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## Provincial Speaks



My dear friends, I am happy that the "Waves", the news bulletin of the Province, is rejuvenated. We are in the season of Lent, and it is the season of Grace. Every year the church provides us with an opportunity for our spiritual renewal and growth, personal conversion of

heart and a time to come closer to God and one another. We are invited to introspect our life and responsibility as people called to live contemplatively and witness prophetically in our time. We have begun our Lenten season on Ash Wednesday by bowing our heads to receive ashes. At the end of Lent, we will bend even lower to wash the feet of our brothers and sisters. So the season of Lent is a humble descent both inwards and towards others. It is about becoming little. This season also allows us to rediscover our profound relationship with God, who is supposed to be the centre of our being. Before commencing the lent, Pope Francis said, "Forget giving up booze or chocolate this lent. Unless it helps someone more than yourself, it is pointless. No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on the hard floor, and eat ashes and sing continuously, if you do no good to others you do nothing great". May the observance of this lent make us more other centric than self-centric. I wish you all a holy season of lent and spirit-filled Easter.

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

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## EDITORIAL

Dear readers of WAVES,

Greetings.



Confucius says, "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." For the past two years, we have been slow and even in hibernation regarding the publication of WAVES. Many were the contributing factors, including the pandemic, for its hibernation. However, we do not want to give up. So we are here with a resolve to continue the publication, and from now on, you will have it in your inbox once in two months.

***"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)***

We are in the season of Lent. The theme of the Holy Father, Pope Francis's message for Lent, is very apt for today's time. 'Let us do good to all' is a clarion call for everyone when we are looking at war, inequality, discrimination at every level, and many other vices in and around us. Openness to dialogue and a willing heart to do works of charity, mercy, and kindness can result in a great harvest of goodness around us.

The write-ups in this newsletter are testimonies of how our confreres and associates are continuing to do good in their mission places. Every opportunity is turned into an occasion for doing good to others through various educational and pastoral activities.

Following the clarion call of the Holy Father, let us all unite in our efforts to do good to one another and make this Lenten journey a special one.

**George Jacob, CSC**  
**Chief Editor**

## JONGKSHA

### **GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF GOOD SHEPHERD HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, JONGKSHA**

"Preparing students for academic excellence and evolving them to be great human beings is the purpose of education," said Conrad K. Sangma, honourable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, while addressing the Golden Jubilee function of Good Shepherd Higher Secondary School, Jongksha, East Khasi Hills. The Chief Minister congratulated the school for their dedicated five-decade service in 'educating the heart and mind' of thousands of students. On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Jubilee higher secondary block with modern science labs. He also inaugurated the Atal Tinkering Lab of the school.



Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Banteidor Lyngdoh, Executive member of KHADC, Martle Mukhim, Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Fathers, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, and Alumni member and journalist, Rining Lyngdoh spoke on the occasion and congratulated the school for having rendered 50 years of service in imparting quality education to the youth of the area.

Fr. George Jacob, CSC principal of the school, in his address, appreciated the visionary leaders of the



past and present, staff and students of the school for their commitment to the education and recommitted to inspiring many more students and preparing them for the future. On the occasion, the school students performed various cultural items to the delight of parents, friends, and well-wishers of the school.

The history of Good Shepherd Higher Secondary School, Jongksha, commenced in 1945 with establishing a Lower Primary School by the Catholic Mission, Shillong. However, the leap for the Educational Mission of the Catholic Church took place with the establishment of Good Shepherd Parish in 1972 by the Salesians of Don Bosco. In a certain sense, the beginning of Good Shepherd School began in the same year with the opening of Class IV and the Middle English School. From then, the school started to function more systematically and earnestly with nine students and five teachers!

In 1977, the Congregation of Holy Cross took responsibility for the Parish and the fledging School. The efforts of the Congregation of Holy Cross were in collaboration with the Franciscan Sisters of the Most Blessed Sacrament till 2004 and from there on with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany. What began as a tiny seed in 1972 with nine students and five teachers has grown into a big tree with 850 students, 33 teachers, and five non-teaching staff.

*George Jacob*



## KATHALCHERRA

### HAPPENINGS AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

- Education is not just about academics but also about extra-curricular activities. The Holy Cross High School Kathalcherra conducted inter-class and inter-house sports events from 25th January to 30th January-

2022. The students actively took part in various sports events. We congratulate the winners of multiple events like volleyball, football, throw ball, and many other competitions.

- Covid-19 has been a concern of health and education, affecting teaching-learning deeply. Vaccination



has brought some relief to this problem to an extent. PHC of Nepalitilla conducted the vaccination drive in the school from 5th January 2022 for all the students of classes IX to XII. All the students of the respective classes were vaccinated.

- India is the largest democratic country in the world. The school community joyfully celebrated the Republic Day on 26th January by hoisting the tricolor flag. After the Holy Eucharist, the teachers, local parents /guardians, and student representatives gathered for hoisting the flag.
- As sojourners on earth parting and departing are part of life. On 16th February 2022, the school community bid farewell to classes X & XII students. Having spent 15 years in the school, these students depart for their higher studies to cities like Agartala. Acknowledging the contribution made by these students during their tenure of study, we bid them farewell and wished them a bright future.

- It was also the day to extend our gratitude and thanks to Fr. Ishwar Happa, CSC, Principal of the school. He has served the school as principal for







the last three years. Even amidst the lockdown, the school has advanced qualitatively over the previous three years. During his tenure, the school witnessed the construction of a new building with additional classrooms, internet facilities for online classes, setting up new administrative office, 100% result in board exams and many other achievements.

- The qualification in education is not enough to survive. Today students need to realize what their future plans in life are. Towards this end a career guidance session was organized for students on 14th February 2022.

**Iswar Happa, CSC**

## BAGBASA

### ANNUAL SPORTS DAY AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL BAGBASSA



The Annual Sports Day of Holy Cross High School, Bagbasa, was held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022. It was held in the spacious school ground. The program started with the hoisting of the flag by Sir Biswajit Shil, asst. teacher, followed by lighting the lamp by the house leaders.

There were several sports events. The students were all in winning spirit. The participants actively participated with zest and vigour. All the participants were very focused on their goal to get a position.

A short prize distribution program was organized at the end of the events, and the winners received their awards with great enthusiasm.

The students were clapping and applauding for their team winners.

The purpose of this sports day was to help both the students and teachers be mentally and physically active. It also allowed the teachers and students to come closer. It was a great encouragement for the students as they have learnt the value of reaching their goals.



**Ajit Philip, CSC**

## MOHARPARA

### FAREWELL TO CLASS X AT NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL, MOHARPARA



26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 is a red-letter day in the history of Notre Dame Holy Cross High School, Moharpara, as the school bid farewell to 143 outgoing students of class X. The

event was graced by Mr. Chita Ranjan Debbarma, the Executive Member for Education and PWD, Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District Council. In his address to the students, he urged them to be responsible and committed persons in their life. He thanked the School management for rendering a meaningful service to humanity. Fr. Alfred D Souza, CSC, the principal of the School, welcomed the gathering and called upon the class X outgoing students to be salt and light of





the world. The outgoing students were presented with a memento, and the school put up a colourful cultural program in their honour.

*Alfred D'Souza, CSC*

## AGARTALA

### SPORTS MEET AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL AGARTALA

Holy Cross School, Agartala organized an exclusive inter-house annual sports meet at its Durjoynagar campus. The Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri. Sushanta Chowdhury was the Chief Guest for the programme. The other dignitaries present included Shri. Dipak Majumdar, Hon'ble Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation and Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial of Holy Cross Fathers. The chief guest lit the symbolic torch, which was gallantly taken around the field by the sports captain and captains of various houses and took a salute at the march past.



In his message, the Hon'ble chief guest encouraged the students to take a keen interest in sports and outdoor activities and say no to drugs.

*Jilson Tom, CSC*

## ASHA HOLY CROSS

### CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS

Association for Social and Human Advancement (ASHA), in collaboration with Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), has been organizing seven-day In-service intensive training for the primary teachers of TTAADC working in the rural areas of the state. Each batch had 30 teachers

leading to a total number of 1000 teachers. The goal of the training was to develop influential self-motivated instructional leaders in Education committed to a better world. To attain this objective, resource persons are invited from pan India. The topics include Pedagogy, Educational Leadership, Life Skills, Educational Management, disability studies, and Learning skills. So far, six batches have completed this residential training.



*Paul Pudussery, CSC*

## PRINCIPALS' MEET

### MEGHALAYA AND TRIPURA REGIONS

**Meghalaya region:** Principals of Holy Cross run schools in Meghalaya gathered for a meeting on 7th



March 2022 at Holy Cross Umkiang. Principals of all four schools participated in the forum. Fr. John Valan, regional coordinator, presided over the meeting and

presented the agenda. It included common syllabus, examinations, question paper setting, common programmes for the year and other administrative matters. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, secretary of Holy Cross Educational Foundation, was present for the meeting and briefed the group on all the plans of the educational foundation for all our schools.

**Tripura region:** On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022, all heads of schools under the Holy Cross Educational





Foundation gathered to discuss and plan for the upcoming academic year. We discussed varied subjects affecting our schools. Fr. Simon Fernandis,



CSC, Chairman of the Foundation, presided over the meeting and Fr. George Jacob, CSC, the secretary, presented various items for discussion.

The meetings conducted state-wise decided to implement plans and strategies that will help the students and teachers of our schools renew their enthusiasm and commitment to the teaching-learning process.

## CHAMPHAI

### INSTALLATION OF NEW PARISH PRIEST



On February 20, 2022, Most. Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, DD, the Bishop of Aizawl Diocese, officially installed Rev. Fr. Jerome Chorei, CSC, as the new Parish Priest of Holy Cross Parish, Champhai.

The installation ceremony during the Holy Mass was attended by many parishioners following all Covid-



19 protocols. The parishioners also used the occasion to express gratitude to the outgoing Parish Priest Fr. Clement Amo, CSC. Present on the occasion was Fr. Abraham C, CSC, the provincial councillor, Fr. Valerian Castelino, CSC, the province administrator, Fr. Teibor Marwein, CSC Parish Priest of St. John the Apostles parish, Khazawl, Holy Cross Priests and Brothers and MSMHC Sisters. After the mass, the parishioners organised a farewell and welcoming program in the Parish Hall. The leaders of different groups expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Clement Amo for serving the people of Champhai tirelessly with gladness, faithfulness



and compassion. They extended their hearty welcome to Fr. Jerome and assured him of their support in working together for the greater glory of God. In his short speech, Bishop also praised the great work and all the accomplishments of Fr. Clement for five and a half years, especially for his hospitality, love and care as a pastor. Bishop also wished the new Parish Priest all the best in his ministry of serving the faithful of Champhai.

The program ended with the blessing from Fr. Thomas John CSC and with the prize distribution of the winners of different competitions organised by the Parish in collaboration with the Holy Cross Family Ministry, which was held last year in the month of September and October.

*Vicky Lamin Gayang, CSC*



## MAWKYNREW

### NEWS BITS FROM HOLY CROSS PARISH MAWKYNREW



**Eucharistic Procession:** The Annual Eucharistic procession of Holy Cross Parish, Mawkynrew, Meghalaya, held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, was a long-awaited one earmarked for the faith journey in the parish. The newly built church dedicated to St. Paul at Jatah Lakadong was also inaugurated and blessed on the same day. It was a solemn event for the people of the parish to witness the second biggest church of the parish in this village. The church was inaugurated by Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, the provincial superior of Holy Cross Fathers, North East India. Most. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, DD, the Archbishop of Shillong, blessed the church and officiated the solemn Eucharist, which 15 priests concelebrated. During the Eucharist, 450 people received the sacrament of Confirmation, and 270 children received the First Holy Communion. In the afternoon Eucharistic procession took place through the streets and by-lanes of Jatah village with people singing hymns and adoring the Eucharistic Lord.

**Blessing of the Village Chapel:** On the 06<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, another newly built church dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Mawlat village of our parish was inaugurated by Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Fathers, and blessed by Fr. Theophilus Sohtun, CSC, the Vice Provincial. The blessing ceremony and the Eucharist followed were witnessed by around 3000 people. This occasion of blessing the church was also used to say farewell to Fr. John Valan, CSC, the outgoing asst. parish priest. In the afternoon,



Eucharistic adoration was organized with preaching by Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC.

Witnessed by a great multitude of people, these two events in the parish showed forth the great faith of the catholic community. The shouldering of the events' responsibility by the co-pastoral team and the parish pastoral council was remarkable.

*Fr. Antony Maria Joseph, CSC*

## MOHARPARA PARISH

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MOHARPARA, TRIPURA

#### Golden Jubilee Celebration at Debthang



12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 is a memorable day for the faithful of St. John's Catholic Church Debthang Para. It was a celebration of their faith in Jesus Christ for 50 long years. It was an opportunity to thank God for His benevolent blessings in the lives of every faithful member of the local church. The theme of the golden jubilee was "There is salvation in no one else other than Jesus Christ" (Acts:4:12). The theme summarises the focal aspiration of the faithful to be





blessed and guided by Christ alone. The celebrations began with a blessing and inauguration of the Memorial stone of the Jubilee by Most. Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, the Bishop of Agartala.



During the sermon, the Bishop congratulated the faithful for their faith in Jesus and becoming a happy and joyful community. Bishop encouraged the people to recommit themselves to Christ and be a sign of unity. There was a short felicitation program during which the jubilee souvenir was released. The faithful expressed their gratitude to priests and sisters who served them during the past 50 years. Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, the Provincial Superior of priests of Holy Cross, joined the celebrations with other fathers and religious sisters from the parish and neighbouring parishes. The jubilee celebration ended with a shared meal.

#### Installation of New parish priest and Sweet adieu to outgoing Parish Priest

19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 is a historic day in the chronicles of Immaculate Conception parish Moharpara. The parish experienced a change of



guard. Fr. Arbok, CSC, was installed as the parish priest in place of Fr. Arul, CSC. The installation ceremony was conducted on the fourth Sunday of Advent during the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Hormis John, CSC, the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Agartala, installed Fr. Arbok, CSC as the parish priest in the presence of Fr. Simon Fernandes, CSC the Provincial Superior of Fathers of Holy Cross North East India. Sisters and Lay faithful witnessed this memorable event.

After the Holy Eucharist, a short felicitation program was organised. The Parish community gave a fitting farewell to Fr. Arul, CSC, for his excellent service to Moharpara parish and expressed their deep sense of gratitude. The faithful warmly welcomed the newly installed parish priest. The celebrations ended with a common meal.

*Alfred D'Souza, CSC*

### UMKIANG

#### **EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION AT HOLY CROSS PARISH, UMKIANG**



After a gap of two years, Holy Cross Parish, Umkiang, organised the solemn Eucharistic procession on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 at Ratacherra village. The theme for the day was "I am the bread of life". Preparation for this event was started a month before. The entire parish community worked towards the success of this annual parish event. As part of the preparation, first holy communicants were taught





about the sacrament and its importance in their lives.

The actual day's programme began with morning prayer followed by the Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Kresen Laloo, financial administrator of the Diocese of Jowai and was concelebrated by nine priests. During the Eucharist, 150 children received the first Holy Communion. At the time of offertory, the first holy communicants offered candles as a sign of surrendering themselves to the Lord. In the afternoon praise and worship service was organised, led by Fr. Genis Shangpliang, MSFS, parish priest of Amalarem parish. Many people received healing during the service. It was followed by the procession carrying the Eucharistic Lord through the by-lanes of the village and the national highway accompanied by singing and prayers. It was a deeply spiritual exercise for more than a thousand faithful of the parish, who had gathered from different villages.

At the end of the programme, the guests were honoured with flower plants and shawls. The 'Rangba Balang' of Ratacherra village proposed a vote of thanks thanking everyone for their wholehearted cooperation and support.

*Tarsish Marak, CSC*



## MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE

### MY EXPERIENCE AT CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN INDIANAPOLIS

At the very outset, I congratulate the Provincial Council and the editorial team of "Waves" for reviving the publication of our Province Newsletter. It will certainly keep us all informed and in touch with each other. I take this opportunity to write a few lines about my life and ministry at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. As you know, I am here in response to the invitation of the Provincial of the

Midwest Province of Holy Cross Brothers to collaborate in their educational ministry. I arrived here on August 2 2021, when the second wave of Covid-19 was at its peak. Unfortunately, I got infected with Covid while quarantining at a Hotel in Mexico City on my way to Indianapolis. I came here with acute Pneumonia and was physically very weak and hardly able to walk. Thanks to the care I received from Brother Roberto and other Holy Cross confreres in the area, I survived with a few days of hospitalization and good nursing care at Columba Hall at Notre Dame University. I began my ministry as the school chaplain after a whole month of complete bed rest and medical treatment. My duties at the school are priestly and sacramental (Holy Mass, Confessions, Adorations, Retreats, anointing of the sick) and helping with the school's counselling department and the campus ministry team as and when needed. Thanks be to God; I am finding joy and fulfilment in my priestly ministry.

Let me give you a short introduction about the



school where I do my ministry. Cathedral High School was founded as an all-boys Catholic high school on September 13, 1918, by Bishop Joseph Chartrand. The Indianapolis Catholic Diocese owned Cathedral but engaged the Holy Cross Brothers of the Midwest Province to serve as faculty by a unique arrangement. Under the Brothers of Holy Cross, Cathedral's reputation as an outstanding academic institution grew, and so did the enrolment. By the early 1950s, Cathedral was overflowing. In 1964, the ownership of the school was handed over to the Brothers of Holy Cross by the Diocese.

From 1964 to 1972, the Holy Cross Brothers ran Cathedral as a private, independent school. One of the most significant results of "independence" was that the Cathedral no longer received financial



support from the church -- and that remains true today. Because of declining enrolments and radically shifting population patterns to the suburbs, the Brothers were convinced by 1972 that the continued operation of Cathedral was not feasible.

In October of that year, the Holy Cross Brothers announced Cathedral would close, effective June 1973.

A group of parents, alumni and friends rescued Cathedral by forming a non-profit organization to take over the school. In 1976, the Cathedral Trustees moved their school to its present location and girls were included in the Cathedral student body for the first time. In 1988, 2004 and again in 2016, Cathedral was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a "School of Excellence."

Today, Cathedral is experiencing continued growth and popularity. There are approximately 1,200 students in Grades 9-12 and more than 100 faculty and staff members, most of whom hold Master's degrees or higher. The school offers diverse co-curricular activities in academic, cultural and athletic disciplines. Students hail from more than 100 elementary and middle schools and 13 counties throughout central Indiana. On September 13, 2018, Cathedral High School celebrated 100 years of educational service to young people in central Indiana. Brother Roberto Jimenez, CSC and yours truly are the only CSCs in the school. The school imparts to its students the core values of the Holy Cross, and it is no doubt very Holy Cross and very Catholic.

If you wish to look at the Highlights of the school, please click on the link.

[https://issuu.com/indianapoliscathedralhs/docs/chs-highlights-fallwinter\\_21\\_digital\\_02.23.22](https://issuu.com/indianapoliscathedralhs/docs/chs-highlights-fallwinter_21_digital_02.23.22)

*Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC*

## HOLY CROSS FORMEES – 2021-2022

{ Academic Year: June 2021 - 2022 May }

SI. NO	FORMATION PROGRAMME	FORMATION HOUSE	NO. OF CANDIDATES
01	Orientation	Holy Cross Pine View, Sumer, Meghalaya	24
02	+2 Level	St. Andre Minor Seminary, Bodhjunnagar, Tripura	30 (Class XI – 13 Class XII – 17)
03	Degree Course	Sacred Heart Study House, Lembucherra, Tripura	29 (1 <sup>st</sup> year – 08 2 <sup>nd</sup> year – 13 3 <sup>rd</sup> year – 02 HC Brothers - 06)
04	Novitiate	Holy Cross Novitiate, Yercaud, Tamilnadu	04
05	Philosophy	Holy Cross Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra	02 (1 <sup>st</sup> year – 01 2 <sup>nd</sup> year – 01)
06	Regency	Different mission centers in Meghalaya and Tripura	03
06	Theology	Holy Cross Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra	06 (1 <sup>st</sup> year – 03 2 <sup>nd</sup> year – 02 3 <sup>rd</sup> year - 01)
07	Diaconate	Different mission centers in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh	02

*Compiled by Fr. Mariaraj, CSC*

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