seminar for Teachers:**

Life is about growing and developing. No matter how old you are, there is always more to learn and



ways that you can continue to grow. Hence, we had the newly trained Sr. Mary Halam CSC, who addressed our teachers on 27<sup>th</sup> August and animated the sessions for them with lots of insights and fun. All our staff members enjoyed and were enriched by this programme.



**Kanikkai Jeyaraj, CSC**

**ST. ANDRE PARISH, NYAPIN**



**Renewal Program for Catechists & Leaders:**

St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, conducted a two-day renewal program for all the catechists and Parish sector leaders from 19 to 20 August. The program was animated by Fr. Gabriel Darlong CSC, Parish

Priest of Holy Cross Parish Koloriang. The program was aimed at teaching basic catechism in their



language, as most catechists and leaders had no formal education. The session also helped the participants to revise the hymns they had learned by heart from their pioneers. They participated in the Holy Eucharist with great devotion. Adoration of the Eucharistic Lord was conducted on both days.



**Mothers' Day:**

On 21<sup>st</sup> August, the Parish observed Mother's Day. The principal celebrant of the Holy Eucharist was Fr. Gabriel CSC; and the choir was led by Fr. Lawrence, CSC. After the Holy Eucharist, there was a cultural program in honour of the mothers of the Parish. Many faithful from the villages joined in the celebration. Needless to say, that a sumptuous meal, prepared by the men folk and the youth, brought the day to a close. God bless our mothers.



**Stephen Lohrii, CSC**

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL - KUMARGHAT**





### PEACE CLUB SEMINAR:

To help participants gain knowledge on the use of different types of toys, Mrs. Moumita Reang, Consultant, District Project conducted the Peace Club monthly meeting in Holy Cross School on 2<sup>nd</sup> July under the title: Anti-war Toys. The session began with a brainstorming session, asking the students about the use of toys in their childhood. She said: Playing with toys is critical for children. It's a way to process the world around them and learn. Through playing, children build a foundation for later academic and social success. And we should ensure children have plenty of opportunities to engage in self-directed, meaningful play. However, she cautioned the children about using war toys that can promote expressions of anger. She concluded the session, saying: The children should choose games that develop team spirit and intelligence, rather than purchasing war toys that encourage aggression, anger and hatred.



participated, and the selected top ten students were given prizes and certificates. Seven of our school students came within the top ten ranks. On 6<sup>th</sup> July there was a sub-division level seminar on the Life and works of Srinivas Ramanuja, followed by the distribution of prizes to top performers.

### TEACHERS' TRAINING PROGRAMME:



One-day training program was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> July at Holy Cross School in collaboration with Holy Cross Educational Foundation. Mr. Saurabh Beniwal was the resource person, known for his distinct qualities and experience in the Corporate and Educational Training domain. The session was mainly intended to bring out practical and effective Teaching Skills with the help of various methods. Mr. Beniwal reminded the teachers about the mindset of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century learners and suggested different teaching methods that would result in desired-outcome.

### WINNERS OF MATHEMATICAL COMPETITION:

Tripura Mathematical Society organized a sub-divisional level JMO for all the schools of



Kumarghat Sub-Division. Our Class VIII students

### MADHYAMIK EXAM 2021-22 RESULT:



78 of our students appeared for the Madhyamik Exam, and all of them came out with flying colours, giving the school a hundred percent result: 36 students, with distinction; 24 students, with first division; 17 students, with second division; and one got third division. Shoumabrata Das got 100 out of 100 in Maths & Information Technology. Richa Datta secured 100 out of 100 in Information Technology. We are proud of them, and we congratulate all the achievers and thank all the teachers for their hard work and untiring guidance.

 **FIRE SAFETY DRILL:**



After equipping our school with the latest fire safety equipment as per the government requirements, Mr. Prasanta Chakraborty gave some of the Staffs training on responding to emergency fire accidents. On 25<sup>th</sup> July, we had a mock drill with the students about what to do in the wake of any untoward eventuality.

 **FELICITATION PROGRAM FOR CLASS X ACHIEVERS:**



On 29<sup>th</sup> July, the school organized a felicitation program for the top ten achievers of the Madhyamik Exam 2022. They were felicitated with an Achiever-Certificate and a prize. One of the top ten scorers addressed the students and shared her success story. They all gratefully acknowledged the contribution of the teachers at various levels in their student life at Holy Cross School, Kumarghat. A fitting cultural event was organized on this auspicious day.

 **VISIT TO OLD AGE CUM LEPROSY HOME:**



It's not how much we give but how much love we put into the giving, says St. Teresa of Kolkata. True to these words, on 9<sup>th</sup> August, the Peace Club students of Holy Cross School Kumarghat paid a visit to Mother Teresa's home for the needy: the leprosy patients, differently-able and older people at Shantipally, Kumarghat. The students entertained the inmates with mesmerizing dances and songs to share their love and joy. The inmates were so much touched by the presence and presentation of the students that two of them began singing songs, praising God. Fr. Sahaya Lourdu CSC, the Principal, presented gifts to Sr. Marian MC, Superior as a token of love and appreciation.

 **HEALTH IS WEALTH:**

A seminar for girl-children from class VII to X was organized on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Sr. Anu Thomas gave the session inviting the students to care for their personal health. Students expressed their satisfaction that it was an excellent interactive session through which



they could gather more knowledge about securing and maintaining their good health.

**76<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS:**

The celebration of 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, in our school, on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug.'22 was grand and meaningful. The celebration began on the 13<sup>th</sup> with the 'Har Ghar



Tiranga' campaign. Various activities and programs were conducted to honour our National-Flag and express our gratitude to all the freedom fighters of our country. As per the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, which is part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Government of India to encourage people to bring the Indian flag home and hoist it, our students did honour the national flag at home and shared the photos with their respective class teacher. On 14<sup>th</sup> August, we had an exhibition with the theme: Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, as per the guidance of the CBSE Board. It was an opportunity for the students to learn about the sufferings of the partition that affected the people of that time. On 15<sup>th</sup> August Fr. Lancy D'Souza hoisted the flag and addressed the gathering, speaking about the importance of our love, care, and respect for our country. A variety of cultural entertainments was organized at school & Kumarghat SDM levels. Colourful decorations, inspiring speeches, and prize distributions made Independence Day celebrations remarkable and memorable this year.

 **J. Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC**

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL - BAGBASSA**



**MEETING**



A Meeting for Parents and Teachers was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Fr. Ajith Philip CSC, the Principal animated the meeting. Around 180 parents attended it. Indeed, it was a day to ponder the vital role of the parents and teachers in the overall growth of the students.

**COMPETITION:**







Inter House Board Decoration Competition was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> July on the theme: Festivals of Tripura. Students participated with great zeal and zest and exhibited creativity in decorating the boards. The principal appreciated the efforts of the students and the teachers.



**FREEDOM DAY:**



Independence Day was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour on the school ground by the staff, students and parents. The entire campus was beautifully decorated with flags and balloons. At the beginning of the program, Principal Fr. Ajith Philip welcomed and honoured the Chief Guest, Shri. Rajeeb Kumar Dua, Deputy Inspector General of BSF, Sub Head Quarter - Panisagar. He was accompanied by Shri. Pramod Kumar, Assistant Commandant of BSF. The National Flag was hoisted by the Chief Guest, who also delivered an inspiring speech that awakened everyone's patriotic feelings towards the Motherland. Master Dinacious Debbarma of Class VII and Miss Farzana Begum of Class IX also delivered short speeches. The program included a march past, patriotic dance, patriotic song, and tribute to Motherland India. It was also an occasion to honour the achievers of the Class-X Madhyamik exam.

**COMPETITIONS:**



Inter House fancy-dress and dance competitions among the teachers were held for the first time in the school on 27<sup>th</sup> August. On the same day inter-house,



a fancy dress competition for the students was also held.



**Ajith Philip, CSC**

**ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH - KHAWZAWL**





**Youth Conference:**



A joint youth conference of Champhai and Khawzawl parishes was organised at our Parish from



12 - 14 August. A large number of youths from both parishes participated in the program. The catechists were the resource persons, while Fr. Jerome Chorei CSC, Fr. Prasanta Basumatary CSC and SMMI Sisters looked into the Spiritual activities. Vinicia Z Pachuau, Diocesan Youth Vice President, Jerome Lalthanzama, Financial Secretary of the Diocese, Bernard Lalroliana, Skills Development Cell Convener of the Diocese, and Angela Lalengpari, Dexco Member were also present at the conference. They encouraged the local youth to go forward despite facing difficulties as border area inhabitants. The youth showcased their talents on the last day



during the cultural night. The three-day program was initiated and closed by Fr. Prasanta Basumatary CSC, the Asst. Priest.

**Silver Jubilee Inauguration:**



St. John the Apostle Parish, Khawzawl, has reached the milestone of its 25 years of existence. Along with the Parish Annual Conference {Parish Inkhawmpui}, the Jubilee year was inaugurated by Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga CSC, DD, Bishop of Aizwal Diocese. Fr. Jomy Matthew CSC and Fr. George Jacob CSC were present for the celebration. The program was organized for three days, from 2 - 4 September. Pu Aloysius Vanlalduha and Pu VL Bela were the resource persons, along with our local



catechist Pu Joseph Lalnunzira. The Parish Pastoral Council hosted the whole program, and the Spiritual activities like liturgy, adoration, decoration, etc were taken care of by the Fathers and Sisters at Khawzawl. During the Holy Mass on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 18 children received the First Holy Communion, and 19 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation. A large number of faithful turned up for the program, as it was the first parish-level gathering, since the have brought up St. John the Apostle Parish to this level. May God reward them for their dedicated service to the Mission.



**Prasanta Basumatary CSC**



## ACTIVITIES AT HOLY CROSS SEMINARY - PUNE



Holy Cross Seminary at Pune began the Academic Year 2022-23 with a week-long Retreat animated by Fr. Theophilus Sohtun CSC. This year the seminary is blessed with a new Rector in the person of Fr. Joby Sebastian {Province of South India}, and a new Assistant Rector Fr. Joseph Kuzhikat {Province of Northeast India}. The installation ceremony of the induction of the new Formators took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the ceremony was officiated by Fr. Roque D'Costa, Provincial of South Indian Province. The community also bid farewell to Fr. Shiju Joseph and Arun D acknowledging and thanking them for their commendable service and tremendous contribution to the community.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> year theologians organized a symposium on Holy Cross Spirituality on 5<sup>th</sup> July. This, indeed,

inspired everyone to re-ignite the flame of the zeal and vision of our Founder Bl. Basil Moreau.

An exciting volleyball match was organized on 7<sup>th</sup> July between St. Paul Study House and us, and again on 4<sup>th</sup> August with Papal Seminarians. In both games, we were victorious.



The commissioning of Lectors and Acolytes took place on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Fr. Roque D'Costa, CSC, conferred these two ministries on 14 scholastics, permitting them to proclaim the Scripture at the Liturgical Celebrations, serve at the altar, and take communion to the sick.

On 15<sup>th</sup> Aug.'22, we had a meaningful twin celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM and 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our Country. Fr. K.J. Abraham CSC, was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist and the Chief Guest for the Flag Hosting Ceremony. His message for Independence Day reminded us of the need to live the truth by blending freedom with responsibility.



Sch. Akhsi Wari, CSC

## MY EXPERIENCE AT THE NOVITIATE

Three months have gone by ever since the initiation into Novitiate Life {held on 24<sup>th</sup> May}. I am happy with ten of my fellow companions, six from North-



eastern Province, three from the Vicariate of Tamil Nadu, and one each from the Province of South India and the Vicariate of India.

Life in the Novitiate is full of tranquillity, enabling me to grow more in the spirit of God, blooming in Christ. Novitiate is a place of God-experience, with a radical self-surrender of oneself to God. Therefore, every moment I am invited to become aware of God's presence within me and around me. Different activities of the Novitiate are guiding me in deepening my prayer life; to be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ. Hopefully, by the end of this Novitiate-Year, I will experience Christ and Bloom in Christ {Theme for this year} by saying yes to his invitation.



Prayer-life is the most cherishing and nourishing experience of my life here in the Novitiate. It includes daily meditation, daily reading and reflection of the Word of God, spiritual readings, and personal and community prayers. I am also enriched by community living and its different activities such as games, manual work, recreation, and healthy interaction with the community members. Though food habits are new to me, and initially I found them a bit difficult, gradually, I have adjusted and found the taste in all that is given at the table.

A good relationship has been created among us from the beginning. The Emmaus Walk, which takes place every Thursday evening, helps me get to know my companions. It also helps me respect and accept my companions as they are and encourages me to share myself. It enables me to understand more about

myself in certain aspects of my life. The Fathers are very supportive and they help me to grow into a better and more responsible person. I am learning from them how to be an authentic religious in the Holy Cross family and to offer my life to the Lord through the Evangelical Counsels.

Furthermore, I appreciate the sessions on various topics, our confreres give periodically. They are very much relevant to our way of life. They help us pray well, focus, think, and reflect on our lives. They also help us to know more about the Rule of life and the Charism of our Founder. Our participation in the Reading of the Word of God, in the prayer of the faithful, and in the choir {during the Sunday Eucharist in the Parish}, provide us with another platform to participate in the pastoral ministry.

At this moment, I am hopeful that through prayer, I will be able to discern my vocation under the guidance of Fr. David A., Novice Director, Fr. Kitbok, Asst. Novice Director and Fr. James. Along with my fellow novices, I journey in faith to be able to say 'Yes' to the call of God to make God known, loved, and served.



**Novice Wantei Warlaitthma**

## RENEWAL PROGRAM - 2022

A time of renewal with Fr. Gratian Carlo, SJ has been an exciting and fulfilling program for each member of the Province.



Indeed, it is a blessing for the entire Province Membership as different groups based on our year of ordination gathered at MIIT Shillong in July, August and September for a spiritual re-awakening and renewal.



Each of us gained much from the program concerning spiritual and emotional renewal. We were fortunate enough to have Fr. Gratian Carlo SJ as our Resource Person. All the groups felt that it was essential and fitting to have such an exercise. The input sessions, in a way, helped us to introspect our very inner being as religious living and to work as a community. It was indeed an awakening moment for each of us. The sessions were quite enlightening and interactive. Having reflected and spent time sufficiently in prayer, we felt renewed and enthused to return to our ministerial placements with great enthusiasm and burning zeal for the mission.



We are very much grateful to the Province Administration for organizing an excellent program for each of us. We were extremely thankful to Brookdene Community for hosting different groups and making our stay enjoyable and comfortable.

 **Jowelson K., CSC**

## NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS SCHOOL - MOHARPARA

### CLEANLINESS DRIVE:



Notre Dame Holy Cross High School, Moharpara, organized a Cleanliness Drive at Teliamura Railway Station to mark the auspicious occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, on 14<sup>th</sup> August. India observes Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75 years



of its freedom. Joining the nation, our school also honoured our Motherland by spreading awareness on cleanliness and hygiene. The entire school was involved in this program with great enthusiasm. The school management is thankful to Shri. Pawan Kumar, Superintendent of Teliamura Railway Station for making the drive possible and successful.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY:





Notre Dame Holy Cross High School, Moharpara, celebrated the 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with great pomp and splendour. The function started at 8.00 am, and Fr. Hormis John CSC hoisted the National flag. After the flag hoisting, the students of different houses started their March Past and paid their respect to the National Flag. Madam Manjeeta Laishram welcomed the crowd, followed by various inter-house competitions to mark the auspicious day. In his address, Fr. Hormis John CSC stressed the importance of the Independence Day celebration and invited all present to keep alive the traditions and work for the nation's growth. The grand celebration ended with the vote of thanks by Fr. Roby V. Menacherry CSC, the Principal.

**KAIZEN FEST:**



A Cultural and Literary Fest of Notre Dame Holy Cross High School started on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug.'22. Ms. Debapriya Das, BDO of Teliamura, graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest. Shri. Subimal Barman, officer-in-charge, Teliamura Police station, was the Guest of Honour. 'Kaizen' comes from a Japanese word meaning Continuous improvement, which the school aims for the students. It allows the



students to explore and a platform to showcase their talents.

The various competitions during the Kaizen Fest were Debate, Winnowing, Face Painting, Quiz, Hopscotch, Folklore, Rangoli, Speech, Dance, Song, etc. Different houses participated with full enthusiasm and spirit. The fest was held for four days, from 22 to 25 Aug.'22. The closing ceremony was on the 25<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, the Provincial as the Chief Guest. The fest ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Martin Kaipeng, Coordinator of the event.

**Roby M., CSC**

**HOLY CROSS UMKIANG**





**SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILEE YEAR OF FR. FRANCIS SEBASTIAN**



Holy Cross Umkiang is blessed and privileged to celebrate the Silver Jubilee year of the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Francis Sebastian CSC along with his 56<sup>th</sup> Birthday event, on 21<sup>st</sup> August. The Return of Fr. Francis S to Holy Cross Parish, Umkiang, which he founded & nurtured, is God's perfect plan.



After the ordination to the priesthood on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1997, he was appointed as the Assistant Priest at Holy Cross Parish, Mawkyntew for three years and was invited to begin the new Holy Cross Parish at Umkiang in 2002. Fr. Francis took this mission as a privileged plan of God in which he invested himself. Holy Cross Umkiang stands as a sign of hope and prosperity because of his hard work and commitment. The Holy Cross and the parish community celebrated the grace of God and the wondrous works He has done through Fr. Francis Sebastian to the mission, with a con-celebrated Eucharist and a felicitation program. We are grateful to our confreres and others who made it possible to be part of this celebration. The day began with the hoisting of the Silver Jubilee flag followed by the

Holy Eucharist concelebrated by 15 priests of our Province, including Fr. Simon CSC, our Provincial Superior. There was a festive meal for everyone, followed by cultural programs. The Community is grateful to all the confreres in Meghalaya and others who actively took part in the celebration.

**John Valan, CSC**

**ST. ANDRE SCHOOL - BODHJUNG NAGAR**



**INTER HOUSE SPORTS DAY:**



The inter-house sports competitions were conducted in the school as part of its responsibility towards the students to keep them fit and healthy. Students from all four houses took part in the competitions enthusiastically.





**TREE PLANTATION DRIVE:**



Caring for Mother Earth is the responsibility of every person. To drive home this point, the school organized a tree plantation drive in collaboration with the Mohanpur Forest department. The students and teachers enthusiastically participated in the campaign and planted tree saplings on our campus. The sub-forest officer Mr. Kiran Debbarma was the Chief Guest of the day.



**PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING:**

An Annual meeting was conducted for the benefit of all the parents and teachers. Parents were made aware of the new pattern of the CBSE Exam, other educational matters, and concerns related to their ward.



**EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION:**



Classroom education coupled with practical knowledge brings out the best in the students. The students of Class XII, under the leadership of Sir

Ashish Roy, were taken to State Assembly and Museum for an educational tour. It was a learning experience for the students.

**EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR:**



A Day-long Seminar for all the Teachers was organized in the school by the Holy Cross Educational Foundation. The resource person, Mr. Saurav Beniwal, dealt with various aspects of teaching-learning.



**Iswar Happa, CSC**

**HOLY CROSS PARISH MAWPAT - AN OVERVIEW**



Holy Cross Parish, Mawpat, was erected in 2017. It has completed 5 years, and the Parish has grown wide and vast. It has 31 Catholic villages with 712 families.





## UNITS:

The Parish is divided into six units for the convenience of better pastoral care. The monthly liturgical activities are organized on Sundays in these units. On a specified Sunday, people from the villages of these units gather in one village along with the priest. The village leaders themselves organize these gatherings.

## THE ASSOCIATIONS:



The associations for men, women, and youth are active, and the programs are conducted throughout the year. The executive committees of these associations have their office bearers and plan out their monthly/yearly programs. They organize Leadership Training, Retreat for the Members, Social Awareness Program, and the like. This year, the Retreat for the Youth will be on 14-15 October, and on 16<sup>th</sup> October, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be given to the children. Special Catechetical instructions are given to the parish children to have their faith strengthened. At the Diocese level, the Annual Meeting is held once a year.

## SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES:

Small Christian Communities are organized in the Parish to help the faithful read the Bible, reflect and practice the gospel values. The Annual Meeting of SCCs from 6 Parishes was organized in Mawpat on April 29, 30 & 1<sup>st</sup> May in Mawpat. More than 200 participants benefitted from it. Fr. Cosmos Jyrwa & Sr. Bansara of the Diocese of Nongstoin were the resource persons.

## FAMILY CELL:

The family cell team, under the guidance of the Family Commission of Nongstoin Diocese and Holy Cross Family Ministry, organized different programs in the Parish. The Parish Team has planned for an annual program to be held in different villages of the Parish. This year, Fr. George Jarain, Director of Family Commission, Diocese of Nongstoin, organized a two-day training program, and the Executive Committee members renewed their office tenure for another three years. On 23 - 24, July, the Family Cell Team members organized the training in Nongtynniaw village. About 300 members attended the same.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:



Once in three months, the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is held on the first Saturday. The Church leaders of the villages represent their respective villages. This year, the Parish Pastoral Council had its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> of July and planned activities for the whole year. In 2021, the PPC announced the Annual Eucharistic Procession in the Parish for the next 10 years and will be held in different sub-centers of the Parish. Periodically the Parish Council evaluates and monitors the programs of the Parish. This year the Annual Eucharistic Procession will be held in Langmyndia, one of the remotest villages.

The faithful of the Parish are periodically accompanied in their faith journey, primarily through administering of Sacraments:



## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The families are taught the Catechism of the Catholic Church before the child is baptized. In each village, the Church Committee takes the initiative to teach the family members, especially the parents. Last year we had 347 baptisms.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:



Each village conducts catechism classes every Sunday, during which the children are prepared to receive the First Holy Communion. During the yearly retreat for the children, they are instructed more about this Sacrament. They are also taught how to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year 228 children received their First Holy Communion.

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

The children are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation every year. They are taught in their villages every Sunday, and an immediate preparation precedes the reception of the Sacrament. This year, they will be confirmed in their faith on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.'22.

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Every year, the teaching of the Catholic Church on the Sacrament of Matrimony is separately taught to

those who are going to get married and to those who are already living together. In the Diocese of Nongstoin, the Family Commission organizes three-day instructional classes on the Sacrament of Matrimony. The couples who are going to get married attend this teaching. Those who will rectify their marriages are called to the Parish separately and are instructed on the Church-Teachings.

## THE MAJOR LITURGICAL SERVICES:

Liturgical activities for Christmas, Easter, Parish Feast, and the Days of the different Associations are held at the Mission Centre with the requisite preparation. During the season of Advent and Lent, the Priests go to the villages to bless the faithful through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Holy Week Liturgy is organized in different villages with the significant participation of the faithful. During the Parish Feast, the Church Leaders {Rangbah Balang} renew their commitment and are felicitated for their dedicated service to the Mission.

## VILLAGE-LEVEL ANNUAL MEETING:

Each Church Committee holds its annual meeting in January or February to evaluate and



prepare for the New Year. This report is brought to the Parish along with the Financial Statement. In April, the Parish Annual Report is presented at the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, along with the Financial Statement of the Mission.

## EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY:

The Parish manages one Secondary School, 3 Upper Primary Schools and 11 Lower Primary Schools in different villages. The Secondary School in Mawpat has classes from Nursery to Class X, with 371 students. This year the Board Exam Result was much



better than the previous years. The school has secured a 74% result. On 25<sup>th</sup> Aug.'22, the Child Welfare Office from

Mawkyrwat, organised a training session for the students of our Secondary School in Mawpat. The team trained the students on Posco Act: How to protect themselves from any harassment. Mr. Passah {Director} and Mr. Samuel Lyngdoh were the Resource Persons. The Students took part in the Independence

Day Celebration in Mawpat. The Village Leader {Sardar} was the Chief Guest and hoisted the Tricolour. The



students performed the March Past, Drill, and Cultural items such as Patriotic Dances and songs.



Suresh K., CSC & Marbilus K., CSC

**PRESS CLIPS**

**UPCOMING PROGRAM**

**NESNIM**

(North Eastern Students National Integration Movement)

30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2022

At

**Holy Cross School, Agartala**



**NESNIM 2022**

“Teen Health: Our Wealth”

Organised by:

**HOLY CROSS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

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