



Province of Northeast India NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2025

VOLUME # 01

PROVINCE UPDATES

WAVES 2025

PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

Ecstasy and agony of love


You are someone in the world, but for someone, you are the world. Three decades ago, as an undergraduate student in Bengaluru, I came across this poignant line in a Valentine's Day column of the Deccan Herald. Its simplicity and lyrical rhythm struck a deep chord in me, a truth so profound that it has lingered in my heart ever since.



February 14th, Valentine's Day, is meant to celebrate love and esteem. Yet, in today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world, its essence often feels diminished. Social media and dating apps promise boundless opportunities to connect, yet many young people find themselves navigating shallow relationships, yearning for depth and authenticity.

Love is universal and timeless, and whether young or old, we all must honour it. True love is not instant; it is a journey of understanding, trust, and mutual growth. Vulnerability forms its foundation, yet so many avoid it, fearing rejection or imperfection. This Valentine's Day, let us take a moment to reflect on the real essence of love. It is not about achieving perfection but about being present and authentic embracing each other's flaws and strengths alike. Without such depth, today's youth risk growing up disillusioned, angry, and unable to persevere or mature in meaningful relationships.

Valentine's Day offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the values that make love enduring and profound. Whether you are in love, searching for it, or focusing on self-love, honour what truly matters today. Be genuine, be kind, and always remember to someone, you might just be the world.


Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC
Provincial Superior

Inside this Issue...

EDITORIAL

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, AGARTALA

HOLY CROSS KATHALCHERRA

HOLY CROSS BAGBASA

NOTREDAME MOHARPARA

HOLY CROSS PANISAGAR

ST. ANDRE BODHJUNGNAGAR

HOLY CROSS TWICHAKMA

HOLY CROSS TUIKARMAW

HOLY CROSS KOLORIANG

HOLY CROSS NYAPIN

HOLY CROSS KHAWZAWL

ST. ANDRE ZUANGTUI

HOLY CROSS KUMARGHAT

HOLY CROSS SUMER

SAMS BODHJUNGNAGAR

REGENTS' MEET 2024-25

FORMATORS' MEETING

GOLDEN JUBILEE – BISHOP LUMEN

PROVINCE ASSEMBLY 2025

FR. MATTHEW ULLATTILL BLOCK...

EDITORIAL



As the calendar turns to 2025, we stand at the threshold of a year filled with promise, purpose, and renewed opportunities for living our vocation in the Congregation of Holy Cross. Each new year invites us to reflect on the past, embrace the present, and prepare for the future with hearts attuned to God's will. With this first issue of our newsletter for this year, the editorial team extend warm wishes for a blessed and grace-filled New Year to all our readers.



The year 2025 carries a special significance for the universal Church as it marks the Jubilee Year. This extraordinary time of grace calls us to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to live as witnesses of Christ. The Jubilee's theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," resonates deeply with our Holy Cross spirituality. It reminds us of Blessed Basile Moreau's call to place our trust in divine providence and to persevere as people of hope, even amidst challenges. As members of the Congregation, this Jubilee Year offers us a sacred invitation to reaffirm our mission of proclaiming the Gospel and nurturing the seeds of faith wherever we are planted.

Adding further significance to 2025, the Superior General has declared April 28, 2025, to April 28, 2026, as the Year of Mission with the theme "Hope Beyond Borders" for the Congregation of Holy Cross. This declaration is a profound call to action, encouraging every religious to embody the mission – to be educators in the faith,



agents of transformation, and bearers of Christ's compassion.

For us, this year with these dual celebrations presents an opportunity to reinvigorate our efforts in building communities of faith, promoting justice, and serving with humility and zeal. As we move forward, let us remember the rich heritage of Holy Cross, grounded in fraternity, prayer, and a shared vision of bringing hope to the world. Whether in our schools, parishes, or social apostolates, may our work bear witness to God's transformative love.

May this Jubilee Year and the Year of Mission renew our hearts and energize our ministries. May the blessings of Almighty God guide us throughout 2025, filling our lives with peace, purpose, and profound joy. With faith and hope, let us strive to be instruments of God's love and carriers of His mission to the ends of the earth.

Wishing all of you a happy and grace-filled New Year!



George Jacob, CSC

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, AGARTALA

Graduation Day

Holy Cross College, Agartala, hosted its 13th Graduation Day on November 9, 2024, at the Jubatara campus, Lembucherra. Rev. Dr. Benny K. John, CSC, Principal of Holy Cross College, warmly welcomed the graduates and dignitaries, followed by an inspiring message delivered on behalf of the faculty by Ms. Tapashi Saha, Head of the Department of Teachers Education highlighting the accomplishments of the graduating class.

Rev. Fr. Abraham K.J., CSC, President of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, delivered the



presidential address, congratulating the graduates and encouraging them for future endeavours.

Graduating students Sangita Neogi and Pohor Debbarma shared heartfelt reflections on their academic journey and expressed gratitude to the faculty and staff. The chief guest, Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasin, Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University, delivered the commencement speech, motivating the graduates to uphold the values instilled at Holy Cross College.

The ceremony's highlight was the distribution of medals and certificates. Over four hundred students graduated, including five rank holders



from Sociology, Business Administration, and Commerce, who excelled in the 6th semester exams conducted by Tripura University. Notably, the event celebrated the first batch of postgraduates from the English and Political Science departments.

 **Joe Paul, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

Seminar on Safeguarding Children

On December 7, 2024, a seminar on "Safeguarding Children" was held at the school, with Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Northeast Province of Holy Cross Fathers, serving as the resource person.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness about child safety, address various forms of



abuse, and enhance skills for prevention and intervention. Fr. Abraham discussed measures to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, presenting global and Indian statistics that highlighted critical issues. The session emphasized laws like the Juvenile Justice Act, Child Marriage Act, and POCSO, which safeguard children, along with the UNCRC's framework for children's rights.

This enlightening seminar deepened our understanding of child protection, thanks to Fr. Abraham's insights and Fr. Davis Konuran, the school principal, for his support.



Engzuali Darlong

Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day, celebrated annually on November 14 in honour of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary, was observed with joy and enthusiasm at our school this year.

The celebration featured a special cultural program organized by the teachers to express their love and appreciation for the students. Teachers sang, danced, and performed a medley

of songs in multiple languages, bringing smiles and laughter. Students also wore vibrant traditional attire, symbolizing the beauty of unity in diversity.



Fr. Abraham, CSC, Secretary of the School, delivered an inspiring message, sharing a story that highlighted the distinction between intelligence and knowledge. An award ceremony recognized exceptional talents, with students Puia Darlong (Class XII), Kalpita Jamatia (Class IX), and Monalisa Sinha (Class VII) receiving awards for their artwork. Additionally, Mr. Birendra Sinha was honoured with the "Spirit of Holy Cross Award."

The day was filled with happiness and left a lasting impression, making it a truly memorable celebration.



Joyce Mahima Reang

Educational Tour to Shillong

From November 14 to 19, 2024, Class X students at Holy Cross Higher Secondary School,



Kathalcherra, embarked on an enriching educational tour to Guwahati, Shillong, and Cherrapunji.

The trip included a visit to Good Shepherd Parish in Jongksha, where the students experienced local Khasi hospitality, majestic Nohkhalikai Falls in Cherrapunji, the limestone marvels of Mawsmi Cave, Don Bosco Museum, which offered insights into the rich cultural heritage of Northeast India, Laitlum Canyons, Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians and a relaxing shopping break at Police Bazaar. The group also visited Holy Cross institutions, including the Moreau Institute of Integrated Training, fostering a deeper connection with the region's Holy Cross legacy.

The trip concluded with a journey back via Guwahati, with a stop at Montfort School for a warm dinner hosted by Bro. James P.K., SG. This educational tour, led by our principal, Dr. Fr. Davis Konuran, CSC, and dedicated teachers, blended learning, adventure, and cultural immersion, creating lasting memories and camaraderie among students.



Dharali Chakma

My Experience in the Enchanting Hills of Darjeeling

Darjeeling welcomed me and my companions of class 12 with its breathtaking views of the Kanchenjunga Mountain range and vibrant local markets brimming with hand-woven shawls and fragrant spices. The lively energy of the town



square, where locals gathered over tea, set the tone for an unforgettable journey.

A highlight was the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, where the toy train ride offered stunning views of lush tea gardens. At Happy Valley Tea Estate, I learned about tea production and

savoured the finest cup of tea, a true treat for the senses.

Exploring the serene monasteries, such as Ghoom and Bhutia Busty, brought a sense of peace and a deeper connection to Darjeeling's rich heritage. The warmth and hospitality of the locals left a lasting impression.

As I strolled through the misty tea gardens one last time, I reflected on the beauty and serenity of Darjeeling. This enchanting hill station etched itself in my heart, and I promised to return to its magical embrace someday.



Saviour Darlong

Inspiring Visits

On November 21, 2024, Fr. Iswar Happa, former principal of the school, visited along with Deacons Newton Basumatari, and Bala Savari.



Warmly welcomed by Fr. Dr. Davis Konuran, they addressed the assembly, highlighting discipline, cleanliness, and holistic development. Interactions with Class X and XII students showcased their enthusiasm for learning, leaving an inspiring impression.



On November 24, 2024, Fr. George Jacob, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, inspected the school along Mr. Paul Halam.

He praised the discipline, cleanliness, and sesquicentennial celebrations while encouraging creative teaching and active learning strategies for further improvement.

On December 6, 2024, Rev. Fr. K.J. Abraham, Provincial Superior, and Fr. Alfred D'Souza, Administrator, were welcomed



with a cultural program. Fr. Abraham motivated students to focus on their goals, especially board exam preparation, and conducted a session on "Safeguarding Children" for the staff.

These visits reaffirmed the school's dedication to excellence and holistic education.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, BAGBASA

'Special Star' Marks the Christmas

Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, celebrated Christmas with a unique and vibrant event titled 'Special Star,' featuring photos of



over nine hundred students and teachers.

The initiative showcased the school's dedication to fostering teamwork, creativity, and self-expression.

The highlight of the celebration was a massive star adorned with individual photos, symbolizing the unity and festive spirit of the school community. Principal Rev. Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, commended the students and staff, saying, "The 'Special Star' event reflects the spirit of collaboration and creativity that defines our school."



The celebration exemplifies Holy Cross School Bagbasa's innovative approach to education, creating memorable and enriching experiences for its students.

Winter Wonderland Carnival

Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, hosted a magical Winter Wonderland Carnival on 20th and 21st December 2024. The two-day event was a

spectacular celebration of the festive season, bringing together students, teachers, and the local community.



Vibrant stalls selling festive food, drinks, and handicrafts, exciting games and activities, thrilling performances by students, including dance, music, and Magic Show by Fr. Lancy Dsouza, CSC added joy to the celebration. The carnival was a huge success, attracting a large crowd of enthusiastic visitors. The event was organized by the school's management and staff, with support from students, parents, and local



vendors. The Winter Wonderland Carnival at Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, was a wonderful celebration of the festive season, promoting joy, community spirit, and festive cheer.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MOHARPARA

Sunday School and Altar Servers Gathering

On November 17, 2024, Moharpara Parish hosted a Sunday School and Altar Servers Gathering, enriching the faith of parish children. Fr. Joe Paul CSC led the event, beginning with a warm welcome and an action song to engage participants. Fr. Joe's session emphasized

nurturing faith in young minds, using the story of Samuel to illustrate how God works through all people. He also introduced the names and



functions of liturgical articles, engaging children in interactive activities with prizes for participation. The day concluded with a Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Joe and a vote of thanks from Fr. Arbok, followed by a shared meal. The gathering not only deepened the children's faith but also enhanced their liturgical involvement.

Bible Convention

The Moharpara Parish Bible Convention, held from October 11-13, 2024, drew 485 faithful from nearby villages. The event began with a



Bible enthronement procession followed by the Rosary, Marian procession, and Bible quiz. Keynote speaker Mr. Siby Jose delivered impactful sessions on the Word of God and overcoming sin, while Mr. Anthony emphasized family prayer and devotion to the Rosary. A healing service and group discussions on Small Christian Communities further enriched the experience. The final day focused on spiritual renewal through confession, Holy Mass, and a prayer of deliverance. The convention

strengthened the attendees' faith and fostered a deeper connection to the Word of God.

Marian Rosary Procession

On October 27, 2024, Moharpara Parish held a Rosary procession at Gamaku Motha, bringing together parishioners from various villages. The day began with a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. CV Jose, CSC, followed by a homily by Fr. Arbok, CSC, who reflected on emulating Mary's virtues. A solemn Rosary procession followed, with hymns and prayers, and a beautifully decorated statue of the Virgin Mary carried through the village. Adoration led by Fr. Arbok included reflections on family prayer and God's boundless mercy. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a



shared meal, leaving the faithful renewed in devotion.

Marriage Preparation Class

From November 7-9, 2024, Moharpara Parish conducted a Marriage Preparation Class for 16



couples. Led by Fr. Hormis, Ashim Uchoi, and

catechists, the program covered topics like family planning, communication skills, and the sacrament of Matrimony. Sessions emphasized the Church's teachings on marriage as a lifelong commitment and the importance of building strong Catholic families. The class concluded with blessings and encouragement, equipping couples to embrace their new vocation.

Parish Day and Ruby Jubilee Inauguration

On December 8, 2024, Moharpara Parish celebrated Parish Day and inaugurated its Ruby Jubilee Year. The event began with a grand welcome for Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala accompanied by a school band. During the Holy Eucharist, 150 candidates received Confirmation, and eighty children celebrated their First Holy Communion. The day included a Eucharistic procession, adoration, and benediction led by the bishop. The Ruby Jubilee Year was symbolically inaugurated with the



lighting of the Jubilee Candle and hoisting of the Jubilee Flag. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Deacon Newton Basumatari, CSC and a shared agape meal.



Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

District-Level Essay and Poetry Competitions

The district-level essay and poetry writing competitions held on November 12 was aimed to inspire young minds to reflect on national themes creatively. Poetry, with its blend of emotion and

insight, offered students an avenue for profound expression. Six of our students participated, and



two of them proudly secured prizes at the competition held in Dharmanagar.

Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day, observed on November 14th, focused on celebrating the innocence and potential of children. Class leaders were warmly



welcomed at the school gate by the school band, a gesture of honour from the teachers. The day was filled with joy as teachers performed cultural programs, organized games, and distributed prizes to the winners. Each student received a snack pack, making the celebration memorable.

Constitution Adoption Day

On Samvidhan Divas, Neha Nath from Class VI A delivered a speech to the entire school emphasizing the significance of November 26th, the day India adopted its Constitution in 1949. She highlighted the efforts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, known as the Father of the Indian Constitution, and the guiding principles that ensure justice and equality for all citizens.

Annual Parents' Day

Held on December 7th, the 27th Annual Parents' Day celebrated the pivotal role of parents in nurturing and protecting their children. The event began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Shri Debapriya Bardhan, IAS, DM & Collector of North Tripura, Rev. K. J. Abraham,



CSC, Provincial, and other dignitaries. Students presented a spectacular cultural showcase celebrating the rich diversity of Northeast and South India. The theme, "Roots and Wings," encapsulated the school's mission to ground students in values while empowering them to achieve great heights.

Pre-Christmas Celebration

December 18th brought festive cheer as the school organized a pre-Christmas celebration on the final working day of the year. With Santa Claus spreading joy, hostel students entertained everyone with a variety of performances.



Teachers and students ended the day on a sweet note, enjoying Christmas cake together, ready to embrace the New Year 2025 with positivity and hope.



Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC

ST. ANDRE PARISH, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Celebrating St. Andre Feast Day as a Parish Community

St. Andre Parish, Bodhjungle Nagar celebrated the Feast of its Patron, St. Andre, as a united parish community. Representatives from each sub-center, including the President, Secretary, Youth



Leader, and Maria Sango Representative, joined the local faithful for this special celebration at the parish center.

The day began with a Festive Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by the Parish Fathers alongside priests from the local Holy Cross formation house. The participation of religious sisters from SABS, CSC, FCC, and FSM convents added a profound spiritual atmosphere to the occasion. A Parish Council meeting and a shared festive meal kept everyone actively engaged throughout the morning.

Annual Children's Day Celebration

On January 1, 2025, the first day of the New Year was marked with the Annual Children's Day celebration at Barkathal, a sub-center of St. Andre Mission, Bodhjungle Nagar Parish. Over 150 children, accompanied by their parents and relatives, gathered for this vibrant and meaningful event.

The program began with a prayer service and a Eucharistic celebration led by Fr. Joe Paul, CSC, which also commemorated the Solemnity of

Mary, Mother of God. The well-organized event kept the children engaged with a variety of activities, including a Bible quiz, dances, on-stage performances, and outdoor games. Prizes were awarded to recognize the children's participation and talents, bringing smiles to many young faces. The co-pastoral team, comprising men and women religious from five different congregations, collaborated seamlessly to ensure the program's success.

The event ran from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with a lunch break providing a moment of fellowship. It was a day of discovery, as children showcased their hidden talents, leaving parents proud and inspired. Though primarily for children, the



celebration also fostered a sense of community among adults present, making the day a blessing for all. God bless our children!

 **Mariaraj, CSC**

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Pre-Christmas Celebration

The school celebrated the joyous spirit of Christmas on the final working day of the term.



Students showcased a beautifully crafted traditional Christmas crib, symbolizing the essence of the season. The event featured lively singing, energetic dancing, and a heartfelt nativity skit performed by the students. The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets, spreading cheer and festive joy among all.

Singing Competition

An inter-house singing competition was held, with students from the junior, sub-junior, and senior categories representing their houses. The participants captivated the audience with their melodious voices and confident stage presence, making the event a resounding success.



Iswar Happa, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TWICHAKMA

Children's Day Celebration

Holy Cross School celebrated Children's Day on 14th November 2024 with vibrant activities and competitions. Students eagerly participated in events like quizzes, debates, Rubik's Cube challenges, spelling bees, mimicry, extempore speeches, and dance performances, showcasing their talents and teamwork. Judges Sr. Isabela, Deacon Newton, and Br. Rikus ensured fair evaluations.



Sr. Isabela's inspiring speech emphasized teamwork and the value of participation.

The event ended on a sweet note as teachers distributed cake to the students, making it a joyful and memorable day.

School Health Camp

On 26th November 2024, Holy Cross School, in collaboration with Twidu PHC, organized a School Health Camp under the National Oral Health Program (NOHP).



Chief guest Dr. Utpal Mitra from Ampinagar highlighted the importance of oral hygiene in overall health. Students actively participated in the interactive session, learning valuable dental care practices. The camp provided dental checkups and treatments, leaving a positive impact on students and staff.

PARAKH Exam

Holy Cross School, Twichakma, hosted the PARAKH exam for Class VI on 4th December 2024, an initiative by the Education Department to assess students' knowledge, skills, and learning outcomes. The exam was conducted smoothly, with active participation from students and support from the school staff. Education officials ensured adherence to standards, reaffirming the school's commitment to holistic development.



Parents' Day Celebration

Holy Cross School celebrated Parents' Day on 20th December 2024, creating a memorable

evening of joy and togetherness. The program began at 5:00 PM with vibrant cultural performances by students, showcasing India's rich diversity through synchronized dance routines.

The event was graced by guests, including Shri Sadagar Kalai (MDC, Ampinagar), Shri Ruatfela



Darlong (BDO, Ampinagar), and Rev. Fr. Hormis John CSC, the school's first principal. Their presence, along with that of other dignitaries such as Fr. Arbok CSC and Fr. Alfred Dsouza CSC, elevated the occasion.

The evening culminated in a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony, symbolizing the bond between



parents and children. A sumptuous dinner followed, fostering

camaraderie among attendees. The success of the event reflected the dedicated efforts of the school management, staff, and students, leaving cherished memories for all.



Binita Soreang, SAC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Children's Day

Holy Cross English Medium HS School, Tuikarmaw, celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm on 13th and 14th November 2024,

honouring the legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, whose love for children remains an inspiration.



The school hall buzzed with excitement as teachers performed a series of cultural programs, including lively group dances and melodious songs, bringing joy to the students. The two-day celebration served as a heartfelt gesture of appreciation for the students, leaving them with cherished memories.

NCC Trek 2 and Camp

The 4 Sikkim Battalion hosted the NCC Trek 2 and Camp from 22nd to 29th November 2024, drawing over five hundred cadets from various regions to Sikkim. The event aimed to instil discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills. Representing Tripura, fifteen cadets showcased their enthusiasm, including our very own Miss Anushka Reang, who made the school proud through her active participation. She returned enriched with invaluable experiences, enhanced skills, and lasting memories. Her achievement reflects the school's dedication to nurturing leadership and holistic development in its students.



Sports Day

Sports Day 2024 at Holy Cross South English Medium HS School was a vibrant and action-packed event held on 28th November. The day began with a grand welcome for Chief Guest Fr. Matthew MSFS, Principal of St. Francis De Sales School, Harina, who was invited to hoist the



school flag. Students from all houses participated in a disciplined march past, followed by a series of athletic events, including track and field competitions and fun activities like tug-of-war. Adding to the cultural richness, students presented a traditional dance performance that captivated the audience. The day concluded with a prize distribution ceremony where winners were celebrated for their achievements. The event reflected the school's commitment to fostering physical fitness, teamwork, and a spirit of healthy competition.

CATC-103 Camp NCC

NCC teacher Nibaran Reang represented Holy Cross School at the CATC-103 camp held at Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel, Agartala, from 29th November to 8th December 2024. The camp brought together four hundred cadets, including

Junior and Senior Divisions, from various schools and colleges. It provided rigorous training sessions, leadership activities, and interactive programs aimed at enhancing discipline and



camaraderie. Senior officials, including the Silchar Group Commandant and the Higher Education Director, addressed the cadets, inspiring them with their words.

Medical Camp

Holy Cross English Medium HS School, Tuikarmaw, organized a three-day medical camp in collaboration with the National Health Mission. Held on 13th, 17th, and 18th December 2024, the camp offered comprehensive health screenings for all students from Class I to XII. A team of dedicated medical professionals conducted physical check-ups, vision and hearing tests, dental examinations, and general health assessments. The initiative ensured that students' health and well-being remain a top priority to our school.

Pre-Christmas Celebration cum School Fete

On 20th December 2024, Holy Cross School, Tuikarmaw, organized a Pre-Christmas Celebration cum School Fete, filling the campus with festive cheer. Students showcased their talents through carol singing and traditional dance performances, spreading the message of love and joy. The Vice Principal addressed the gathering, highlighting the essence of Christmas—sharing, caring, and the joy of giving. Santa Claus made a special appearance, delighting the children with candies and laughter. The event also featured a mini school fete, complete with food stalls, games, and a lucky dip, creating a memorable experience for the school community.

ST. MARY'S PARISH, TUIKARMAW

Christo Mela

St. Mary's Parish, Tuikarmaw, hosted the Christo-Mela on 19th December 2024 at the Holy Cross School grounds. The event began with a ceremonial lamp lighting by religious leaders from various faiths, symbolizing unity and peace. Attendees included representatives from Christian denominations such as the Presbyterian Church, Yapri Baptist Association, Visha Vani Church, and Believer Eastern Church. Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC the Parish Priest, delivered an inspiring Christmas message, emphasizing the themes of love, harmony, and sharing. Vibrant performances of carols and dances by different denominations enriched the spiritual and festive atmosphere. Stalls offering food, games, and entertainment added a joyful flair to the celebration, which attracted 800-1,000 people from diverse communities. The event concluded with joyous carol singing and performances, celebrating the true spirit of Christmas.



Vicky Gayang, CSC

HOLY CROSS PARISH KOLORIANG

Spiritual Outreach and Carol Singing

In the spirit of Christmas, Holy Cross Parish Koloriang reached out to various sub-centers to provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care to the villagers. This initiative emphasised the



parish's dedication to the spiritual well-being of its people. Adding to the festive joy, a parish-wide carol singing program was organized, with families across the parish participating in this four-day event. The melodious carols filled the air with the message of hope, love, and the joy of the season.

Games, Sports, and Cultural Programs

A vibrant series of games, sports, and cultural activities brought the parish community together, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and joyful competition. These events witnessed enthusiastic participation from parishioners of all ages. The winners were recognized with prizes, adding an element of excitement and pride to the celebrations while strengthening the bonds of community spirit.



Marriage Course and Blessings

As part of the preparations for Christmas, a special marriage course was conducted for couples. This culminated in a solemn and joyful blessing ceremony for five couples in the church, presided over by Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC. The event highlighted the sanctity of marriage and the foundational role of family in Christian life, making it a deeply meaningful occasion for the couples and the parish alike.



Special Guests and Christmas Novena

The parish was graced by the presence of Shri Pani Taram, MLA, of Koloriang, who joined the community in celebrating the festive season. For



the first time, a nine-day Christmas Novena was held, providing a period of prayer, reflection, and preparation for the birth of Christ. The celebrations culminated on Christmas Day with a festive meal, where a large gathering of parishioners came together to share in the joy, fellowship, and blessings of the season.

Pilgrimage to Goa

Under the leadership of Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC, a group of six parishioners embarked on a memorable pilgrimage to Goa to witness the



exposition of St. Francis Xavier. This sacred journey offered participants a profound opportunity to deepen their faith, reflect on their spiritual journey, and connect with the wider Christian community.



Prasanta Basumatary, CSC

ST. ANDRE PARISH, NYAPIN

Christmas Carols and House Blessings

St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, held its annual Christmas Carols and House Blessing program from December 17 to 21. Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC, and Fr. Desing John Nongphud, CSC, led these



events with active participation from parishioners. The team visited homes across villages and sectors, singing carols, praying, and spreading the joy of Christmas. This effort brought a sense of enthusiasm and unity to the parish community.

Christmas Celebration

From December 23 to 25, St. Andre Parish organized a joint Christmas celebration at Holy Rosary Gaga Church, bringing together



parishioners from all its villages. The event began with a vibrant cultural night on December 23,

featuring singing, dancing, and skit competitions. Mrs. Bamang Rima, a social activist and government teacher, served as the chief guest for the festivities. The three-day celebration fostered camaraderie and shared joy, leaving a lasting impact on the participants.

Family Day

On December 29, St. Andre Parish celebrated Family Day, drawing 256 participants. The program began with Eucharistic Adoration and



Divine Mercy prayers, followed by a Eucharistic Celebration led by Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC. The event emphasized family unity, the importance of prayer, and nurturing children in faith. Participants expressed their appreciation and hope for larger celebrations in the future.

ST. JUDE SCHOOL, NYAPIN

Pre-Christmas Celebration

On December 15, St. Jude School, Nyapin, came alive with the festive spirit as students, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff, gathered for a joyful Pre-Christmas celebration. The event was filled with enthusiasm as participants



exchanged gifts and shared the warmth of the season.

The celebration featured lively performances of Christmas carols, including singing and dancing, spreading cheer and goodwill. The joyous occasion concluded with a simple, yet meaningful meal shared by all, fostering a sense of togetherness and community.



Lawrence Wanniang, CSC

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH, KHAWZAWL

Marriage Preparation Course

On November 7, a Marriage Preparation Course was conducted at the Parish Centre, led by Catechist

Joseph Thanga from Holy Cross Parish,



Champhai. Three couples participated, spending the day learning essential requirements for marriage and completing their forms. Among them, two couples are set to marry soon, while one is preparing for rectification. Congratulations and best wishes to the couples for a blessed married life.

Ngaizawl Church Celebrates Platinum Jubilee

The Catholic Church in Ngaizawl celebrated its Platinum Jubilee on November 10, at St. Joseph Church. Marking 75 years of its establishment, the vibrant church now comprises forty-five families with two hundred members. The church has contributed significantly to the community's development, particularly in education, producing one priest,



two brothers, and several religious sisters, with some still in formation. It also runs an English-medium school and remains a hub of faith and activity.

Youth and Women Guild

On December 22, 2024, Chhawrtui Village under St. John the Apostle Parish, Khawzawl, conducted elections for its Youth and Women Guilds for 2025. The Women Guild also distributed prizes to



members, recognizing their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to all the newly elected leaders and guild members for their efforts and service.

Altar Servers' Annual Gathering

The second Annual Gathering of the Altar Servers' Association was held on December 14, at St. Joseph School, Khawzawl. About sixty participants from four villages attended the event, which included prayer services, an input



session on responsibilities, and discussions. Fr. John PKC, CSC, encouraged participants to deepen their faith and leadership roles in the Church. Activities

included a Bible quiz and group discussions, followed by prize distribution. The day concluded with a shared meal, leaving participants motivated and inspired.

Christmas Celebration

The Co-Missionary team of St. John the Apostle Parish, Khawzawl, held its Annual Gathering and Christmas Celebration on December 21. Members from four religious communities—Holy Spirit



Sisters, SMMI Sisters from two locations, and Holy Cross Fathers—came together for the celebration. The day featured Holy Eucharist, a short meeting, gift exchange, carols, and a Christmas cake cutting, fostering unity and festive joy.

Parish Christmas Celebrations

St. John the Apostle Parish marked Christmas with a series of meaningful events, including novenas, vigil services, and Holy Eucharist across all villages. The celebrations culminated in "Ruaitheh"



(a communal meal), fostering community spirit. Even the smallest village, Khawhai, participated wholeheartedly. On St. Stephen's Feast, parishioners received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by Eucharist and a shared meal.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, KHAWZAWL

Advance Christmas Celebration

Ahead of the winter vacation, St. Joseph School hosted an Advance Christmas celebration. The event featured gift exchanges, Christmas lessons,



and a festive meal, emphasizing the spirit of love and sharing. Students extended greetings and appreciation to parents, teachers, and elders, making it a joyful and meaningful occasion.

 *John PKC, CSC*

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, ZUANGTUI

Children's Day Celebration

On November 14, our school campus was filled with joy, laughter, and vibrant energy as we



celebrated Children's Day with enthusiasm. The

day began with a special assembly where teachers emphasized the significance of this occasion. A series of lively activities followed, including energetic dance performances and melodious songs by the teachers, much to the students' delight. Teachers surprised the children with their own entertaining acts, creating moments of bonding and joy. The event concluded with a heartfelt message celebrating the innocence and happiness of childhood, making it a memorable day for everyone.

A Celebration of Parents and Festive Joy

On December 13, 2024, our school hosted a combined Parents' Day and Pre-Christmas celebration, honouring the invaluable role of parents and spreading festive cheer. The event, graced by the esteemed chief guest, Fr. James, the



parish priest of Ramhlun, featured cultural performances, including a captivating Mizo welcome dance and traditional songs.

Students expressed gratitude through heartfelt messages during the "Thank You Parents" segment, and a Nativity skit beautifully depicted the birth of Jesus, reminding everyone of Christmas's true essence. Adding to the excitement, Santa Claus made a surprise visit, distributing sweets and spreading joy among the attendees.

In his address, Fr. James praised parents' sacrifices and support, while the principal highlighted the importance of family and community. This heartwarming celebration was a

perfect blend of tradition, appreciation, and



festive joy, leaving everyone with cherished memories of love and togetherness.



Arokiasamy Innaci, CSC

ST. PAUL'S PARISH KUMARGHAT

Youth Seminar

On November 3, a one-day Youth Seminar was organized by the Parish Council, gathering 160



young parishioners at the Parish Centre. The seminar focused on "Youth and the Church," with Fr. Lancy as the main resource person. He highlighted the vital role of youth in strengthening and shaping the Church, encouraging them to be active participants in Small Christian Communities (SCCs). Group discussions explored ways for youth to be role models and leaders in village churches. Sr. Jerald MC spoke about the importance of prayer in youth life, and the day concluded with the Holy Eucharist. The youth also decided to spread Christmas cheer by carolling in the parish.

Senior Citizens' Day

On November 4, the Parish celebrated Senior Citizens' Day to honour ninety-five elders for their invaluable contribution to the faith community. The day began with a prayer, followed by a Holy Eucharist offered for their intentions. A short felicitation program included a warm welcome by Parish Secretary Mr. Roitua Darlong and a heartfelt speech by Mr. Lalkhima



Darlong, a senior parishioner. Each elder received a colourful shawl as a token of gratitude. Youth-led outdoor games and a shared meal added joy to the day, making it a memorable celebration of wisdom and faith.

Youth Carols

From December 18 to 20, the youth of the parish spread Christmas joy by carolling in villages across the parish. This initiative strengthened unity among the youth as they carried the message of Christmas to the community. Their experiences, shared with the Parish Council, reflected the deep sense of connection fostered during this joyful mission.

Altar Servers' Camp

Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM) organized a three-day Altar Servers' Camp from December 3 to 5 at St. Paul Parish, Kumarghat. The event brought together 252 altar servers and twenty-two animators from fifteen parishes of the Diocese of Agartala and the Barak Valley region of Aizwal Diocese. Themed "Nothing is impossible

for God,” the camp featured motivational talks, training on Mass service, and reflections on Blessed Patrick Peyton’s life. A candle-lit Rosary procession, Holy Eucharist, and various



competitions enriched the experience. The program concluded with a vibrant ceremony and prize distribution, leaving participants inspired and grateful for the initiative.

Lancy Dsouza, CSC

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

**November 2–3:
Altar Servers’ Annual Gathering**

Our seminarians participated in the three-day Altar Servers’ Annual Gathering at Good Shepherd Parish, Jongksha. It was an inspiring experience, witnessing the smartness and competitive spirit of Holy Cross Parish altar servers.

**November 15–16:
Annual Sports Day**

To break the routine of formation house life, we enjoyed a two-day Annual Sports Day organized



by Frs. Binoy, Shaiju, and Ms. Abigail Mawlong. The event featured two

teams: Br. Flavian CSC and Fr. Dujarie CSC. Br. Flavian’s team emerged victorious with an impressive score of 97 out of 100.

**November 22:
Paddy Harvest Festival**

Our week-long paddy harvesting festival concluded successfully. Thanks to the enthusiasm



and determination of the seminarians, the task was completed within the stipulated time.

**December 5:
Football Match**

On the feast of the Pilar Fathers, a football match was organized. The Sumerians showcased their skills and emerged as winners. Congratulations, Sumerians—well done!

**December 14:
Papua New Guinea Mission Presentation**

Fr. Thomas John, CSC spent the day with the students, sharing insights about the Papua New Guinea Mission through videos and presentations. He also delivered a talk titled “The Call to a Mission,” followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Clement Amo, CSC



ST. ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Advance Christmas Festivities

On the evening of December 20, 2024, St. Andre Minor Seminary (SAMS) and the St. Andre Parish



community came together to celebrate an enchanting Christmas. The festive gathering was filled with the joyous spirit of the season, with melodious carols resonating throughout the air. The celebration brought warmth, unity, and the true essence of Christmas to everyone present.

Aspirants' Missionary Deployment

On December 21, 2024, the aspirants of SAMS embarked on their missionary deployment to various



mission centers. This initiative aims to provide experiential learning opportunities, helping them cultivate pastoral skills and foster deeper community engagement in their journey toward service and faith.



Francis Gayang, CSC

REGENTS' MEET

The Regents' Meet for 2024-25 was held at MCH-Durjoynagar, Agartala, Tripura, under the guidance of Fr. Shaiju Antony, CSC, Formation Coordinator. Designed to foster spiritual enrichment, intellectual growth, and fraternal bonding, the two-day program featured insightful sessions and community building activities.

The event began with an introductory session led by Fr. Shaiju, setting the tone for the gathering. Daily worship, including the Eucharist animated by the regents, provided moments of reflection and active participation.

Sessions covered key aspects of religious life and ministry. Fr. Jilson, CSC, shared insights on using media as a tool for evangelization, while Fr. Mariaraj, CSC, discussed the challenges and fidelity required in religious life. Fr. Joe Paul, CSC, emphasized Blessed Basile Moreau's vision of holistic education for heart and mind. Leadership and spiritual growth were highlighted by Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, inspiring joy and commitment in one's vocation. Fr. Kitbok shared his missionary experiences, encouraging resilience and faith in the face of challenges.

The gathering included a Recollection Talk and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, offering spiritual renewal to all participants. The thoughtful planning by Fr. Shaiju and his team made the event a meaningful and memorable experience,



reinforcing community bonds and preparing regents for future endeavours.



Pintu Marak, CSC

FORMATORS' MEETING

The Formators' Meeting of the Northeast India Province convened on January 6, 2025, at the



Provincial House, Agartala. The gathering was graced by the presence of Fr. K. J. Abraham, the Provincial, Fr. Shaiju Antony, the Formation Coordinator, and all the formators of the province.

The meeting served as a platform for deliberating on key matters related to vocation promotion and formation. Additionally, it provided an opportunity for the formators to share their experiences and recount significant events from their respective formation houses. The collaborative discussions aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the province's formation programs and foster a spirit of shared mission.



Bilingshar, CSC

GOLDEN YEARS OF RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT - BISHOP LUMEN MONTEIRO, CSC

50
years

The Golden Jubilee of Bishop Lumen Monteiro's religious life was celebrated with joy and solemnity at the Holy Cross Provincial House, Agartala. This milestone marks 50 years of

his dedicated service to God, the Church, and the community.



Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, professed his first religious vows in 1974 as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Over five decades, he has contributed significantly to the Church's mission, including serving as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Agartala for 29 years. His leadership has been instrumental in fostering unity and spiritual growth within the diocese.

The celebration drew a large gathering of priests, religious, and laity to honour Bishop Lumen's commitment. The event began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration, presided over by the



bishop and concelebrated by numerous priests. The liturgy was a moment of profound thanksgiving for his vocation and service.

In his homily, Bishop Lumen expressed gratitude for God's blessings, acknowledging the support of fellow clergy, religious communities, and the faithful. He paid special tribute to the Congregation of Holy Cross and his mentors for their formative guidance.

A felicitation program followed, during which Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior,

highlighted the bishop's impactful contributions to the Church in India. He commended his unwavering



commitment to building God's kingdom, noting that the Golden Jubilee reflects the bishop's enduring love and dedication to his calling.

The celebration concluded with a fellowship lunch, uniting attendees in joy and thanksgiving. Bishop Lumen's Golden Jubilee stands as a testament to God's faithfulness and his steadfast devotion to his vocation.



PROVINCE ASSEMBLY 2025

From January 6 to 8, 2025, the Northeast India Province gathered for its annual assembly at the



Provincial House, Agartala. A total of sixty-four members participated in this programme, reflecting on the mission, progress, and future direction of the province.

The assembly commenced with a prayerful opening session, invoking the Holy Spirit's guidance. The Provincial Superior delivered a detailed report, outlining the implementation of the Chapter decrees, challenges, and plans for the province. Reports from various commissions and



special ministries offered a comprehensive overview of the initiatives and activities undertaken, emphasizing growth in education, pastoral work, formation programme, family ministry and social outreach.

Engaging group discussions and general sessions provided a platform for members to exchange ideas, share experiences, and propose solutions for ongoing and future challenges.



These sessions strengthened the collective vision of the province, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collaboration.

A highlight of the assembly was the felicitation ceremony, celebrating the milestones of commitment and service within the province. Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, Bishop of



Aizawl, was honoured on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession, a testament to five decades of unwavering faith and dedication. Six confreres celebrating their Silver Jubilee of Profession were also recognized for their steadfast service. The province additionally rejoiced in the ordination of new priests and deacons, acknowledging their enthusiasm and devotion to the mission of Holy Cross.

**INAUGURATION OF THE
FR. MATTHEW ULLATTILL BLOCK AT
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA**

On January 8, 2025, Holy Cross School, Agartala, marked a significant milestone with the



inauguration of the Fr. Matthew Ullattill Block, a dedicated facility for nursery and kindergarten children. This long-anticipated project by the Holy Cross Fathers has finally come to fruition, standing as a testament to their vision for nurturing young minds.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Shri Indrasena Reddy Nallu, as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries



included Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, Vicar and First General Assistant, Fr. K.J. Abraham, Provincial Superior, along with Holy Cross Confreres, Priests



and religious from nearby communities, faculty, alumni and other invited guests.

Fr. K.J. Abraham in his speech highlighted the block as a gift to the children of Tripura, reaffirming Holy Cross's commitment to fostering growth, inspiration, and potential in the state's youth.



The Governor commended Holy Cross's dedication to education and emphasized the role of schools in equipping children with skills and values to navigate the rapid advancements in technology confidently and responsibly.



This state-of-the-art facility stand as a reflection of the unwavering mission of Holy Cross in shaping future of our children.



CONGRATULATIONS!

With hearts filled joy and gratitude, we celebrate the

50
ANNIVERSARY

of the Religious life
of our beloved

Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, DD
Bishop of Aizawl

25

of Religious life



Honouring three devoted missionaries who dedicated their lives to serve the people of Northeast India. We remember them with deep gratitude for their selfless service, drawing inspiration from their legacy. May God grant them eternal rest.



Fr. Peter Chittayath, CSC
29.06.1938 - 17.01.2025



Fr. Jose Sarpathil, CSC
11.09.1943 - 25.01.2025



Fr. Devadoss P.A., CSC
10.12.1947 - 01.01.2025

A heartfelt tribute to our confreres who entered eternal rest in January will be featured in the next issue of WAVES.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

Editorial Team: George Jacob CSC, Mariaraj CSC, Jilson Tom CSC
Send your feedback to: georgejacobcsc@gmail.com

Design and Layout - Paul Ranglong