

Waves



AGARTALA

Province Newsletter

VOLUME - 01 / 2024

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PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

Dear Confreres,

As we step into the New Year 2024, I extend my prayers and God's blessings to each of you.

WAVES, our Province Newsletter, has once again landed in your inbox, offering a delightful read. While Christmas may seem like a distant memory for some, its message resonates throughout the entirety of this newborn year. This initial 2024 edition of WAVES serves as a reminder of the myriad activities that defined the concluding moments of 2023 within our Province.



I express my sincere gratitude for your tireless efforts in organizing numerous activities at your respective Centers, whether educational, pastoral, or formational. Your active involvement in various Mission activities continues to uphold the vitality of both the Dioceses and the Province.

The recently concluded Province Assembly received wholehearted attendance and active participation, setting the stage for the upcoming Chapter in May 2024. Your commitment to this preparation is acknowledged and appreciated. The Annual Retreat was successful, and I extend my thanks to the preacher. Ultimately, it is the guidance of the Holy Spirit that directs the Retreat, fostering an enhanced commitment to Religious Life and faithfulness to our religious vows.

As we enter the Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year 2024, let us not succumb to ordinariness but strive to maintain our uniqueness in our love for God, the faithful, the Dioceses, and the Holy Cross.

Wishing you an enjoyable perusal of WAVES, our Province Newsletter.

Warm regards,

Provincial Superior
Province of Northeast India

Province of Northeast India NEWSLETTER

JAN . 2024

VOLUME # 01

PROVINCE UPDATES



CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

EDITORIAL

EMBRACING NEW BEGINNINGS: A REFLECTION ON THE NEW YEAR 2024



Dear Confreres and Friends,

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, the dawn of 2024 beckons us with the promise of new beginnings, fresh opportunities, and the prospect of continued growth.

It is with hearts brimming with hope and gratitude that we present you this edition of our newsletter, a medium through which we connect, share, and celebrate the collective spirit of the Holy Cross in the Northeast Province of India.

The turning of the calendar signifies not just the passing of time but a symbolic renewal—a chance to reflect on our journey, both as individuals and as a community. The year 2023 was undoubtedly a tapestry woven with threads of challenges and triumphs, moments of introspection, and instances of profound joy. As we bid farewell to the old and embrace the new, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the resilience cultivated, and the bonds strengthened.

In the spirit of the Holy Cross charism, let this new year be a canvas on which we paint the values of compassion, service, and unwavering faith. Each of us is an integral part of this sacred mission, contributing to the larger narrative of spreading love and understanding in our communities.

As we embark on the journey that is 2024, let us take a moment to consider the profound impact we can make through our collective efforts. The

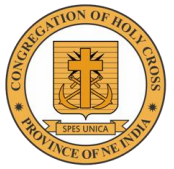


world around us presents a myriad of challenges, but it is in facing these challenges with determination and a shared sense of purpose that we find our true calling.

The new year is an opportune time for introspection, a chance to realign our priorities and

“The fact of the matter is that [the Congregation of Holy Cross] began and developed in a manner so mysterious that I can claim for myself neither credit for its foundation nor merit for its progress. Therein lies the indubitable proof that God alone is the Founder of this Congregation.”

—Bl. Basil Moreau, Circular Letters, February 24, 1848



refocus on the core values that define us. In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it is easy to lose sight of the spiritual foundation that grounds us. Let 2024 be a year of rediscovery—a journey inward to strengthen our connection with the divine and outward to extend the warmth of our compassion to those in need.

In this edition, we bring you inspiring stories from our various institutions, highlighting the impact of our collective efforts on the lives of those we serve. It is a testament to the transformative power of our mission, reminding us that every act of kindness,

every moment of understanding, contributes to the greater good.

As we navigate the uncharted waters of the coming months, let our shared commitment to the Holy Cross ideals be our guiding light. Together, let us forge ahead, confident in the knowledge that our endeavours are fuelled by a higher purpose.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous New Year!



- *George Jacob, CSC*

HOLY CROSS PARISH, KOLORIANG

TRANSFORMATIVE CHARISMATIC HEALING RETREAT



Holy Cross Parish Koloriang recently played host to a transformative three-day Charismatic Healing Retreat, spanning from November 17 to 19th, 2023. Attracting a significant number of devoted attendees, the event was designed to revitalize the Catholic faith and nurture inner peace within families. Participants expressed their contentment, highlighting the tangible benefits they derived from the program.

The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Thaddeus Kujur SDB, a distinguished preacher hailing from the neighbouring state of Assam. Widely acknowledged for his expertise in leading retreats, he actively engaged the audience, evoking tears of joy, happiness, and fulfilment. In addition to the spiritual renewal experienced, parishioners also witnessed remarkable instances of physical healing.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Continuing its tradition of a meaningful and joyous celebration during the Christmas season, Holy Cross Parish Koloriang orchestrated a series of festive events. From December 15th to 20th, carol singing resonated within the town areas, extending its reach to cover entire villages in the subsequent days. The festivities included organized games and sports, culminating in a Bible quiz on the evening of December 24, where high-quality prizes were distributed to the winners.

The pinnacle of the celebration took place on December 25, featuring a joyful Holy Eucharist, followed by a warm agape gathering. The entire community came together to share in the spirit of Christmas, fostering a sense of unity and goodwill.

- *Prasanta Basumatary, CSC*



ST. ANDRE PARISH, NYAPIN



PARISH DAY CELEBRATIONS

St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, enthusiastically organized a three-day Parish Day Celebration from the 10th to the 12th of November. The event featured various competitions that witnessed excited participation from faithful hailing from nearby villages. Throughout the day, diverse games and cultural competitions added vibrancy to the festivities. The evening was adorned with a plethora of cultural events, and prizes were awarded to the deserving winners. The celebrations culminated with a solemn Holy Eucharist on the 12th morning, presided over by Fr. Stephen Lohrii, CSC, the Parish Priest. Post the Eucharistic celebration, the faithful indulged in a delightful and sumptuous meal.



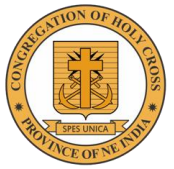
THREE-DAY SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

From the 17th to the 19th of November, St. Andre Parish hosted a spiritually enriching three-day retreat. The event, which drew a significant faithful presence, was animated by Rev. Fr. Santhosh VC, Director of the Divine Retreat Centre, Joram. Covering a range of topics from basic Catechism to spiritual talks, the retreat witnessed many faithful sharing testimonies of both inner and physical healings. Notably, this year's retreat brought individuals back to the Church after years, with many receiving reconciliations and Holy Communion.



FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION

On the Feast Day of the Holy Family, St. Andre Parish observed "Family Day" on December 31. Families from different villages actively participated in various competitions, starting the day with a Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Stephen, the Parish Priest. Following the Mass, competitions took place, and prizes were distributed to outstanding families. The program concluded with a delectable meal prepared by the local faithful, fostering a sense of unity and joy among parishioners.



ST. JUDE SCHOOL, NYAPIN



CLOSING CEREMONY OF ANNUAL SPORTS: ST. Jude School's Annual Sports, from the 4th to the 14th of November, concluded with a grand closing ceremony. Various competitions, including drawing, singing, dancing, and an array of games, were held during these days. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, graced the concluding day as the chief guest. Prizes were distributed, and the Green House emerged victorious as the overall champion.

- *Lawrence Wanniang, CSC*

ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

Senior Citizens Day 2023 - A Heartwarming Celebration

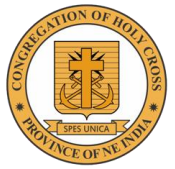
November 05, 2023, marked a truly special and gracious occasion as 89 senior citizens from Kumarghat Parish came together to celebrate a day dedicated to them. The festivities commenced with a solemn Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Hormis CSC, the golden jubilarian of his priestly ordination and the former Parish Priest of Kumarghat Parish. His heartwarming homily set a reflective tone for the day.



Following the Holy Mass, a felicitation ceremony for Fr. Hormis added another layer of significance to the event, acknowledging his dedicated service and commitment. Presenting him with a shawl and a small gift was a thoughtful gesture, expressing gratitude for his impactful contributions. Recognizing and honouring the presence of senior citizens proved essential in fostering a sense of community and respect within the parish. Each senior citizen was presented with a token of love, a blanket, ensuring they feel valued and cared for, especially as the weather turns colder this time of year.

After a short refreshment break, the celebration continued with lively party games, showcasing the active participation of all the senior citizens. Prizes for the winners demonstrated that the event was not only a spiritual celebration but also an opportunity to build camaraderie and joy within the community. The festivities concluded with a shared moment of fellowship and enjoyment over a delightful lunch, bringing everyone together in a perfect conclusion to the day.

- *Thamby Joseph*



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

Parents' Day 2023 Celebration

On November 10, 2023, Holy Cross School in Pabiacherra, Kumarghat, celebrated Parents' Day in honour of the 150th death anniversary of Blessed Basile Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The distinguished Chief Guest for the occasion was Rev. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, the Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation. Notable personalities present as Guests of Honor included Shri Bhagaban Das, MLA of the 50-Pabiacherra constituency in the Tripura Assembly, and several esteemed individuals from various government departments as well as priests and sisters from neighbouring parishes and schools.

The event marked a moment of joy for the staff and students of Holy Cross School as they orchestrated a mesmerizing program that left the spectators in awe. The students showcased their talents through various cultural performances, with numerous participants engaging in dances and programmes that filled parents with pride.



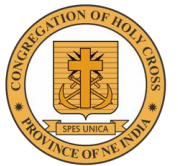
In his speech, Chief Guest Fr. George Jacob, CSC expressed gratitude and appreciation for the selfless contributions of the staff and students to the school. He also extended his thanks to the parents for their unwavering support. Guest of Honor Shri Bhagavan Chandra Das addressed the gathering, acknowledging Holy Cross School's significant contribution to the local population's education. Representing the parents, Mr. Paul Sangma, a member of the School Management Committee (SMC), expressed gratitude for the school's services.

The event included special moments, such as honouring invitees from different departments, acknowledging SMC members, and recognizing the newly constituted Holy Cross School Kumarghat Alumni Association. The program concluded with Fr. Lourdu, the principal, presenting the annual report and delivering the vote of thanks. It was a truly enjoyable day for all attendees, and the hope is that this Parents' Day celebration will be a lasting, memorable experience for everyone involved.

Inauguration of the Alumni Association



On October 27, the Alumni Association of Holy Cross School Kumarghat was officially established under the guidance of Fr. Jilson Tom, CSC, the former principal, in the presence of Fr. J. Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC, the current principal. The inaugural meeting witnessed the participation of 22 enthusiastic former students, representing all six batches, alongside Sir Tapan, the PRO, Sir Sourabh, Miss



Sangi, Miss Sukjai, Sir Apu, and a few other staff members.

Fr. Lourdu extended a warm welcome to Fr. Jilson and the ex-students, initiating the meeting by inviting everyone to introduce themselves and share updates on their current studies. Fr. Jilson emphasized the significance of the Alumni Association, guiding attendees on how to stay connected with the school. He outlined the benefits of the association, underscoring how both students and others would gain from this collective effort.

An election was conducted, resulting in the selection of representatives for key positions: Parthib Roy as President, Priyanka Debroy as Vice President, and Jonak Saha as Secretary, each serving a one-year term. Sir Tapan was elected as the mentor of the association.

To facilitate communication, students' phone numbers were collected for the creation of a WhatsApp group. The efforts of the leaders have proven fruitful, with the association currently boasting 194 members. The decision was made to convene the alumni meet annually during the puja vacation, fostering a tradition of coming together. The meeting concluded with the members sharing snacks.

The official declaration of the association's formation took place on November 10, 2023, during the Parents' Day celebration. In a gesture of appreciation, the President and Vice President were felicitated with a token of gratitude—a traditional *rishta* and a gift.

- Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC



NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MOHARPARA

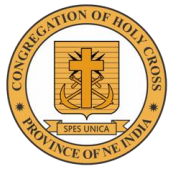
Grand Celebration of Parents' Day

On the 23rd and 24th of November 2023, Notre Dame Holy Cross School, Moharpara, exuberantly celebrated Parents' Day with great pomp and show. The event witnessed a positive and appreciative turnout from parents who commended the school management for orchestrating such a splendid showcase in their honour. The Parents' Day celebration played a pivotal role in strengthening the bond between the school management and parents.

The esteemed Chief Guest on November 23 was Smt. Chandni Chandran, IAS (DM of Khowai). The event also welcomed Shri. Dinesh Debbarma (DEO), Shri. Bishwajit Debbarma (IS), Shri. Sourav Das (SDWO), and Fr. George Jacob, CSC (Secretary, HCEF). Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

Continuing the grandeur, the Chief Guest on November 24 was Shri. Bikash Debbarma, Hon'ble Minister – Tribal Welfare, Handloom, Handicrafts & Sericulture and Statistics. The event also saw the presence of Shri. Kamal Kalai, EM (Health & Tribal Welfare) TTAADC, Shri. Pathan Jamatia, MLA-41 Ampa Nagar Constituency, and Fr. Alfred DSouza, CSC (Administrator Holy Cross Fathers Northeast Province). Fr. Ishwar Happa, CSC, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.





The highlights of the celebration included enchanting performances such as the dance by kindergarten students, a captivating united North-east dance, and a mesmerizing fashion show showcasing the diverse tribes of Tripura. Adding a touch of scientific marvel, the event featured a model of Chandrayaan-3.

The collective hard work of both teachers and students was applauded, positioning the school as a model institution in the region. The Parents Day celebration not only showcased the school's commitment to excellence but also strengthened the sense of community and collaboration between the school and parents.

- *Roby Menacherry, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

Ruby Jubilee Celebration

Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Kathalcherra, joyously marked its Ruby Jubilee on November 25, 2023. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Shri. Bikash Debbarma, Minister for Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Tripura. The celebration was graced by the presence of Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC DD, and Shri. Paul Dangsus, ML., representing the 46 Karamcherra, as Guests of Honour. Rev. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, added a special touch to the event as the Guest of Special Honor.

The day was adorned with a spectacular cultural program presented by the school's talented students. To honour the legacy of the institution, past principals, members of the School Management Committee, and outstanding alumni were felicitated with a jubilee memento. The celebration concluded with refreshments for parents and guardians and a sumptuous meal for the esteemed guests in attendance.



State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS)

The Department of Education, Govt. of Tripura, conducted the State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) for students in Classes III, VI, and IX. Aimed at assessing student performance and tailoring the curriculum to meet the demands of the 21st century, the survey saw the participation of 180 students.

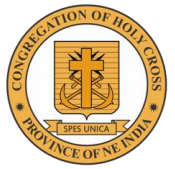


Staff Picnic at 'Narikhel Kunja', Dumbur

On December 09, 2023, the dedicated staff of Holy Cross Higher Secondary School took a well-deserved break at 'Narikhel Kunja,' Dumbur, Tripura. This outing provided a refreshing opportunity for relaxation and rejuvenation after a year of dedicated academic pursuits. The staff enjoyed a delightful journey, a boat ride on the lake, and a sumptuous picnic lunch, fostering camaraderie among the members.



- *Davis Konuran, CSC*



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

Tragic Accident Claims Life of a Student

On November 02, tragedy struck our school community as we mourn the untimely demise of our student, Sajoni of class VI, and her father in a fatal accident. Returning to school after the holiday, they were involved in a collision with a speeding truck, leading to the immediate loss of Sajoni and her father. Sajoni's cousin sister, Tulana of class VIII, sustained severe injuries but is gradually recovering.

The collective efforts of our staff, students, and guardians, coupled with the school's generous contribution, resulted in a substantial collection. The family of Sajoni received fifty thousand rupees, while Tulana's family received forty thousand rupees for medical treatment. We extend our deepest sympathies and blessings to these two grieving families.



Triumphs and Challenges in District Basketball Competition

The spirit of basketball was alive as our school's girls' team participated in the district under-seventeen basketball competition on November 10. Despite the loss, we take pride in announcing that Romingthangi Darlong of class X, one of our players, was selected for the national team. We commended and congratulated her in our school assembly while our boys' team secured victory, winning the cup.



Children's Day Celebration

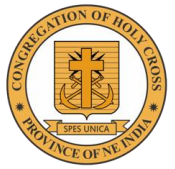


Our staff and teachers celebrated Children's Day on November 10, acknowledging the rights, education, and welfare of children. The day, which coincides with the birthday of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was marked by joyous festivities despite continuous holidays for other festivals.

Annual Parents' Day Extravaganza

Bringing joy and bliss, our Annual Parents' Day on December 02 saw an enthusiastic gathering of parents, guardians, and important officials. In the presence of Provincial Fr. Simon and HCEF Secretary Fr. George, nearly six hundred and seventy students showcased their talents, creating a vibrant atmosphere. The program lasted for less than three hours, leaving everyone delighted.





Optimistic Education Initiative



On December 06, an organization based in Guwahati introduced the concept of "Optimistic Education" for Tripura schools, exclusively for class X students. The initiative includes an exam on specific topics, with scholarships awarded to the best-performing students. Mr. Kamalesh addressed the students, igniting their interest in participating and seizing the scholarship opportunities.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebration

Expressing gratitude and love, our school community celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas on December 19. Festivities included Santa Claus performances, dances, and the shared joy of eating cake together. As winter holidays approached, students left the campus with a sense of gratitude towards their teachers and staff.



Junior Mathematics Olympiad Achievements



In the District-level Junior Mathematics Olympiad (JMO) held on December 23, three of our students—Ayush Debanath, Pratiksha Sharma, and Subhrajit Das—achieved notable positions, bringing pride to our school.



Village Christmas Celebration



The joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ spread to prominent villages near our locality on December 25. Meaningful Eucharistic celebrations, cultural programs, and communal meals were organized, witnessing the participation of non-Catholics and non-tribal members in the festivities.

- *Kanikkai Jeyaraj, CSC*



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Children's Day Celebration

On November 14, Children's Day was joyously celebrated with a variety of cultural programs dedicated to honouring every student in the school. The occasion was a heartfelt tribute to the joy, innocence, and boundless potential that children contribute to our lives and school community. Fr. Renju, CSC, the principal, expressed admiration for the enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience of the children, acknowledging them as future leaders, thinkers, and innovators. He emphasized the privilege of educators in guiding and supporting students on their educational journey. Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC, urged the school community to use the day not only for celebration but also to reaffirm their commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and enriching educational experience for every child in their care.



Literary and Cultural Extravaganza

Over two days, on the 24th and 25th of November, the school witnessed a spectacular Literary and Cultural extravaganza showcasing the talents of its students. The diverse display was a source of pride, with many participants engaging in various literary and cultural events. Certificates and prizes were awarded to all the winners, highlighting the vibrancy and dynamism that students bring to the school as the heartbeat of its community.



Blood Donation Camp

For the third consecutive year, the school organized a Blood Donation Camp on November 28, 2023. Fr. Alfred CSC, Province Administrator, inaugurated the event by donating blood and encouraging everyone to contribute to this life-saving endeavour. Appreciating the school authority for organizing the camp, Fr. Alfred emphasized the humanitarian effort. The camp successfully collected 31 units of blood, and gratitude was extended to the District Hospital in Santirbazar for their support. The active participation of seminarians from Lembucherra and Bodhjunnagar, along with the support from Frs. Kitbok, Bilingshar, and Joe Paul contributed to the success of the day.





Health Check-up Camp



In collaboration with the District Chief Medical Officer, the school conducted a health camp for 274 students. The camp included general and eye check-ups, with free medicines provided to the children. Similar health camps are planned for February to ensure the well-being of the students.



Trekking Experience for NCC Girls



Students Susmita Debbarma and Julie Tripura from 71 Tripura Girls (I) COY NCC participated in the National Trekking Camp held at Sikkim from November 29 to December 05. They had a wonderful trekking experience alongside NCC Cadets from across the country and received certificates for their active participation. The school congratulates them on their achievement, expressing pride in their representation.
Renju George, CSC

Pre-Christmas Celebration

On the last working day of the year, the school organized a Pre-Christmas Celebration on December 20. The day featured a Christmas message, skit, carol singing, cultural programs, and creative games. Children enjoyed the festivities, with two Santas entertaining them through dance moves and the distribution of cakes and sweets.

- *Renju George, CSC*





HOLY CROSS SCHOOL AGARTALA

Year-end Airing

December brought vibrancy and excitement to Holy Cross School in Agartala. The initial weeks were dedicated to rigorous activities such as paper evaluations, parent-teacher meetings, result announcements, and book distributions. The latter part of the month embraced a more festive atmosphere with a dual celebration honouring the birth of Christ and the birthday of Fr. Agi Paul, CSC. The festivities reached their pinnacle with a teachers' picnic to 'Basgram,' a day dedicated to revitalization and rejuvenation.

As we draw the curtains on the academic year, there is much to rejoice and countless fond memories to cherish. Our students have thrived in various aspects, marking another remarkable year. Their accomplishments span a multitude of fields, including academics, sports, music, and the arts, making it impractical to enumerate them all. We have participated in numerous celebratory events, marvelling at the descriptions of their achievements. We take justifiable pride in their successes, and we express our gratitude to the Lord for blessing us with this wonderful year and an extraordinary school community. May God continue to bless Holy Cross!

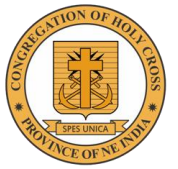
- *Jilson Tom, CSC*



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL BAGBASA SHINES AT ANNUAL PARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION



On December 21, Holy Cross School Bagbasa once again dazzled as it celebrated its Annual Parents' Day with splendid grandeur. The Chief Guest for this prestigious occasion was Mr. Bhanupada Chakraborty, the Superintendent of Police, North Tripura District, while the Special Guest was Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Fathers, North East Province. The festivity kicked off with a well-attired band party of school students welcoming the distinguished guests through a vibrant parade.



The school's talented students took centre stage, presenting an engaging cultural program that captivated the audience. In his enlightening address, Mr. Bhanupada Chakraborty raised awareness among the students about the dangers of drugs and cybercrime, encouraging their active involvement in various social activities. The Special Guest, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, shared insights into the goals and objectives of the Holy Cross educational mission, emphasizing its role in the holistic development of students.

Principal Fr. Ajith Philip addressed various issues pertaining to school education, stressing the importance of students embracing modern teaching methods. The event also saw the recognition of excellence from the previous academic year, with felicitations and mementoes presented to students who excelled in the last Madhyamik examination.

Expressing gratitude to all attendees, the headmistress of the school, Sr. Rajni Kandulna, SAC, formally concluded the program, marking the end of a memorable celebration.

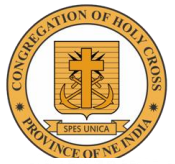


ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Annual Parents' Day Celebration

The eagerly anticipated Annual Parents' Day took place on November 30, 2023, with enthusiastic participation from both parents and students. The event featured Fr. George Jacob, CSC, the HCEF secretary, as the chief guest, alongside Sri Lalit Chakma, BDO of Lefunga, and Sri Suklal Debbarma as the main invitees. The program included student exhibitions and a food stall, providing a novel experience for all attendees. The students also showcased a captivating cultural program, culminating in a fellowship meal for the esteemed guests.





Pre-Christmas Festivities

Prior to the winter vacation, the school joyously celebrated the pre-Christmas season. Students brought the birth of Jesus Christ to life through enactments, and carol singing resonated in various languages. The day's events were further highlighted by cultural performances, singing, and dancing, creating a festive atmosphere for all.



Sports and Games Extravaganza

The sports committee organized a football match for outgoing students in classes X and XII, alongside various other matches and competitions as part of the school curriculum. Students, organized by houses, actively participated in the sporting events, fostering a sense of camaraderie.

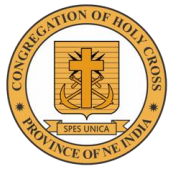


Seminar on Law and Career Exploration

A seminar focusing on Law and career opportunities was conducted for class XII students, initiated by the National Law University, Tripura. The seminar theme, "Let Us Work Together for the Children of Tripura," was elucidated by Prof. Yogesh Pratap Sing, the Vice Chancellor of the university, and Prof. Merilin Darlong. This insightful session served as a valuable learning experience for students, shedding light on the significance of a career in Law. The school expressed gratitude to the resource persons, acknowledging their valuable contributions.



- *Iswar Happa, CSC*



SPES UNICA 2023 IN THE MIZORAM REGION

A Triumph of Exploration and Embrace

From the 8th to the 10th of December, Holy Cross schools in the Mizoram Region, namely St. Andre's School in Muanna Veng, St. Joseph Schools in Zokhawthar and Khawzawl, and Holy Cross School in Champhai, jointly organized a three-day SPES UNICA program at Holy Cross School, Champhai, under the theme 'Explore the Legacy & Embrace the Future.'



SPES UNICA 2023

Explore the Legacy - Embrace the Future

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Rev. Fr. Roy Paul, CSC, Director of the Family Ministry in the North East Province, who served as the Chief Guest. His thought-provoking sessions left an indelible impact on eager minds. Rev. Fr. Arokiasamy Innaci, CSC, Principal of St. Andre's School, Muanna Veng, played a pivotal role as the Chief Coordinator, while Bro. Sandip Kandulna, CSC, Principal of Holy Cross School, Champhai, served as the Camp Chief.

The program also had the privilege of the presence of Rev. Fr. John PKC, CSC, Rev. Fr. Jerome, CSC, Rev. Fr. Paul CR, CSC, Bro. Paul Parmar, CSC, Deacon John Nongphud, CSC, and three Candidates added to the joy and vibrancy of the occasion by conducting various engaging sessions.

The SPES UNICA program boasted participation from around 115 students, guided by 7 Animators. The days commenced with invigorating aerobic exercises, followed by Holy Eucharist, singing sessions, and insightful discussions. Each day featured competitions, including a quiz on Bl. Basil Moreau and Holy Cross, thematic presentations on the spiritual and charismatic aspects of Holy Cross, speech competitions on Moreau's thoughts, and group songs with original compositions. The students, well-prepared and enthusiastic, delivered fascinating and incredible presentations.



Evenings were filled with outdoor games, and nights sparkled with wonderful cultural programs. The students showcased scintillating traditional dances and talents, making each performance captivating.



The three-day program concluded with prize distributions, heartfelt prayers, and memorable photo sessions, marking the culmination of an enriching and joyous SPES UNICA 2023.

- *Arokiasamy Innaci, CSC*



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, ZOWKATHAR

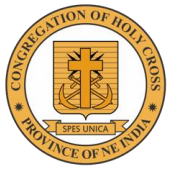
Zokhawthar Zone Primary Sports 2023: Clinches Runner-Up

From December 04th to 08th, the Zowkathar Zone Primary Sports 2023 unfolded at the Zowkathar Playground, showcasing a thrilling display of athletic prowess and sportsmanship among various schools from nearby villages. Among the standout performers, St. Joseph School, Zowkathar exhibited remarkable enthusiasm and emerged as the runner-up, amassing an impressive medal tally. The school's athletes secured 4 gold medals, 5 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals across diverse events, leaving a lasting mark on the annual sporting event.

This sporting extravaganza serves as a platform to nurture and celebrate budding talents in the region, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and essential life skills through sports. St. Joseph School not only earned recognition for its outstanding performance but also garnered praise for the exemplary sportsmanship displayed by its students. The athletes demonstrated dedication, determination, and discipline, reflecting the values instilled by the institution.

As the runner-up, St. Joseph School stands proud of its achievements in the Zokhawthar Zone Primary Sports 2023, aspiring to build on this success in future editions. The school remains committed to fostering a culture of sports and physical well-being among its students.





Embarks on Unforgettable Annual Excursion to Shillong

From December 12th to 18th, the corridors of St. Joseph's School reverberated with excitement as the school organized its much-anticipated Annual Excursion to the captivating city of Shillong, often dubbed the "Scotland of the East." A total of 67 participants, including students and teachers, embarked on this enriching journey.



Shillong, surrounded by the scenic landscapes of Meghalaya, provided a perfect backdrop for a memorable experience. Visits to iconic landmarks like Elephant Falls, Ward's Lake and Cherapunjee (Zohra) offered insights into the rich cultural tapestry of the Northeast. Exploring Shillong Peak, capturing breathtaking views, and creating lasting memories became integral parts of the itinerary.



Beyond sightseeing, the excursion fostered solidarity and friendship within the school community. From shared laughter on bus rides to collaborative activities at various stops, the journey

strengthened ties among students and teachers alike. The teachers played a pivotal role as supervisors, mentors, and friends, enriching the trip with educational insights.

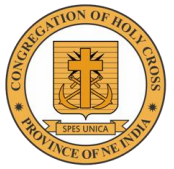


As the buses rolled back into Zokhawthar on the evening of December 18, the Annual Excursion left an permanent mark on everyone involved. The shared laughter, stories, and newfound appreciation for diverse cultures made it an unforgettable experience. St. Joseph's School, Zokhawthar, expresses heartfelt gratitude to the teachers, students, and staff who contributed to the success of the 2023 Annual Excursion. This annual



tradition remains a cornerstone of the school's commitment to holistic education, providing students with academic knowledge and a broader perspective of the world. Cheers to the memories created and the bonds strengthened during the 2023 Annual Excursion—a journey that will be etched in the hearts of the St. Joseph's School community for years to come.

- **Paul Choorackal, CSC**



SACRED HEART STUDY HOUSE, LEMBUCHERRA

Empowering Leadership Seminar Leaves a Lasting Impact



During the winter break, we had the privilege of participating in a Leadership Development Seminar led by Fr. Aneesh Mathew, CSC. Titled "Motivating Ourselves by Building Self-Esteem for Effective Leadership." The sessions, spanning from the 27th to the 30th of December, proved to be a transformative experience.

Fr. Aneesh's insights into effective leadership were invaluable, centring around three key principles: Having a Vision, Dedication to Responsibility, and a Genuine Desire to Lead. Far from being a mere time investment, the four-day seminar was both enriching and enlightening, providing participants with essential knowledge and information for effective leadership.

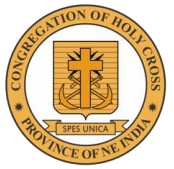
The sessions shed light on the significance of motivation, defined as the process of activating, maintaining, and directing behaviour toward specific goals. Fr. Aneesh urged us to cultivate three critical aspects for successful leadership: Activation and Activeness, Behaviour Maintenance, and Direction without Force.

A notable highlight was the insightful discussion on "Personal Happiness," where Fr. Aneesh explored strategies for achieving personal happiness and delved into the root causes of unhappiness.

In conclusion, the past four days were not only fruitful but also equipped us with a wealth of knowledge on a significant leadership topic. The insights gained are not confined to the present; they will serve as guiding principles in our future roles as leaders within the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The seminar was truly a transformative experience, leaving an ineradicable mark on all participants.

- *Pynskhem Poul Jyrwa*





HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

Festive Cheer

On December 21, Holy Cross Pine View Study House in Sumer lit up with the spirit of Christmas, hosting pre-Christmas celebrations marked by grandeur and joy. The entire house and campus adorned with twinkling lights created a festive atmosphere. Commencing with a charming cultural program, the festivities included Christmas carol singing and the traditional blessing of the Christmas crib. The presence of well-wishers and friends added significant meaning to the celebrations, leaving the staff and candidates captivated by the Christmas gratification. The day concluded on a delightful note with a hearty dinner, fostering a sense of friendship among all. Throughout the celebrations, students showcased their talents through dances, songs, and community party games, creating an engaging and joyful atmosphere.



Spread of Festive Cheer through Carol Singing

Embracing the tradition of spreading joy, the candidates at Holy Cross Pine View Study House Sumer engaged in carol singing in the lead-up to Christmas. Knocking at the doors of neighbouring religious communities and sub-centres of Umsning Parish, they shared the festive spirit, fostering a sense of togetherness.



Welcoming the New Year - 2024

As 2023 bid farewell, Holy Cross Pine View Study House Sumer expressed gratitude and welcomed the New Year in a meaningful way. An hour of adoration and a memorable community get-together marked the transition. The fulfilling celebrations concluded with special wishes from Fr. Jowelson, the director, extending warm greetings for a happy and prosperous New Year - 2024.

- *Jowelson Khongtani, CSC*



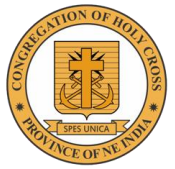
Annual Province Assembly Unites Hearts and Minds for a Purposeful Year Ahead

In a joyous gathering, 65 members of the Northeast India Province were present at Moreau Community House, Agartala, for the highly anticipated Annual Province Assembly. From January 05th to 6th, we embarked on a two-day journey characterized by companionship, introspection, and celebration.

The assembly's agenda is nothing short of inspiring, featuring insightful presentations by Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, the Provincial Superior, and ministry in-charges across our province. Engaging discussions on the draft document for the upcoming province chapter was also done, charting a course for a future marked by vibrancy and impact.

Amidst the rich and insightful discussions, we were honoured to celebrate the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Fr. Pinto Paul, CSC, the International Director of HCFM. Adding to the jubilation, we took a moment to honour our newly ordained priest, Fr. Ishongkun Kurbah and deacons Francis Gayang and John.

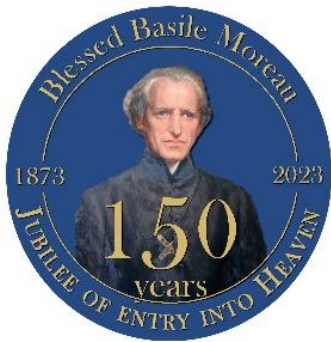




MOREAU COLUMN

ZEAL FOR THE KINGDOM

"Contemplate the grandeur of your mission with the eyes of faith and the wonderful impact you can make. Ponder the great reward promised to those who teach the truth and help shape justice: 'They will shine eternally in the skies like the stars of the heavens.' With the hope of this glory, let us wholeheartedly fulfil the Lord's work."



- Blessed Basile Anthony Moreau

Zeal - The Driving Force of Holy Cross

The predominant apostolic quality for Basil Moreau is zeal, a fervent hunger for mission, and a passion to perpetuate what Jesus of Nazareth initiated through his life, teachings, and example.

"Zeal is the burning desire to make God known, loved, and served, saving souls. Apostolic activity is thus the essential character of this virtue, and ministers animated by zeal fulfil their duties with eagerness, affection, courage, and perseverance. Our zeal is guided by charity, executed with strength and gentleness—strength displaying courage amidst pain, difficulty, and trials, and gentleness reflecting the tenderness of our



Divine Model." {Christian Pedagogy of Moreau, I:1, art. 4-1856}

Reading Moreau's insights on zeal allows us to define this apostolic virtue precisely. Zeal is the power, the grace through which the convictions of our hearts translate into actions of our hands directed toward the love of others.

Conviction of Our Hearts

Zeal originates in faith. Without faith, what may seem like zeal becomes mere workaholism. For our efforts in ministry to truly extend Jesus' mission, motivation must be rooted in the life and example of Jesus. Our love for the Lord and faith in God's Word drive our response to God's call.



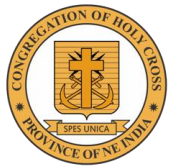
Translated Into the Actions of Our Hands

Zeal, rooted in faith, is manifested through work. It requires energy and effort, eschewing theoretical or emotional approaches. Zeal is about action; it is essentially incarnational.



Directed Toward Love of Others

Zeal finds its culmination in love. It is not mere humanitarianism but a generous and loving response to the needs of others. It doesn't



perpetuate expertise for its own sake; instead, it adapts to changing needs with skill and flexibility. Love for the Lord and others demands continual pastoral competence and flexibility.

As we strive to be genuine, zealous apostles of the Lord Jesus, how do we ensure our efforts in the mission begin in faith, accomplish the necessary work, and conclude with love? How do we overcome resistance to acquiring new skills and competencies, ensuring our view of the mission remains dynamic?



In the 1847 rule of the Congregation, it is stated, "The aim of the Congregation is to work, not only at one's own salvation but also at the sanctification of others by ministering to them." Father Moreau emphasizes that the religious of the Holy Cross are called to personal holiness and to call others to holiness through ministry.



For Mission, We Are Called to Holiness

According to Basil Moreau, the foundation of mission is personal holiness. It is essential for effective ministry and prevents it from becoming mere work. Without a commitment to personal holiness, effective communication of the call to holiness is unlikely.



Through Mission, We Call Others to Holiness

As apostolic religious, our holiness must extend beyond us to avoid becoming a new pharisaism. Regardless of the ministry, it should serve as a means to call others to holiness. Even ministries addressing basic human needs are opportunities to

improve the quality of life, enabling others to respond to God's Word.

Our Mission, Our Work Is the Lord's Own

Moreau stresses that the "Holy Cross is God's work." While we participate and cooperate with grace, the mission and work of the Holy Cross belong to the Lord. Recognizing this does not justify complacency; rather, it emphasizes the responsibility to be and remain competent in ministry.

(Abridged version of the talk by. Fr. Willy Raymond, CSC, former Director of Holy Cross Family Ministry)



Congratulations