



Waves

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Provincial Speaks



Dear Confreres and Readers,
Peace of Christ and God's blessings.

I am again in touch with you through our Province Newsletter - WAVES. After a few hectic activities in the province, meaning Spes Unica – 2023 in Meghalaya and Tripura and, Canonical Visit of the General Councilors, we have settled for our routine everyday life in our respective mission centres. I greatly admire your whole-hearted involvement and participation in all these programs. Holy Cross may always be small, but it

will accomplish great works. When I look back at all our recent Province-level activities, I feel that we have done a great job in our smallness. The younger generations of our time and region will gratefully remember Holy Cross for years to come because of the Spes Unica-NESNIM activities and the educational service we render to the thousands of students in our college and schools of the province. To God be glory and honour. The Congregational General Team from Rome concluded their Canonical Visit to our province with great joy and satisfaction. On behalf of the province membership, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and prayerful support to them for their gracious presence with us for many days. We pray for God's Blessings upon them as we await their observational report.

The world stands in need of Liberation from wars and conflicts. The Middle East is desperately in need of peace. Israel and Palestine (God's chosen people) are at war with each other, inflicting enormous amounts of human suffering and loss on each other. Gaza strip is becoming a graveyard, it is observed. UN Security Council finds itself helpless. The fear of world war is engulfing the nations. Amidst all these, we find ourselves nowhere. Confreres, let us make it a point to find ourselves in the presence of God, earnestly praying for them.

The Season of Advent is approaching, as the Year of Grace - 2023 is ending. Soon we will be busy with the Christmas preparations. I wish you the blessings of the Season. Human beings cannot live without hope. Hope has given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations (Cf: Advent Reflection: Holy Cross ORDO-2023). Let us remind ourselves of our call to be Men of Hope. May the Season of Advent be a season of grace for us to bring hope to the hopeless.

Wishing each of you a pleasant reading of our Province Newsletter: WAVES,

Fraternally yours in Holy Cross

Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC
Provincial Superior

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EDITORIAL



Peace is a moral and humanitarian value and a pragmatic and realistic necessity. Peace is the foundation and guarantee for protecting and promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Peace is the basis and the catalyst for the advancement and prosperity of social and economic development. Peace is the source and inspiration for creating and innovating culture and civilisation.

The world is witnessing a surge of violence and instability that threatens to undermine the foundations of international order and human dignity. At least 32 live conflicts are raging, affecting millions of lives and livelihoods. Conflict and violence are on the rise, resulting in over 2 billion people currently living in conflict-affected areas, facing the horrors of war, displacement, hunger, and disease.



The importance of peace in this world calls for a renewed and intensified commitment and action from all stakeholders and actors at all levels and sectors to work together and to work harder for the cause and the culture of peace. It calls for a collective and individual responsibility and accountability to uphold and implement the norms and standards of human rights. It calls for a constructive and inclusive dialogue and negotiation to resolve and prevent the disputes and conflicts that arise and persist among and within states and peoples. It calls for a comprehensive and holistic approach and strategy to address and eliminate the root causes and drivers of conflicts and violence, such as poverty, inequality, injustice,



oppression, corruption, discrimination, and extremism. It calls for positive and proactive engagement and participation to support and empower peacebuilders and peacemakers, such as civil society, women, youth, and minorities, who are the agents and champions of peace.

Peace is not a choice but a duty. Peace is not a dream but a reality. Peace is not a luxury but a necessity. Peace is not a gift but a responsibility.



George Jacob, CSC

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, AIZAWL

Parents' Day Cum School Feast

St. Andre School, Muanna Veng, Aizawl celebrated a wonderful Parents' Day cum School Feast on the 16th of October 2023. It was held in the school auditorium with a high earnestness and passion. The occasion was graced by the



presence of Rev. Bro. Prodip Placid Gomes, CSC, the Second General Assistant, as Chief Guest, and Rev. Fr. Andrew Gawrych, CSC, the Third General Assistant, as Guest of Honour, in the presence of Fr. Theophilus Sohtun, CSC, Vice Provincial of North-East Province, and other Fathers, Sisters and dignitaries.

Our principal, Rev. Fr. Arokiasamy Innaci CSC, addressed and welcomed all





the parents and officially honoured all the guests



with a plant and a Mizo traditional shawl. The guests and the parents were delighted to witness the mesmerising gifts and talents of the students. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour acknowledged the captivating skills of the students. They reminded all the parents and teachers that the student's development and growth is ultimately in their hands and 'what the teachers and parents impart students will implement it'.

The program, which lasted for more than an hour, saw scintillating performances by students. Shortly after an avid cultural program, all the parents and students were given snacks, and all the guests, teachers, and invitees had a sumptuous fellowship meal.



- **Arokiasamy Innaci, CSC**

HOLY CROSS PARISH, CHAMPAI

Youth Day

The future of the Catholic Church is in the hands of the young catholic. Holy Cross Parish Champhai is blessed with many vital, vibrant, and active youth. Along with the diocese, we celebrated the youth day on the 30th of September. The day began with a



prayer by Fr. Jerome, followed by various sports and games. The day ended with prize distribution. It was a day well spent strengthening the unity and fellowship among the youth. The presence of priests and religious working in the parish added more joy to the day.

- **Sibin, MCBS.**

A Day to Relish Together

"Nature is the best therapy, and a picnic is a perfect



way to enjoy it". These words were enlivened by the forty youths who spent an evening on the 26th of October at a resort enjoying each other's company. The fun and frolic that they had united them as one group. The time was well spent playing volleyball, swimming, singing, dancing and interacting with one another. Programmes such as these help the youth to create a special bond among them, and in turn, it unites them to work for the church and for the needs of one another.



- **John Dessing, CSC**



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH, KHAZWAWL

KHAWZAWL

Silver Bells Ring at Khawzawl

The second Holy Cross Parish in Mizoram, St John the Apostle Parish, Khawzawl, celebrated its Silver Jubilee on the 9th and 10th of September. To thank God for his marvellous blessings, priests, religious and faithful gathered at the church with hearts filled with gratitude. On the occasion, the silver jubilee stone was blessed by Fr. Harry D'silva, CSC, the first parish priest and was followed by the Jubilee Mass presided over by Fr. James Zodinliana, the parish of St. Thomas Parish, Ramhlun. Twenty-five children received their first Holy Communion, and twenty-eight received the Sacrament of Confirmation officiated by Fr. Simon Fernandes, CSC, the Provincial Superior of the Fathers of Holy Cross. A cultural programme showcasing the different talents was presented by the parish community intertwined with speeches recollecting memories of the glorious past. A small jubilee souvenir booklet was published and given to all the religious, along with a small silver jubilee gift. On the 10th of September, the thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Harry D'silva, CSC and Fr. Thomas John, CSC, the third parish priest, gave the homily. All the delegates who came to witness the silver jubilee



celebration of the parish were happy and went back with renewed enthusiasm.

Sunday School Conference

The parish Sunday school committee organised a three-day annual conference of the parish children



at Chhawrtui village from the 29th of September to the 01st of October. 350 delegates from 8 villages of the parish were learning together and competing. It helped them to know each other, develop their talents and increase their ability to work together.

Marian Procession and Seminar

The October month concluded with the Holy Rosary and Marian procession at Ngaizawl village on the



29th of October. The solemn Holy Eucharist was followed by a seminar on the importance of Family Prayer, especially the Holy Rosary, and the resource persons were Catechist Joseph Zira and Catechist Thanga. 150 faithful, including children who attended the program, took out a candle procession



carrying the statue of Mother Mary around the village and concluded at the grotto.

- John PKC, CSC

ST JOSEPH SCHOOL, KHAWZAWL

Teachers' Day

Joseph School, Khawzawl, celebrated Teachers' Day on Sept 5, 2023.



The day's chief guest exhorted the students to be kind and respectful to their teachers. The students

prepared an excellent program in honour of their teachers and presented them with beautiful gifts. On this occasion, the school also honoured Madam Hmingthanzauvi, who has completed 30 years of teaching in this school. As we congratulate her, we thank her for her valuable services in this school.

- John PKC, CSC

ST. JUDE'S SCHOOL, NYAPIN

Teacher's Day and Holy Cross Feast Day

The school witnessed a twin celebration – Teachers' Day and Holy Cross Feast Day on the 14th of September. Teachers were honoured for



their selfless services and commitment to the students and the institution. Wishing the fathers on their congregational feast day was also done on this occasion. The students organised various cultural programmes, and the celebrations ended with a meal.

Teacher's School and Hostel Building

St. Jude's School Nyapin school, established in 2016 in a bamboo shed by Fr. Francis Sebastian, CSC has



a new building to cater to the ever-growing educational needs of this place. Fr. Francis, with the help of local leaders, was responsible for putting up a concrete building for the school and hostel to benefit the students. After many struggles, Fr. Stephen Lohrii, CSC and Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC, completed the buildings. It was inaugurated on the 17th of October in the August presence of Rev. Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, the Superior General, Rev. Bro. Nee Bertrand, CSC, 5th General Assistant of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and Rev. Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, the Provincial Superior. We were truly blessed to have the presence of Shri. Bamang Felix, the Hon'ble Home Minister of



Arunachal Pradesh, as the day's chief guest. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a beautiful performance by our students and the youth of the



parish. We gratefully remember all those who have helped us in various ways in completing the project.

- *Lawrence Wanniang, CSC*

HOLY CROSS PARISH, KOLORIANG

Community Celebrations and Special Visit

The parish day was celebrated with a diverse array of activities, including Holy Mass, spiritual sessions, sports and cultural programmes. It was a time to gather as a parish and grow as a community.

During October, Rosary prayers were organised



daily in five parish zones, focusing on revitalising the family prayers. A Marian procession was scheduled to culminate the month, followed by a community meal for all participants.

The youth of Holy Cross Parish in Koloriang embarked on an exposure program to Agartala in October, led by Fr. Stephen CSC. They visited various places,

learning about new cultures.



HOLY CROSS PARISH, MAWPAT

Orientation Program Inauguration and Blessing of the Presbytery

After staying in a rented house for about six years, the priests working at Holy Cross Parish Mawpat got



a newly constructed permanent residence, and it was inaugurated by Rev. Bro. Paul, CSC, Superior General of the Congregation and was blessed by Most Rev. Wilbert Marwein, Bishop of Nongstoin Diocese on the 23rd of October. The event was witnessed by Bro. Nee, CSC, 5th General Assistant, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Provincial Superior, Holy Cross

confreres, priests, sisters, church leaders, teachers, and student community. We are grateful to Bishop Wilbert, the Diocese of Nongstoin and the Province of Northeast India for their constant support in building this new residence.



- *Valerian Serrao, CSC*



PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

Congregational Feast Day

The feast was celebrated grandly and festively with excellent decoration of the entire house and the holy mass. The community was blessed with Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC, as the principal celebrant.

First Semester Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of learning. The last week of September was set aside for the first-semester assessment.



This fulfils several purposes; it provides a standard

measure to assess our student's knowledge, skills, and understanding of various subjects. It also promotes a competitive spirit, encouraging them to work harder and perform better.

Spes Unica 2023

As part of their mission experience and exposure program, our candidates attended the Spes Unica 2023 held at Good Shepherd School, Jongksha. They have benefited a lot from the sessions and activities conducted. Most importantly, as volunteers, they had a chance to exhibit their organising skills.

- *Jowelson, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MAWKYNREW

Teacher's Meet 2023

On the 01st of September 2023, Holy Cross School, Mawkynrew, organised a teachers' get-together in



which teachers from different village schools under the parish participated. The day began with Holy Mass by Fr. Anthony, CSC. A felicitation programme was organised in honour of the teachers, and Mrs. Niphieng Suchiang was honoured for her 25 years of selfless service to the school. The unique attraction of the day was a talent show competition among the teachers. The chief guest of the day, Shri. Banteidor Lyngdoh, MLA, encouraged the teachers to work for the overall development of the students.

- *Jaidamary Suting*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

Teachers' Day

Celebrated on the 05th of September, the day was dedicated to all our teachers, and they were felicitated by all the students, acknowledged, and appreciated by the school management for their



sacrifices in imparting quality education to the impressionable age group. All the teachers, other office staff and supporting staff, were honoured with a gift for their hard work and dedication towards the institution.

Holy Cross Feast Day

On the 16th of September, the school staff and students felicitated the fathers and the candidates with flowers and cake. A meaningful cultural programme was organised to thank the fathers for the services they render to the people of this locality.

Vaccination

On the 20th of September, a medical team comprising medical officials and nurses organised a vaccination camp on our campus. Students belonging to the age group of 10 to 16 years received vaccination.

- **Davis Konuran, CSC**

ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

Mother Mary's Birthday & Girl-child Day

The 08th of September marked the twin celebrations – Mother Mary's birthday and Girl child day in the parish. Students of the hostels, sisters, and parishioners gathered at the grotto, where one of the students gave an overview of the



importance of the day. After that, the assembly devoutly walked in procession to the church for the liturgical celebration. An adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was conducted, the Holy Rosary was recited, and garlands of roses were presented to the heavenly Mother. During the Eucharist, Fr Lourdhu, the assistant parish priest, gave a fitting homily, highlighting the birth of Mary, our Mother, and the prime role of girl-children in families and society. The evening was concluded with a wish to all the girl children. Snacks were served to all who participated in the celebration.

Fathers' Day

The 03rd of September was a multifaceted Sunday for the Parishioners of Kumarghat as four celebrations rolled into one on this lovely day. Though it was called as Fathers' Day, the other



upcoming feasts, such as the feast of St Teresa of Kolkata, Teachers' Day, the congregational feast of Holy Cross Fathers, and the installation of Youth leaders of the parish for the current year, were celebrated on the same day. Before the Eucharist, an enlightening talk was given by Fr. George T.V, SJ., highlighting the duties and privileges of a father in the family. It was beautiful to see 85 fathers and grandfathers, several school teachers, and parish youth listening attentively to the talk and actively participating in the Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr George and con-celebrated by Fr Lancy and Fr Lourdhu. Before the close of the Holy Mass, 12 youth leaders took their oath of office. As a conclusion of this four-fold celebration,



snacks and soft drinks were served to all who attended this special day.

First Holy Communion

The interiors of St Paul's Church, Kumarghat, were brighter than usual

on the Sunday morning of the 08th of October. It was an important day for the 25



young children from different mondolis of the parish, who wore white outfits and white wreaths on their heads and looked like little angels. They had been looking forward to this big day to welcome Jesus into their hearts for the first time. The children were well prepared earlier by the MC Sisters and the Catechist of the parish. Their parents and guardians, along with them, were filled with joy and fervour that radiated from their faces. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr Lancy D'Souza, the Parish Priest, and Fr Lourdu, the Assistant parish priest. Before the great moment for these children, an inspiring and encouraging homily was preached by Fr Lancy, enlightening the children on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the presence of Jesus in them as they receive the Holy Communion. After the Holy Mass, the new communicants were greeted with a Holy Rosary, a Scapular, and refreshments.

Bible Camp

St. Paul's Church, Kumarghat, was lively, vibrant, and sparkling, with young boys and girls milling around for three days from the 13th to the 15th of October, attending the Bible camp. This was the first of its kind held recently at the parish. Earlier camps were conducted at different Zonal for a day. However, bringing these students together in one

place was a rewarding experience. Though examinations were going on in some schools, we were more than happy to have over 150 registered participants.

The theme of the Camp was – **Know and Love the Bible.** It was well displayed on posters and flexes to create and implant in the young interest to know the Bible, love the Bible and keep reading God's Word



from the Bible. Participants were divided into three groups animated by Sr. Vera Anthony, MC, Sr. Sreeti, MC, Sr. Santan, FS, Sr. Lahun Marwein, FS, Catechist, Shubia Debbarma and Mr. Roitua Darlong.

Along with input sessions, the students were taught biblical action songs and were shown a short film on creation stories. All participants were encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to confess during the Holy Adoration. Students also presented two parables from the gospels of Matthew and John, each group competing to be the best. Between the gospel scenes of the two parables, a mesmerising magic show by Fr Lancy kept the audience enthralled. Friday and Sunday, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated for the children. At the concluding session, an evaluation encouraged the organisers, as students were eager to know the Bible and wanted more of such camps. Each was awarded a pen and chocolates before they dispersed to their mondolis.

Maria Sangha Annual Meet

The 13th annual 'sabha' for the women of Kumarghat Parish was held in the village of Kurmapara on the 21st and the 22nd of October. The theme for Sabha was taken from the Gospel of Luke 1/45, "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord



would fulfil his promises to her". The meeting began with a Bible procession followed by a Bible reading. Various sessions that followed dealt with topics like women of faith in the Bible, the role and responsibility of women in creating a praying family, and the problems women face in the family and society. Various competitions and group games added great enthusiasm among the participants.



Prayers, praying of the rosary, and the Eucharist help the participants to pray better during these days. The presence of Bro, Prodig Placid Gomes, CSC, 2nd general assistant; Fr. Andrew Gawrych, CSC, 3rd general assistant; Fr. Abraham C., CSC provincial councillor; and Fr. Lancy, CSC, parish priest, added joy to the celebration. The two days were enriching and beneficial for 167 women as they participated wholeheartedly.

- *Santan Nago, FS*

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNG NAGAR

Exhibition

Today's education and learning are weighed by the knowledge of science and technology. St. Andre School Bodhjungnagar participated in the state-level exhibition cum competition organised by Holy Cross School Agartala on the 5th and the 6th of October. It was for



both the Humanities and Science and technology. It is a unique learning experience for the students.

NCC Camp

The NCC students attended the NCC camp from the



4th to the 13th of October at Netaji Subhas Regional Coaching Centre Agartala. It was a residential training camp. NCC is part of the school's academic curriculum and has benefited the students.

- *Iswar Happa, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Teachers Day

Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the students with various programmes such as Nepali and Hojagiri Dances, traditional dance forms, and gifts to the teachers to express their love and gratitude. Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC, the School Manager, urged the teachers to remain loyal to their profession and the children's good. Fr. Renju, CSC, appreciated the teachers for their commitment and





contributions to the Holy Cross brand of education in Tripura.

Holy Cross Feast Day

A meaningful celebration was held to celebrate the school feast day and Holy Cross Congregation feast



day. The day was organised to greet Holy Cross Fathers working in the mission and to acknowledge what the Holy Cross has done for this Tuikarmaw mission. There were cultural programmes and cake cutting to mark the day with gratitude and joy.

Ethnic Day cum School Mela

To mark the festivity of the season, the school organised Ethnic Day cum School Mela for our students. The day was celebrated with various



cultural dances and a showcasing of ethnic wear. School Mela gave ample opportunities for the students to have fun with a variety of games and to

try their luck. The children really enjoyed the day with lots of foodies.

Cleanliness Drive

To mark the Gandhi Jayanti celebration and acknowledge the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi,



we organised a cleanliness drive on the 29th of September from Alloychara to the school grounds. 450 students, along with the active participation of their teachers, made the programme a successful one. We resolve to organise similar events again on a large scale.

Book Fair

A book fair was organised in the school for the



students and parents. Thanks to St. Paul Sisters from Shillong. It was a huge success as many

students bought books for their reading and knowledge. Many parents also took part in the book fair.

- Renju George, CSC



ST. MARY'S PARISH, TUIKARMAW

Maria Sangha Annual Meet

The month of October, the rosary month, was meaningfully celebrated by the faithful of



Tuikarmaw Parish. Rosary was conducted in all the families throughout October. The last day of the month was marked with a rosary procession with a beautifully decorated statue of Mother Mary carried around Tuikarmaw village, reciting rosary prayers and hymns to the Mother. The procession and Holy Eucharist were attended by a good number of faithful praying to God through the intercession of Mother Mary for their needs.

- *Renju George, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA

Save Earth – Save Life

On the 4th and the 5th of October, we hosted an Exhibition-cum-Competition reverberating the G20 theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- One Earth, One Family, One Future". Holy Cross used this

platform to remind the children of Tripura of their role in Sustainable Development by making the right choices.

At the opening ceremony, our Chief Minister lit the



auspicious prayer lamp. In his message, Prof. Dr. Manik Saha expressed his appreciation for exuding bonhomie in our endeavour to spread awareness among the youth about their responsibility, accountability, and respect for our planet. He congratulated all the partaking schools for endeavouring to work towards novelties to sustain a healthy Earth.

Fifteen schools participated in bringing out various facets of how they can contribute towards saving



our earth. Their themes were based on air purification, water conservation, seismology systems, Pyrolysis, Smart Echo Band Rover for Sustainable Development, Digital Sustainable Agricultural solutions for our farmers, drain water management, totally self-sustained institutes on



solar power, the future of farming using reflection of solar rays; conservation of carbon from the air to make printer ink; the Autonomous Ocean Cleaning Robots etc. The projects of every school left an indelible mark on the minds of our participants and guests.

Some games and a food court were on the campus for entertainment and refreshments. This exhibition was a small step towards spreading awareness on the spotlight of lifestyles for a sustainable environment and responsible choices.

Picnic Bliss-Fun under the Sun

School picnics are always exciting and joyful for students. This year, the students of class 4 had an



unforgettable experience on their picnic. It was a day filled with laughter, games, and bonding. The picnic was organised by the school on the 07th of October. The day was packed with dance, music, activities, and games. The children showcased their competitive spirit and team collaboration. Amidst all the fun and games, the students were encouraged to appreciate nature. They were taken to Holy Cross College, away from the hustle and bustle of city life, for a nature walk. The students got a chance to observe the beauty of nature very closely. Children also enjoyed the mouth-watering dishes especially prepared for them.

The picnic was about enjoyment and building friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. It

was a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and adventure, leaving each student with a treasure trove of memories to cherish.

- **Manidipa Debnath**

SOF Exams

Every year, our school organises the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) exams, which are highly anticipated and greatly valued by students and educators. The SOF exams provide a platform for students to showcase their knowledge and skills in



Mathematics, Science, English, Computer, Social Studies, and General Knowledge. These exams significantly enhance students' critical thinking abilities, problem-solving skills, and academic performance. They foster a sense of healthy competition among students, encouraging them to strive for excellence and reach their full potential.

- **Avijit Paul.**

Deworming the Children – A Great Initiative

The National Mass Deworming Programme of the Government of India aims at administering a single dose of Deworming tablet (Albendazole) to all school-going children in the age group of 3 years to 19 years. It is well-known that we need a healthy body to have a healthy mind. Thus, deworming is a viable initiative for our future generations' all-round physical and mental development. The government



executes this programme yearly at a mass scale by leveraging the existing educational infrastructure and training teachers to deliver Deworming medication. Carrying forward this great initiative,



the Govt. of Tripura has organised the MSSKA or Mukhyamantri Sustha Saisab Sustha Kishore Abhiyan for the last four years. This year, it was held from the 19th of September to the 03rd of October. Along with this programme, the Govt. clubbed activities like 'Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB & IFA supplements), Poshan Abhiyan, Td10 and Td16 vaccination, Vitamin A supplementation etc.

Like the previous years, this year, our school took utmost care to ensure that our students benefit from this great initiative. A total of 4213 students received the Albendazole tablets, and 4882 students received the Iron & Folic tablets, thanks to the wholehearted efforts of the management, teaching & non-teaching staff. MSSKA 5.0 was a great success with Holy Cross School since we ardently believe that – healthy students can surely make healthy future citizens of our country.

GENERAL VISITATION TO THE PROVINCE

The Province of Northeast India was excited to welcome the General team comprising Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC Superior General, Br. Prodip Placid Gomes, Second Assistant; Fr. Andrew Gawrych, Third Assistant; and Br. Nee Wayoe, Fourth Assistant to the Province for the canonical visitation.

The visitation began with Br. Paul visited the Holy Cross Seminary in Pune, where he met with the Province's 17 seminarians and Fr. K.O. Joseph, Assistant Rector. Br. Paul also addressed the seminarians on the "Holy Cross Internationality and Mission" topic and answered their questions.



For the rest of the visit, the General Visitors formed two teams: Br. Paul and Br. Nee Wayoe visited the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya, while Br. Prodip and Fr. Andrew went to Mizoram and Tripura.

Br. Paul and Br. Nee started in Itanagar, where they attended the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the Most Rev. Benny Varghese Edathattel as the bishop of Itanagar. The following day, the group made the

arduous journey by road to St. André Parish in the



remote mountain village of Nyapin, where they attended the inauguration of the new St. Jude School and hostel building. It was a special honour for the parish and school community to have the presence of the visiting dignitaries. Next, they travelled back up and down the rugged mountain roads to Holy Cross Parish and School in Koloriang, near the border of China. A highlight of the visit was





when Br. Paul and Br. Nee were vested in traditional tribal attire as part of their welcome.

The General Visitors then journeyed to Guwahati in the state of Assam for a brief visit to our centre at Rani before continuing to Shillong, where they remained for five days at the Moreau Institute of



Integral Training (MIIT). With MIIT as their base, Br. Paul and Br. Nee visited the Holy Cross parishes and schools in the state of Meghalaya, including in Mawkynrew, where they enjoyed a memorable picnic in the hills of the region; Jongksha, where they celebrated the birthday of Fr. Suresh Kagoo, Parish Priest; and Mawpat, the Province's newest mission in the Khasi Hills, where they inaugurated the new presbytery alongside the Most Rev. Wilbert Marwein, Bishop of the Diocese of Nongstoin.

After a visit with the candidates at the formation house in Sumer, Br. Paul and Br. Nee completed their remaining meetings at MIIT. They also conducted an open forum with the members. The Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Shillong, also surprised them with a visit.



Br. Prodip and Fr. Andrew first visited the Province's missions in Mizoram, where the congregation played a pivotal role in establishing the Catholic Church and one of our own, Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, C.S.C., who serves as bishop. Br. Prodip and Fr. Andrew

visited and stayed with the Province's communities and apostolates in Aizawl, Khawzawl, and Champhai. They also made a very inspiring visit to Zowk Hawthar on the border with Myanmar, where Fr. Paul Choorackal directs St. Joseph School. In one year, the school's enrollment has more than doubled from roughly 400 to over 800, as the school has accepted refugee children from Myanmar who cross the border daily for classes.

On the 20th of October, Br. Prodip and Fr. Andrew returned to the state of Tripura, visiting many



parishes and schools in Tripura: Panisagar, Bagbasa, Kumarghat, Kathalcherra, Chailengta, Moharpara, Tuikarmaw, Bodhjunnagar, and Agartala. Among the many highlights was attending Sunday Mass in Kurmapara, a part of St. Paul's Church in Kumarghat.

Once back in Agartala, Br. Prodip and Fr. Andrew met for tea with the Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro,



C.S.C., Bishop of the Diocese of Agartala. They also visited St. André Minor Seminary and Sacred Heart Study House, where they conducted Q-and-A sessions with the candidates. They also visited the Association for Social and Human Advancement (ASHA) and Holy Cross College, Agartala.

On the morning of the 28th of October, four General Visitors met with Fr. Simon and the Provincial



Council, sharing their initial observations. The day ended with a fraternal meal hosted by the Provincial House Community for the General Visitors and area religious and clergy.

Br. Paul, Br. Prodip, Fr. Andrew, and Br. Nee expressed their deep gratitude to Fr. Simon and his



Council for organising and coordinating the visit with all its travel and various stops. They also thank all the members of the Province for their excellent hospitality and even more so for all the sacrifices and inspiring work they are doing to bring about God's kingdom in Northeast India.

SPES UNICA

SPES UNICA, an initiative of Holy Cross Educational Foundation (HCEF) under the aegis of Holy Cross



Fathers, Northeast India Province, focuses on leadership and faith-formation of students. It is three days of educative live-in experience organised in three states where Holy Cross religious ministers, namely, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura. During this programme, students will be engaged in various

activities to deepen their faith and inculcate leadership qualities. Starting in 2006 as a biennial



event by HCEF, SPES UNICA has grown in numbers and activities. This year, being the 150th anniversary of our founder, Blessed Basile Moreau, entering eternal life, SPES UNICA 2023 revolved around the life and legacy of our founder under the theme 'Explore the Legacy, Embrace the Future.'

300 students from Holy Cross Schools in Tripura,



along with their animators, gathered at Holy Cross School Agartala from the 21st to the 23rd of October and learned about the rich legacy, heritage, and charism of Bl. Basile Moreau and Holy Cross. The sessions animated by the Holy Cross confreres dealt with 'Exploring Moreau's Spirituality to Unleash the Secrets of Well-rounded Persons,' 'Discovering the Transforming Leadership Sutras Hidden in Moreau's Charism,' 'Choosing the Right Path at the Crossroads – Exploring the Moreau's Way,' 'The Magical Power of Sacraments in Christian Living', and 'Exploring Moreau's Educational Dreams – "Work of



Resurrection" in the 21st Century'. Various



competitions, including a quiz on Fr. Moreau and Holy Cross and speech competitions on the thoughts of Fr. Moreau, were conducted during the three days. The presence of Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro,



CSC, Bishop of Agartala, Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC, Superior of Northeast Province, Bro. Prodip Placid Gomes, Second General Assistant, and Fr. Andrew Gawrych, CSC, Third General assistant, encouraged



the students to give their best. During the concluding function, the catholic leaders from



Agartala were felicitated for their witnessing role in the church and the society.

A similar event in Meghalaya saw 150 students gathering at Good Shepherd School, Jongksha, from 4th to 6th October. In December, the Holy Cross Educational Foundation will organise SPES UNICA for Mizoram, where the congregation runs five schools, including two from St. Andre Province.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL UMKIANG

Sports Week

The school's annual sports week, spanning from the 16th to the 20th of October, proved to be a



resounding success. Organized by the dedicated sports committee, the week was marked by spirited competitions among the

four houses: RED, BLUE, YELLOW, and GREEN.

The opening day was graced by the presence of the esteemed Chief Guest, Shri. Lasting Pala, the village headman, accompanied by village committee



members. Their participation added a touch of community participation and support.

Over the week, students showcased their athletic prowess and sportsmanship in various events,



fostering healthy competition and camaraderie. The sports week reached its pinnacle on the closing day with a spectacular display by Shri. Chibun Shylla. His mesmerizing drills and dance performance brought the festivities to a vibrant and energetic conclusion.

The success of the sports week was measured in the athletic achievements and the sense of unity and community spirit that permeated the event. The active participation of students, support from the village elders, and the engaging performances on both the opening and closing days contributed to the overall success of this annual tradition.

As we reflect on the past week, it is evident that the



sports week served not only as a platform for showcasing talent but also as a means of bringing the school and the village together to celebrate physical fitness, teamwork, and healthy

competition. We look forward to building on this success in the coming years and continuing to make the annual sports week a highlight in our school calendar.

- Sr. Rosemary

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE GIFT OF CREATION

KEY LION

In a world teeming with the beauty of nature, from the awe-inspiring landscapes



to the tiniest of creatures, we embark on a spiritual quest to uncover the sacred connections that bind us to the very essence of creation. Join us as we delve into the wonders of our natural world

and seek to understand how it reveals the presence of the divine. Through this exploration, we hope to ignite a sense of reverence for the intricate tapestry of life that surrounds us and discover the profound ways in which we can encounter God in the boundless gift of creation.

In the hustle and bustle of our modern lives, it is easy to overlook the profound beauty and wonder surrounding us. We rush from one commitment to another, our minds preoccupied with the demands of work, family, and technology. Yet, amid this frenetic pace, a gift of immeasurable value exists - the gift of creation.

From the majesty of a sunrise painting the sky in hues of orange and pink to the delicate intricacies of a single snowflake, creation is a testament to the divine. In the natural world, we can encounter God in ways that often elude us in our daily routines.

The theme of "Encountering God in the Gift of Creation" invites us to pause, take a step back, and open our eyes to the profound spirituality in the world around us. It calls us to recognise that every



sunset, every mountain range, and every blooming flower reflects a Creator who has bestowed upon us a masterpiece of artistry and design.



Nature mirrors the very essence of existence with its cycles of birth, growth, decay, and renewal. In the rhythm of the seasons and the earth's heartbeat, we find a connection to the sacred. The intricacies of ecosystems and the interdependence of all living beings point to a divine intelligence that orchestrates the symphony of life.

Encountering God in the gift of creation is not merely about observation; it is an invitation to participate in a sacred dialogue. When we immerse ourselves in the natural world, we become part of a



spiritual conversation that has been ongoing since the dawn of time. We listen to the whispers of the wind, the

babbling of brooks, and the rustling of leaves, and in those moments, we hear the voice of the divine.

This theme also challenges us to embrace a profound responsibility. As stewards of this precious gift, we are entrusted with preserving and protecting creation. The choices we make in our daily lives impact the delicate balance of ecosystems and the well-being of all living creatures. To encounter God in the gift of creation is to be called to a life of stewardship and reverence for the environment.

As we embark on this journey, let us open our hearts and minds to creation's infinite beauty and wisdom. Let



us recognise that in every aspect of the natural world, from the tiniest microorganism to the grandest mountain range, we are granted a glimpse of the divine. May this exploration deepen our spiritual connection to the earth and inspire us to become faithful stewards of the precious gift of creation.

- Jowelson Khongtani, CSC

MOREAU'S COLUMN

Basile Moreau: A Passionate and Prophetic Life

"Receive all that I have written as the outpouring of a heart which burns with the desire to help you."



"If I can still do you some good, I will do it at once; have no more doubts about it than the sincerity of my love and faithfulness."

The above statements are separated by more than 30 years. They come from a man on fire with love for God, a passion to serve, and a vision for a world that will know better times than ours. The fire that consumed Father Moreau throughout his life and directed his considerable energies was not self-ignited. Its kindling was his relationship with and response to God. That fire spread to others and brought Holy Cross into existence that we might be a passionate and prophetic presence in our world.

The fire that guided Father Moreau and illuminated the landscape before him was not self-fuelled. It was kindled and rekindled over his 74 years by those



faith-based values with which he lived every day. Seven values are presented here briefly.

Preeminent among those values is conformity to Jesus Christ. There was no greater priority for Basile Moreau. He consistently and insistently calls us to discover ways in which our daily life, even in its finest details, can reflect Jesus' example and teaching. This is what we are to do and why we are to do it. That conformity will be our greatest glory.

Moreau's trust in providence was unshakable. He believed that just as God had founded Holy Cross, so God would sustain it and bring it to perfection. God is ever-present and always at work, however mundane a particular activity may appear to be. Our cooperation with providence will assure the transforming influence that Holy Cross can have in our world. Zeal distinguished Basile Moreau in every aspect of his life. His passion for ministry and his prophetic stance, whenever fidelity, integrity and justice were threatened by compromise, were ignited by his zeal. He wanted this virtue to be a hallmark of all those who shared with him in this great adventure called Holy Cross.

It was noted by his contemporaries that Father Moreau was especially animated and energized when he spoke about the Eucharist. Through reception of this sacrament and by adoration, our relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist is, from Moreau's perspective, a direct support for all that we are to be and to become as religious of Holy Cross.

The standard for our union in community that Moreau established was nothing less than that for which Jesus prayed in St. John's gospel and that which St. Paul proclaimed to the early Christians. He used the models of the Holy Family and the Holy Trinity to reinforce that. Lived in our community and promoted through our efforts in mission, union with Jesus and union of hearts will be among the most powerful means for transformation at our disposal.

From his experiences, Basile Moreau learned the profound truth of the cross as our only hope. He

trusted that and, as a follower of Jesus, he expected to encounter the cross and he did throughout his life. He was convinced that those encounters held the seeds of resurrection. So too for us, Spes Unica must be more than a proclamation, it must become our liberation, our transformation and, ultimately, our salvation.

Father Moreau did not make his journey to glory alone. At the very beginning of Holy Cross, he entrusted himself and his companions to Our Lady of Sorrows. Her fidelity and fortitude in remaining at the foot of the cross endure as an illustration for what we must be, and an inspiration for what we are called to do. It is no wonder that Moreau gave her to Holy Cross as patroness.

Basile Moreau lived these values passionately and prophetically. He wanted to make a difference in the world. By his life and through Holy Cross, he did. His biographers, Etienne and Tony Catta, articulate this well. "There burned within him an ardour which was ceaselessly aflame along with a compelling necessity to undertake and to resurrect projects lying on the verge of ruin and to bring into existence others which were destined to live" (Vol. I, pg. 142). We are called to continue his legacy.

- *Br. Joel Giallanza, C.S.C.*

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