

Waves



AGARTALA

Province Newsletter

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PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

Dear Friends and Conferres,



As we approach Children's Day on November 14, we honour the legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, who was deeply devoted to the welfare and future of children. Observed on Nehru's birthday, this day serves as a reminder to uphold and advocate for children's rights, education, and well-being.

Fondly known as 'Chacha Nehru,' Pandit Nehru recognised the significance of fostering a robust educational framework. His visionary leadership established several esteemed institutions, including AIIMS, IITs, and IIMs, which continue to empower generations of Indian youth. Additionally, Nehru founded the Children's Film Society India in 1955, ensuring that children had access to indigenous cinema made especially for them.

Nehru's profound love for children was not only reflected in his actions but also in his words. He once stated, "The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country." His vision resonates in today's India, particularly with the passage of the Right to Education Act in 2009, granting every child the right to free and compulsory education.

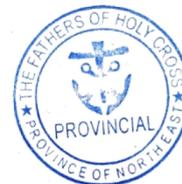


In our province, we have the privilege of educating around 22,000 students daily. The mission of Bl. Basile Moreau, an educator par excellence, continues to inspire us in Holy Cross education, where safeguarding and promoting children's rights remain paramount.

This Children's Day, let us all be reminded that while children navigate an adult's world, we must create a safe, nurturing environment that allows them to grow and thrive. Together, let us honour Nehru's legacy by committing ourselves to protect and promote the rights of every child.

Warm regards,

Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC
Provincial Superior



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PROVINCE UPDATES



CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

EDITORIAL

Dilexit Nos: Love and Mission in Our Times



In his latest encyclical, 'Dilexit Nos', Pope Francis speaks to the heart of our Christian mission: that Christ's love compels us to reach out, serve, and live in communion with one another and with creation. His message is challenging and inspiring, urging us to recognise our shared humanity and the sacredness of each life. The stories emerging from our mission centres, which you will read in the pages of this newsletter, resonate deeply with this encyclical's call to embody the love that God has for each of us.

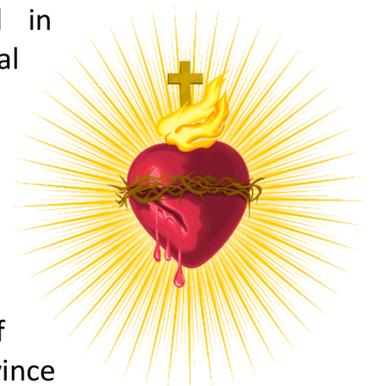
In every school, parish, and other institution, our work reflects the transformative power of love that Pope Francis highlights. Our education and pastoral programs

**DILEXIT
NOS**



have reached some of the most underserved communities, embodying Francis's call to be close to those who are marginalised. In all these, we see the Gospel in action—a practical witness to the compassion and justice to which Dilexit Nos calls us.

As Dilexit Nos reminds us, love is the core of mission. Our province finds its strength in living this love every day. May we continue to serve as faithful witnesses to Christ's love, drawing strength from His Sacred Heart and the words of Pope Francis.



George Jacob, CSC



Holy Cross was founded in what I would call a mysterious and almost miraculous manner.

—Bl. Basile Moreau, (Letters)



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA

Honouring Our Teachers on Teachers' Day

Teachers' Day is a cherished tradition that celebrates the impact of educators on young minds. Holy Cross Agartala School marked the occasion twice this year, turning it into a profound experience that united students and teachers in community service and celebration.



Traditionally observed on September 5, Teachers' Day took on new meaning as students and staff responded to the devastating floods affecting Tripura. Rather than a typical celebration, the school held a special assembly focused on social responsibility. It was led by Class XII students, who taught instead of their teachers for the day. This initiative allowed students to experience the demands of teaching while showing solidarity with those affected by the floods. The assembly embodied a powerful sense of empathy and unity within the school community.

A second celebration took place on September 13, Holy Cross Feast Day, marking an especially memorable occasion for Class XII students as it was their final Teachers' Day as students. The students organised cultural programs to show appreciation, including skits, music, and dance. These dual events emphasised unity, gratitude, and resilience,

showcasing the school's commitment to community engagement and mutual support.

 *Souhini Roy*

Legal Awareness Seminar

A Valuable Lesson in Civic Rights: In a unique initiative to broaden students' understanding of their rights and responsibilities, Merlyn Darlong and her team from National Law University, Tripura, conducted a Legal Awareness Seminar for Class XII. The team discussed fundamental rights, including equality, education, freedom of expression, and protections for women and girls. Students also learned about the workings of the Indian court system and types of legal contracts, helping them understand practical aspects of law in daily life. This seminar empowered students with a deeper



awareness of their rights, highlighting the importance of civic knowledge in shaping responsible citizens.

 *Swayam Deb*

Career Guidance Seminar: Exploring Pathways to the Future

On July 13, 2024, students at Holy Cross Agartala School attended a Career Guidance Seminar under the able guidance of Fr. Jilson Tom, our principal, that provided valuable insights into diverse career





options. The seminar included sessions on planning career paths, following one's passions, and exploring emerging industries alongside traditional fields. Practical resume-building sessions, SWOT analysis, and interview skills added immediate value, preparing students for the first steps into their careers. The discussions during breaks fostered a supportive atmosphere, enabling students to share aspirations, learn from each other, and build a sense of camaraderie. By the end, students left with newfound clarity about their futures and the confidence to pursue their ambitions.



Sohadri Chakraborty

School-Based Assessment under NEP 2020 : A New Approach to Learning:

Holy Cross Agartala School implemented School-Based Assessment (SBA) this year as part of the NEP 2020 framework. From creative MCQ tests for Classes V and VI to project-based learning (PBL) for Classes VII to XII, SBA focuses on assessing a broader range of skills, including critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. Students engaged in projects drawn from curriculum topics, and class teachers, alongside block coordinators, guided students through each step. Peer evaluations added an element of engagement and inclusivity, allowing students to experience both self-reflection and collaboration. Through SBA, teachers could offer personalised feedback, encouraging a growth mindset and reducing exam-related stress. This more holistic approach fosters a love for learning and developing a well-rounded skill set, preparing students to thrive beyond school.

The project-based group assessments allowed students to explore topics through teamwork and hands-on learning. Class X student Lavanya Jain shared that this approach fostered collaboration and creativity, primarily through projects like

decorative charts and models. The experience also encouraged students to manage differing opinions and find common ground within their groups. Overall, project-based learning nurtured a sense of unity and resilience among students, equipping them with valuable skills for academic life and community involvement.

Arundhati Majumder

Class XII Arts Study Tour

On July 10, 2024, Class XII Arts students visited Mutha Industries Pvt. Ltd. at Bodhjungle Nagar Bamboo Park to fulfil their Geography Project requirements, which included studying raw material sources, supply chains, workforce organisation, and distribution.



Mutha Bamboo Processing Industry, founded in 2014, is a leader in sustainable manufacturing, focused on producing eco-friendly bamboo products. During the tour, students observed the entire production process, learning how bamboo is converted into doors, flooring, and custom furniture marketed under the "Epitome Bamboo Products." Although made from bamboo, these products offer the look and feel of hardwood.

The school extends sincere gratitude to Mutha Industries' administration and staff for their guidance, making the trip educational and enjoyable for all students.

Sonali Nandi





"We Think of You" – A Moral Science Exposure Project

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving," Mother Teresa once said. Inspired by this, the ICSE Class of 2025 brought their Moral Science lessons to life on October 25, 2024, by reaching out to the needy with compassion and empathy.



The Holy Cross Education motto, "Educating Heart and Mind," emphasises integrating knowledge with values. The Moral Science Exposure Program, launched in 2022, has since reached 50 underprivileged families annually, fostering social responsibility and compassion among students. This year, guided by their teachers, students visited Damdamia, distributing essentials like blankets, food, and bedding to needy families. Donations from Class X students and teachers made this outreach possible.

The experience left a profound impact as students witnessed the joy and gratitude of the Damdamia villagers. Families expressed heartfelt thanks, blessing the students for a bright future. The project



reinforced values of empathy, community support, and social responsibility.

Reflecting on the event, Maheswari Chakraborty expressed her gratitude for Principal Fr. Jilson Tom

CSC's leadership, noting how initiatives like these enrich students' minds and hearts while supporting the community.

Maheswari Chakraborty

ST. ANDRE PARISH, BODHJUNG NAGAR

Annual Youth Fellowship Meet - 2024: A Spirit-Filled Gathering

The St. Andre Youth Group of our parish celebrated its Annual Youth Fellowship Meet with great energy



and devotion from October 11 to 13, 2024, at Yacharai, one of our parish's sub-centres. Organised under the leadership of Parish Youth President Stephen Debbarma and his dedicated team, this year's gathering brought together nearly 150 young parish members for three days of fellowship and spiritual growth.

The meet began with an inaugural address by the Parish Priest, who lit the traditional lamp to officially open the gathering. The days that followed were filled with enriching input sessions, spirited cultural programs, various competitions, and quizzes, all of which helped deepen the youth's engagement with their faith and each other.

The fellowship culminated on Sunday, October 13, with a profoundly moving sacramental celebration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, a solemn Holy



Eucharist led by Fr. Iswar, CSC (Assistant Priest), and a communal fellowship meal marked the closing of the meet. The presence of our Fathers from SAMS, along with Sisters from the SABS and CSC Convents, provided invaluable support, especially during the final day's activities.

While the gathering may have concluded, its spirit endures. We pray that the renewed Catholic zeal ignited within our parish youth will continue to inspire them in the coming days. May God bless our young people abundantly!

 **Mariaraj, CSC**

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNG NAGAR

Study Tour

On September 9, 2024, the Class XII students embarked on an educational tour to Kolkata, accompanied by the school principal. This enriching



experience allowed students to explore historical and cultural landmarks, making it a memorable and educational outing.

SLAS Exam

On September 13, the Education Department conducted the State Level Achievement Survey (SLAS) exam for students in Classes V, VII, and IX at our school. Teachers from the school served as invigilators. This initiative by the Education Department aims to assess learning levels and

establish a baseline of competencies at the



foundational, preparatory, and middle stages.

Swachhata Seva

The school's Eco Club led a cleanliness drive on September 14, 2024. Students from various classes enthusiastically participated, working together to



clean the campus and its surroundings, reinforcing the importance of environmental responsibility.

Teachers' Day

Teachers' Day was celebrated enthusiastically, as students organised a vibrant cultural program to honour their teachers. Faculty members were appreciated for their dedication and presented with





tokens of gratitude. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal, marking a memorable day of appreciation to the teachers.

Iswar Happa

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

Feast Day Celebration

Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Congregational feast day of the Fathers of Holy Cross, on September 14, 2024, a day before the official feast day. Organised by the School's Cultural Committee, the program featured heartfelt prayer songs and dances performed by students and teachers, fostering a



sense of divine presence. Fr. Lancy D'Souza, the School Manager, shared the significance of the Feast Day, highlighting its spiritual importance.

The event included cultural presentations, such as the traditional Halam dance and a lively fancy dress parade by pre-primary and primary students. Shri. Roitua Darlong, the guest of honour, shared an encouraging message with the assembly. The program also featured a video tribute to Blessed Basile Moreau, founder of the Holy Cross Congregation, and hymns dedicated to him.

The celebration was a meaningful reminder of Blessed Basil Moreau's legacy, and it concluded with

a vote of thanks from Fr. Lourdu, Principal of Holy Cross School, Kumarghat.

Alumni Meet 2024

Holy Cross School, Kumarghat hosted an Alumni Meet on October 18, 2024, bringing together former students to reconnect, celebrate achievements, and inspire current students. The gathering strengthened alumni ties and offered insights into their life journeys and contributions.

Fr. Jilson Tom, CSC, led a reflective session on the



"Characteristics of a Good Student," while Sir Tapan facilitated discussions on the alumni's current roles. The program emphasised mentorship opportunities, the impact of education on personal and professional growth, and ways for alumni to support their alma mater.

Highlights of the meeting included an opening Remark by Principal Fr. Lourdu, who emphasised the importance of alumni engagement, a Panel Discussion featuring Fr. Jilson and alumni, cultural activity by the alumni, who divided themselves into groups re-enacting "school days" with lively presentations and a networking session where in the alumni engaged in informal discussions and planned future collaborations.

The meeting concluded with unity and enthusiasm, with alumni expressing interest in ongoing contributions to the school and its community.

Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC





ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

Father's Day Celebration

On September 5, the Parish Council celebrated Father's Day at the Parish Centre, welcoming fathers with their families. The event began with a Rosary, followed by an inspiring session led by Fr. Alwin, Principal of St. Joseph H. School, Gokulnagar. He emphasised a father's role as the family's strength, protector, and builder while highlighting St. Joseph



as an exemplary model of faithfulness and responsibility. Fr. Lancy, CSC, the Parish Priest, then led a meditation on fatherhood, offering an inner healing session that resonated deeply with attendees. Fr. Alwin concluded with the Holy Eucharist, urging families to nurture a prayerful life. Fathers received special blessings, making it a memorable day.

First Holy Communion

On October 6, the parish organised the First Holy Communion for 46 children who had undergone a month of preparation by Sr. Tarcisius M.C., Sr. Gerald MC, Sr. Margret FS, and Mr. Subia Debbarma. These sisters and catechist travelled to villages, conducting sessions to prepare the candidates for the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. Dressed in white, the children experienced this sacred milestone alongside their families. Parish Council Secretary Mr. Roitua

Darlong expressed gratitude to parents and those who supported the preparation. Fr. Lancy, CSC, who



celebrated the Eucharist, encouraged the children to attend Mass regularly.

Bible Camp 2024

The Parish organised a three-day Bible camp for 192 children from 16 villages from the 10th to the 12th of October. Divided into three language-based



groups, each team engaged in Bible-themed activities, including action songs, stories, and parables. The theme, "Love, Read, and Share the Bible," inspired interactive and spiritually enriching experiences. Highlights included candlelit Rosary sessions, adoration, Confession, and the Holy Eucharist. Concluding the camp, Fr. Lancy CSC, the Parish Priest, thanked the animators and participants for their enthusiasm and commitment, making it a joyful and impactful gathering.

Parish-Level Maria Sango Sabha

The Maria Sango of the parish organised a two-day annual Sabha on October 26-27 in Masli village, bringing together 196 mothers from 16 villages in Kumarghat Parish. The gathering began with



participant registration, a welcoming ceremony, and a lamp-lighting ritual symbolising God's presence. Fr. Lancy CSC delivered a talk titled "Nothing is Impossible for God," illustrating God's intervention in the lives of Old Testament figures and Mother Mary. An inner healing session, adoration, and Confession followed. Sr. Gerald MC spoke on a mother's role in the church, and after supper, a cultural program entertained participant. The second day included Morning Prayer, a talk by Mr. Roitua Darlong, and a concluding Holy Eucharist with prize distributions and a shared meal, marking a successful Sabha.

Bertila, FS

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Kids' Day Celebration

On September 2, 2024, Kids' Day at Holy Cross School was a joyful tribute to our bright, energetic students. The day was filled with performances that



delighted parents, guests, and staff. Fr. Vicky, CSC, the chief guest, praised the children for their enthusiasm and thanked parents for their unwavering support. Appreciation also went to staff and volunteers for making the day memorable.

Welcome for Fr. Vicky, CSC

On September 3, 2024, Fr. Vicky Lamin Gayang CSC

was warmly welcomed as the first Vice Principal of Holy Cross School, Tuikarmaw, in the presence of



students, staff, and School Management Committee members. In his address, Fr. Vicky thanked everyone and expressed his eagerness to work together toward new achievements. Congratulations to Fr. Vicky on this new role.

Teachers' Day

Teachers' Day, celebrated on September 5, 2024, honours the teachers who inspire and guide students daily. The event featured classroom



celebrations, cultural programs, and a special meal. Alumni guest Mr. Saimal Jamatia, an Indian Army Havildar, expressed gratitude to the teachers. The day highlighted the teachers' role in nurturing students' dreams.

Moreau Cup Football Tournament

The Moreau Cup Football Tournament on September 7, 2024, brought excitement as four



schools competed, cheered on by enthusiastic fans. Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC, inaugurated the



tournament, which concluded with Holy Cross School, Tuikarmaw, claiming victory over Holy Cross School, Lukhu, in the finals. Trophies and certificates were awarded, followed by a festive lunch for all participants.

Flood Relief Work

In response to recent floods in South Tripura, Holy Cross (South) English Medium Hr. Sec. School Tuikarmaw provided essential aid to 25 affected families. With donations from students, staff, and Mr. Thomas, the school distributed food, clothing, and household items to support recovery efforts. This act of compassion brought the community together to assist those in need.



Educational Trip to Dimapur

From October 15 to 19, 2024, 45 Class X students and 10 staff members embarked on an educational tour to Nagaland, exploring Dimapur's historical sites, St. Joseph University, museums, and parks. The group enjoyed a trekking and swimming experience at Manja, making the trip an unforgettable learning adventure.



NCC Northeast Trek and Camp

The NCC Trek and Camp held in Shillong from October 15 to 22 brought together over 510 cadets



across the region, including our students Sriti Jamatia and Dipti Reang. Accompanied by Miss Pinki Hazra, the cadets participated in drills, adventure activities, and cultural exchanges that strengthened their teamwork and leadership skills.

Vicky Gayang, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUICHAKMA

Teachers' Day Celebration

Holy Cross School, Tuichakma, celebrated Teachers' Day on September 5, 2024, with great enthusiasm, honouring the dedication of its teaching and non-teaching staff. Held in the school hall, the event



brought students and faculty together to express their gratitude to the teachers. The celebration began with lively cultural

performances by the students, including traditional and modern dances, creating an atmosphere of joy and appreciation.



In his address, Principal Fr. Arbok, CSC, emphasised the invaluable role of teachers in shaping students' futures, recognising their commitment to academic guidance and character development. To close the celebration, Fr. Arbok presented each teacher with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the school community. The event concluded on an uplifting note, inspiring renewed respect for the role of teachers.

Rangoli Competition



The Rangoli Competition at Holy Cross School, Tuichakma, held on October 26, added vibrant colour and creativity to the campus. Students were

divided into four houses, each bringing unique

designs that celebrated the theme of "Diwali."

Guided by their house animators, students participated enthusiastically, displaying artistic skill, teamwork, and friendly rivalry. The competition fostered unity and a joyful spirit as the school's corridors came alive with intricate rangoli patterns, a testament to the students' dedication and house pride.



Binita Soreng, SAC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA



Teachers' Day Celebration

On September 5, 2024, our school celebrated Teachers' Day in the assembly hall to honour teachers' vital role in shaping students' future. The



celebration began with a Bible reading and prayer, followed by reflections on the day's significance.

Students expressed their gratitude through song, with the choir performing a heartfelt medley dedicated to teachers and dance groups celebrating the dedication and joy of teaching. The Principal, Dr. Fr. Davis Konuran, CSC, delivered an inspiring speech on teachers' impact on young minds, followed by a special ceremony where he and Fr. Abraham CSC, the school Secretary, presented each teacher with a token of appreciation.

The highlight of the celebration was the award ceremony, where Mrs. Sobha Sangma (Primary) and Ms. Tessy Darlong (Higher Secondary) were honoured as Best Teachers of the Year, each receiving a memento and cash award. The event, warmly received by both students and teachers, reinforced the values of respect and appreciation within our school community, making it a meaningful celebration of the dedication of our educators.

Justin Ranglong



Sesquicentennial Celebration of Blessed Basile Moreau's Legacy

On September 14, 2024, Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Kathalcherra, commemorated the 150th anniversary of Blessed Basile Moreau's entry into eternal life. This special celebration honoured Moreau's enduring legacy, which lives on in Holy Cross institutions worldwide, touching the lives of countless people.



The event was graced by His Excellency Shri Indrasena Reddy Nallu, the Governor of Tripura, as Chief Guest. Distinguished guests included Most Rev. Stephen Rothluanga, CSC, Bishop of Aizawl, Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Northeast India Holy Cross Fathers, local government officials, and parents, along with school principals, clergy, and parents from nearby schools and parishes.

The highlight was the inauguration of the new Moreau Block by the Governor, marking a significant milestone for the school. The celebration continued with a cultural program featuring dances and music showcasing the diverse traditions of Northeast. The Governor addressed the



gathering with appreciation and encouragement for students while emphasising the importance of remaining aware of the challenges facing young people today.

Adding to the joy was the release of the school magazine, SPECTRA, by the Governor, which celebrated the hard work and achievements of the school community. The day was a memorable tribute to Blessed Basile Moreau and an inspiring reminder of the Holy Cross's mission to carry forward his legacy.



Josephine Darlong

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

District Volleyball Selection

On September 6, our students participated in the district-level volleyball and basketball competitions, displaying impressive effort and skill.



Although they did not reach the finals, their dedication was recognised with merit certificates, reflecting their hard work and commitment.

Interactive Boards: Enhancing Classrooms

On September 7, faculty members were introduced to the new Smart Interactive Boards in classrooms,





which add a dynamic visual and interactive component to lessons. Teachers were excited by these boards' possibilities to enhance teaching methods and engage students more effectively.

School Upgradation Progress

On September 11, a long-awaited inspection for upgrading our school to the higher secondary level occurred, following approval from the Holy Cross Educational



Foundation (HCEF). A team from the DEO conducted a thorough field visit,

moving us closer to offering Class XI starting next academic year. We appreciate the community's support and prayers as we embark on this significant advancement.

Holy Cross Feast and Principal's Day

September 13 marked a double celebration as we observed the Feast of the Holy Cross and celebrated



Principal Fr. Kanikkai Jeyraj's birthday. Students performed vibrant performances, and staff and students shared warm wishes with Fr. Jeyraj. The festive day ended with a sweet treat, creating cherished memories and a joyful sense of community.

Welcome, Fr. Aneesh Mathew CSC

Students returned to school on October 21 following the Puja holidays. During the morning assembly, the principal welcomed students and staff



back and introduced Fr. Aneesh Mathew, CSC, a new teacher and counsellor joining our community. The school choir greeted him with a song and flowers, marking a warm start to his role in education and guidance.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for School Expansion

On October 28, a groundbreaking ceremony marked our school's start of a new chapter. Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial and President of HCEF, laid the foundation for four additional classrooms and a



computer lab to support Class XI students joining in 2025. The inauguration also included new restroom facilities for girls, fulfilling a long-awaited need symbolising the school's commitment to growth and improved facilities.

 **Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC**



ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, ZUANGTUI

Independence Day Drawing Competition

On August 14, 2024, students marked Independence Day with a vibrant drawing competition themed "Colors of Freedom." Across all grades, students channelled their creativity to depict India's journey to freedom, producing striking illustrations of the national flag and map. This competition encouraged them to showcase their artistic skills, reflect on the importance of independence and honour the sacrifices that continue to shape our nation.

Teacher's Day Celebration

On September 5, 2024, we celebrated Teacher's Day with heartfelt tributes to our dedicated teachers.



The day began with a morning assembly, where students gathered to show gratitude. Teachers received handmade cards, floral bouquets, and tokens of appreciation, as students expressed their admiration through thoughtful gestures. This memorable celebration highlighted students' respect and affection for their teachers, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere.

Singing Competition

In the lead-up to Sports Day, our school hall was filled with music as students from all four houses—Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow—participated in a spirited Singing Competition. This event showcased the harmonious talent of our young singers, creating a lively atmosphere and inspiring friendly inter-house competition.



Annual Sports Day

October 1, 2024, brought together students, teachers, and parents for an unforgettable Sports Day filled with energy and enthusiasm. Students competed in events like the 100-meter dash, relay races, tug-of-war, and a thrilling football match, all of which underscored the spirit of teamwork and participation. The parents-versus-teachers football match was a special highlight as students cheered



on their mentors. Congratulations to all the athletes who did their best to make this day exciting and memorable.



Feast Day of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows

St. Paul's Church community commemorated the Feast Day of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows on September 16, 2024. Beginning with a solemn Mass



and prayers for blessings, the day provided an opportunity for unity, reflection, and gratitude. The celebration concluded with a festal meal, symbolising compassion and fellowship among all present.

- *Stephen Lawrence, CSC*

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CHURCH, KHAWZAWL

St. Monica Feast Day

The Women's Guild of St. John the Apostle Church in Khawzawl celebrated the Feast of St. Monica with



a day of activities and fellowship at Muallungthu. Women gathered to strengthen their bonds of unity and love, sharing a meal and celebrating their shared faith.

Annual Parish Sunday School Gathering

From September 13-15, the Annual Parish Naupang Inkhawpui (Sunday School Gathering) was held at Ngaizawl village, with 230 children from various sub-stations participating. Led by main speaker Fr. John



PKC, the gathering included competitions in Psalms recitation, singing, and Bible verse recitation for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior categories. The children enjoyed growing in their Catholic faith, with Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Ishongkun on the 14th and by Fr. John PKC on the 15th, followed by an evening Adoration.

Annual Parish Gathering

The Parish Inkhawmpui took place from October 11-13 in Chhawrtui village, drawing 230 parishioners from different sub-stations. Led by

Resource Person Catechist Joseph Thanga under the theme "Unity



(Impumkhatna)," the gathering included a Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Ishongkun on the 12th and Fr. John PKC on the 13th. The event concluded



with a Eucharistic Procession led by Catechist Joseph, fostering unity and renewing the faith of all who attended.

Ishongkun Kurbah, CSC

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, KHAWZAWL

Teachers' Day Celebration

On September 6, 2024, St. Joseph's School, Khawzawl, celebrated Teachers' Day with a vibrant cultural program organised by the students under



the guidance of the headmistress. Students expressed their gratitude through various performances, including dance, skits, and songs, creating a memorable day for their teachers. The school extends its deep appreciation to the students and all who contributed to the celebration's success.

Ishongkun Kurbah, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MAWKYNREW

Holy Cross Feast Day Celebration

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patronal feast of the Congregation of Holy Cross was celebrated in

our school on September 13. Students and teachers gathered for a program of gratitude and reflection, opening with a heartfelt prayer by students. The



celebration included vibrant performances of songs and dances, and teachers delivered inspiring speeches, acknowledging the dedicated contributions of the fathers in the community. As a gesture of appreciation, the teachers presented gifts to the fathers, strengthening the bonds within the school community. The program concluded with a vote of thanks from a Class ten student, underscoring the shared values of unity and support that define the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Teachers' Day

Holy Cross Higher Secondary School celebrated Teachers' Day over two days, September 5 and 6. A brief assembly honoured teachers with prayers, gifts, and heartfelt appreciation on the first day. The grand celebration on September 6 began with a Mass at the church, followed by a cultural showcase in the school hall, featuring performances by students from nursery to Class 12. Songs, dances, skits, and speeches reflected the students' profound gratitude for their teachers' dedication. The event concluded with a special meal prepared by students, symbolising unity and respect.



This two-day celebration highlighted the invaluable



role of educators in nurturing young minds, reinforcing the legacy of joyful, creative teaching at Holy Cross.

Sharon Piuse, CSC

GOOD SHEPHERD HOSTEL, JONGKSHA

First Parents' Day at Good Shepherd Hostel

On September 28, 2024, Good Shepherd Hostel celebrated its first Parents' Day, honouring the vital role parents play in their children's growth and their



trust in the mission to help shape their futures. The day highlighted the collaborative spirit between parents and the hostel community in guiding the boys and girls toward their goals, nurturing their talents, and instilling the values of true children of God. The students' performances, respectful



behaviour, and evident growth conveyed to parents the dedication of the Fathers and Sisters who care for them.

Inspired by Blessed Basil Moreau's words, "Educating the heart and mind," Good Shepherd Hostel continues to provide a holistic and transformative education.

Antony Jose, CSC

HOLY CROSS PARISH, MAWPAT

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

The parish feast was celebrated on September 8 with a solemn Mass, following days of novenas, rosaries, and Triduum prayers across the parish and villages. Fr. Clement Amo, CSC, presided over the feast day, joined by Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC, who



highlighted the importance of family prayer in his homily. Thousands gathered for Mass, a festive meal, cultural events, and adoration.

October Devotions to Mother Mary

October was dedicated to Our Lady with daily family rosaries, altar servers' competitions, and a Marian procession on October 31, uniting families in prayer for peace.





Youth Retreat

From October 18–20, Holy Cross Parish hosted a youth retreat, fostering spiritual growth and community. Participants engaged in reflective workshops and activities, empowering them to become positive influences in their communities.



ST. JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL, MAWPAT

Legal Awareness Program

On October 18, the District Legal Services Authority conducted a legal awareness session at St. John Bosco Secondary School, covering child rights and the NALSA (2015) scheme. This initiative

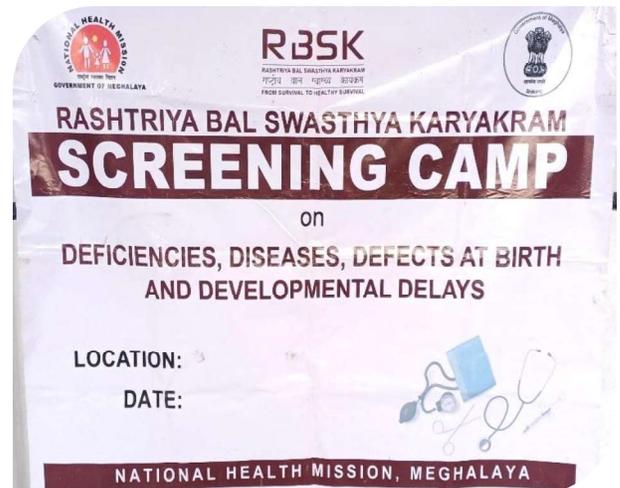


emphasized education and empowerment, encouraging responsible citizenship among students.



Health Screening Camp

On October 17, St. John Bosco Secondary School partnered with NHM Meghalaya for a health camp, providing comprehensive screenings for students.



The program enabled early detection of health issues, underscoring the importance of integrated healthcare in educational institutions.

Teachers' Day Celebration

On September 5, 2024, on Teachers' Day, students organized a heartfelt program to appreciate our dedicated teachers. The celebration concluded with a shared meal, bringing teachers and students together in gratitude.





HOLY CROSS, KOLORIANG

Congregational and Parish Feast Day Celebration

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, the congregational feast united the Sisters of the Mercy of Holy Cross and church leaders to celebrate faith, unity, and shared mission. The event strengthened bonds between the convent and church



communities, highlighting their commitment to service and spirituality. Following the service, a communal meal fostered fellowship.

On the next day, at Holy Cross Parish, Koloriang, the Feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, also the Congregational Feast of the Holy Cross Fathers, was marked with morning



prayers and adoration, led by Parish Priest Fr. Prasanta, CSC. The day concluded with a solemn Mass,

attended by numerous parishioners, celebrating community, faith, and service. The event's success was a testament to parish unity, ending with a meal encouraging connection and gratitude.

Marian Procession

On Sunday, October 27, our parish concluded the Holy Rosary month with a Marian Procession, bringing the parish community together in devotion. The evening began with a reflection and prayer, led by our Parish Priest, emphasising the importance of

the Rosary for spiritual growth. With a beautifully decorated statue of Mary, the procession moved solemnly from the Koloriang Helipad to the church.



Parishioners carried lighted candles, recited the Rosary, and sang hymns. The event closed with a prayer of gratitude to Mary, thanking her for her intercession and protection.

Parents, Teachers, and SMC Meeting

On Saturday, September 7, 2024, the school held a Parents, Teachers, and SMC Meeting. Fr. Stephen, CSC, shared a brief report on recent school



activities. At the same time, a review of First Terminal Examination results showed parents were pleased with their children's progress, particularly in learning computer skills. Mrs. Roshni and Miss Teresa Nome presented an assessment report, discussing strengths and areas for improvement, while parents engaged in discussions on grading and assessment. The SMC pledged increased parental involvement, and the principal shared upcoming





plans for extracurriculars like sports and cultural events.

Annual Sports Day and Parents' Day

Fr. Prasanta, CSC, emphasised the importance of values, responsible gadget use, and the legacy of Blessed Basil Moreau in education. Headmistress Sr. Dorothea Lakra reminded parents of guidelines, including timely communication of absences and document submissions. With around 130 attendees, the meeting was productive and meaningful.



On October 9, 2024, Holy Cross School, Koloriang, held its Annual Sports Day, extended over five days due to weather. Held on the school playground, students from all classes participated, representing four houses—Yellow, Blue, Red, and Green—in relay races, volleyball, football, and shot put. Points were awarded based on performances, with prizes distributed at the Parents' Day celebration on October 24. Fr. Stephen, CSC, closed the event by thanking all participants and congratulating students for their efforts and achievements.

Stephen Malneu CSC

ST. JUDE'S SCHOOL, NYAPIN

Teachers' Day Celebration

"It is the teacher that makes the difference, not the classroom," remarked Michael Morpurgo. St. Jude's School, Nyapin, celebrated Teachers' Day with reverence, beginning with a Holy Mass to honour

the teachers who shape our children's futures. This was followed by a heartfelt felicitation and cultural program, with many students presenting gifts as tokens of gratitude. In his speech, Principal Fr. Lawrence Wanniang acknowledged the dedication



of teachers, stating, "Teaching requires commitment and perseverance." He encouraged them to be role models within and beyond the school. Teachers expressed deep gratitude for the love shown to them throughout the day.

Sports Week

Despite continuous rain, St. Jude's School held a successful Sports Week. The event began with an inaugural speech from the principal, followed by the



four houses pledging to uphold school values. Students and teachers showcased energy, team spirit, and resilience throughout the week. Special thanks went to the sports committee for organising such an impressive event.





Parents' Day and Inauguration of New Facilities

On October 22, 2024, St. Jude's celebrated Parents' Day with grandeur, drawing attention from the



entire town. This annual event included the inauguration of new toilet blocks by ZPM Tadar Tadey, with a blessing from Fr. Lawrence Wanniang. Students and teachers presented an impressive cultural program honouring the parents. The chief guest praised the event's quality and pledged ongoing support to the school. Parents expressed happiness for the respect shown, and awards were presented, making the day memorable.

ST. ANDRÉ PARISH, NYAPIN

Children's Retreat and Congregational Feast

From September 13 to 15, 2024, St. André Parish held an annual children's retreat led by Fr. Augustine Rongmei, with around 50 participants from local villages. The retreat involved Bible stories, worship, and faith-based activities, leaving many children desiring more days for spiritual growth. The retreat concluded with the Holy Cross Feast on Sunday, attended by a large congregation.



Fr. Augustine's homily inspired all, and a shared fellowship meal further strengthened community bonds.

Eucharistic Procession

On October 27, 2024, the faithful of Nyapin gathered for the annual Eucharistic Procession, publicly affirming their devotion.



They honoured the Eucharistic Lord through hymns and prayers as they processed through town. The day culminated in a Mass led by Parish Priest Fr. Lawrence

Wanniang, who urged families to rely on prayer, especially during challenging times.

Marian Procession



Concluding the month of the Rosary, the parish held a Marian procession on October 31, following a month of family rosary prayers. Through Mary's intercession, parishioners expressed a



deeper connection to Jesus and the church. In his homily, Fr. John Nongphud encouraged the faithful to continue daily rosary prayers and recognise the blessings it brings to family life.

John Nongphud, CSC

SACRED HEART STUDY HOUSE, LEMBUCHERRA

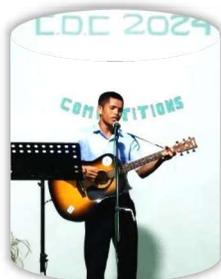
Community Day Celebration: "Great Achievement Comes After Great Trials"

The 2024 Community Day Celebration (CDC) at Sacred Heart Study House, organised by Fr. Kitbok and Fr. Stephen, took place from October 13 to October 16 with the theme,



"Together we rise, together we can." The event underscored the community's teamwork, unity, and perseverance values.

Two spirited teams—The Dreamers, led by Pynskhem Poul Jyrwa, and The Challengers, led by Tushar Jamatia—competed fiercely across various events, showcasing their skills and dedication. The festivities opened with a cricket match, where the Dreamers took an early lead. However, the Challengers quickly evened the score, and both teams continued to perform strongly in outdoor and indoor competitions. Although the



Dreamers faced setbacks, they demonstrated resilience, winning several indoor events that lifted their spirits.

The final day, October 16, marked the celebration's highlight with a decisive "Treasure Hunt" worth 200



points. In a thrilling showdown, the Dreamers won in this final event, securing the overall win for CDC 2024. Their success was a testament to the theme that "great achievements come after great trials," as their perseverance and teamwork led them to triumph.

This year's celebration was not only a competition but also an experience that strengthened community bonds, leaving everyone with a renewed belief that together, anything is possible.

Kitbok Khongrymmai, CSC

ST. ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Andre Regional Meeting

On October 2, 2024, St. Andre Minor Seminary (SAMS) in Bodhjungnagar hosted the Andre Regional Meeting, welcoming confreres from Moharpara Parish, Holy Cross College, Sacred Heart Seminary, and St. Andre Parish. The meeting focused on





strengthening spiritual and communal bonds among our confreres.

Fr. Mariaraj Irudayam, CSC, opened the gathering with a reflective talk on pastoral and educational mission responsibilities, encouraging attendees to deepen their commitment to faith and service. A collaborative session followed, allowing participants to share insights and plan future initiatives to enhance community outreach and spiritual programs. SAMS students warmly welcomed each guest with a flower sapling, symbolising growth and mutual respect.

The meeting concluded with unity and a shared purpose, setting a solid foundation for future collaboration.

Community Day

From October 10–12, 2024, St. Andre Minor Seminary held its annual Community Day, celebrating unity, talent, and teamwork. Organised by Fr. Bilingshar Syiemlieh CSC and Fr. Francis Gayang CSC, the three-day event featured a range of activities, including indoor and outdoor games that highlighted students' skills and fostered camaraderie.



The celebration culminated in a Holy Eucharist and an Agape meal shared with the St. Andre Parish

Community, embodying fellowship and unity. This year's Community Day was a meaningful success, reflecting SAMS's commitment to nurturing a supportive environment.

Month of the Holy Rosary

On October 30, 2024, St. Andre Minor Seminary held a solemn Rosary procession led by seminarians to honour the close of the Month of the Holy Rosary. The procession began at the main block and moved



towards the grotto of Our Lady, with

participants intoning Marian hymns and reciting the Rosary in reverent devotion.

Francis Gayang, CSC

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

 September 5

Fr. Binoy John arrived in Sumer. As Assistant Director, he will continue his doctoral studies at Global University, Guwahati.

 September 8

Our candidates participated in the Mawpat Parish Feast Day, presenting a Garo song for the occasion.

 September 15

Congregational Feast Day: We celebrated with the Sumer Catholic community, reflecting on our





mission and work in Holy Cross in a simple yet meaningful gathering.

 **September 16**

The Sumer Community Feast Day welcomed the Pilar Fathers and friends of Holy Cross. A friendly football match between the Sumerians and Pilarians ended in an exciting tie-breaker win for Sumer.

 **October 2-12**

Diocesan Vocation Promotion Camps took place across Shillong, Jowai, Nongstoin, and Dimapur. Fr. Shaiju, Deacons Shanborlang Mawrie, CSC, Anupam Beck, CSC, Brothers Dayason, CSC, and Andrea, CSC, represented the Holy Cross at these camps.

 **October 16**

Fr. Eric, SFX, led a day of recollection with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by a healing group dynamics session conducted by Fr. Clement Amo, Director, PVSH, Sumer.

 **October 17-19**

Sr. Helen, MSMHC, organised a "Health Camp" for candidates, introducing them to Sujok therapy and offering essential healthcare tips for teenagers.

 *Clement Amo, CSC*

SEMINAR

Teacher's Seminar at Holy Cross School, Koloriang

On October 28-29, 2024, the Holy Cross Arunachal Region organised a two-day Teacher's Seminar at Holy Cross School, Koloriang, bringing together educators from Holy Cross School, Koloriang, and St. Jude's School, Nyapin. Centred on the theme "Transformative Education for the Future: A Holy Cross Pathway," the seminar was led by Fr. Kohli George, SDB, Vice-Principal of Don Bosco College, Jollang Itanagar.

Nineteen teachers, principals, and the headmistress engaged in insightful sessions focused on effective communication, the National Education Policy (NEP), and the POCSO Act, underscoring the critical role of child protection in educational settings. Fr.



Kohli's workshops emphasised adaptable teaching methodologies, inclusive practices, and fostering supportive learning environments.

The seminar provided educators with practical skills and renewed their dedication to transformative education, empowering them to inspire students and meet the demands of future education. This



event exemplified the commitment to professional growth and collaboration among Holy Cross educators, underscoring the vital role of continuous learning in the field.

 *Lawrence Wanniang, CSC*





PASTORS AND SUPERIORS MEET IN AGARTALA

For a Synodal Church: Participation, Communion and Mission

The Northeast India Province organised a gathering of pastors and superiors from October 18 to 21, 2024, in Agartala, under the theme "For a Synodal Church: Participation, Communion, Mission." The purpose of this meeting was to foster deeper collaboration and mutual understanding among Holy Cross pastors in the region, aimed at strengthening their ministries and enhancing pastoral care.

Fr. Jaison, a Claretian priest from Shillong, was the key resource person, delivering an insightful presentation on "Learning to Serve Better: Communication and Pastoral Leadership." His talk highlighted the crucial role of effective communication in improving pastoral outreach and fostering more robust community engagement.

Additional talks were given by Fr. K. J. Abraham, Provincial Superior, Fr. Roy Thalackan, Director of HCFM, and Fr. Mariaraj, Parish Priest of St. Andre, Parish Bodhjungnagar who shared their valuable insights on leadership and collaboration within the church.

The event saw the full participation of all pastors and superiors from the province, reflecting their shared commitment to growth in communion and mission. The meeting was organised under the leadership of Fr. Kanikai Jeyraj, Chair of the Pastoral Commission for the province.





NESNIM 2024



CULTIVATING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

The North Eastern Students' National Integration Movement (NESNIM), a flagship peace initiative of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation (HCEF), successfully concluded its 14th edition, drawing together 600 students and 100 animators from 29 schools across Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura. Held at Holy Cross School, Agartala, the three-day event fostered engagement and collaboration among youth from diverse cultural backgrounds.



Inaugurated by Shri. Animesh Debbarma, Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Science & Technology and Environment, Government of Tripura, the event emphasised peace-building and leadership. The opening ceremony saw the presence of esteemed guests, including Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Bishop of Agartala Diocese, and Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior.

The Minister praised Holy Cross for fostering unity among students through education. His address highlighted the importance of initiatives like NESNIM in nurturing responsible, future-ready leaders.



Established in 2001 as a response to political unrest in the Northeast, NESNIM continues to champion peace and mutual respect. The program, inspired by Blessed Basile Moreau's vision of "Educating both the Heart and Mind," aims to develop students holistically, promoting values of unity and social responsibility.

This year's theme, SMARTeens—Smart, Mindful, Adventurous, Resilient Teens—focused on equipping youth with the traits necessary for overcoming modern challenges. Over three days, students engaged in various activities to strengthen their mental wellness, leadership skills, and resilience.

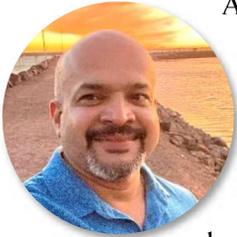
NESNIM 2024 concluded on October 11 with a renewed commitment to fostering peace, understanding, and leadership among Northeast India's youth, a legacy Holy Cross has steadfastly promoted.





My Life and Ministry in the Diocese of Port Pirie

Greetings from the Diocese of Port Pirie, South Australia! After over a year of ministry in this vast and arid region, I've been deeply moved by the resilience and warmth of the people here. Spanning a remarkable one million square kms., the Diocese of Port Pirie is the fourth largest geographically in the world. It encompasses 14 parishes and 48 churches, supported by a team of 17 priests, of whom 11 come from overseas, with four retired priests who assist on occasion.



Life here is defined by simplicity, hard work, and a close-knit community spirit. Despite being a modest diocese in terms of resources, the faith communities across 47 churches are vibrant and strong. The people display extraordinary endurance, loyalty, family love, and mutual support, especially in the face of challenges like bushfires, floods, and droughts. These values reflect the unwavering commitment of the community here.

Since my arrival, I have had the privilege of serving at the Cathedral, where I reside with the Bishop and the Cathedral Administrator. My



ministry is diverse, ranging from bringing communion and administering the sacrament of the sick to homebound individuals and those in aged care, to offering support for people in palliative care and those experiencing bereavement. Given the

shortage of clergy, I frequently travel up to 1,200 kms. one way to provide relief for priests in distant



parishes when they are ill or on leave.

Evangelization is our diocese's highest priority. We strive to welcome back those who have drifted from the faith and to reach out to new members. We face the challenges of decreasing attendance, which impacts the financial sustainability of our parishes. Some parishes have had to close substations that once served as their own communities.

Priests here receive a modest stipend, which helps cover essential personal expenses like food, phone, and medications, along with medical and vehicle insurance. Despite financial constraints, the dedication and mutual support within this community make ministry in Port Pirie a profoundly fulfilling experience.

- Sijo Joseph, CSC

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