

Waves



AGARTALA

Province Newsletter

VOLUME - 05 / 2024

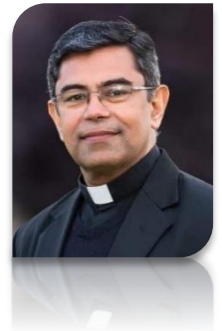
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PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

Dear Friends,

In the last week of August 2024, our small state of Tripura was on the national and international media news feed for a tragic reason. The torrential rain of 48 hrs and landslides in four districts of the state saw national highways, state roads, and rural roads flooded, and ponds, reservoirs, and farmlands inundated with silt and water. The unmatched force of nature took away the lives of people and animals, homes, schools, clinics, government offices, etc. Holy Cross schools and our parishioners had their own loss and grief to share. It will take years to rebuild lives out of this trauma. Holy Cross fathers and our collaborators are resolved to bring hope to the lives of the poor with our material support and emotional and spiritual journey with them.



Resilience is in high demand, especially in response to the growing challenges of climate change, natural disasters, economic shocks, and social upheavals. Resilience is a crucial trait for success in both academic and personal life, and educators have the unique opportunity to foster this skill from a young age. Teachers are instrumental in nurturing resilience in students by creating an environment that encourages growth, perseverance, and emotional intelligence. In this context, celebrating Teacher's Day on 5th September holds significant value for the education system and society.

On 15th September is the Feast of the Congregation of Holy Cross (CSC). It is a celebration marked by joy, reverence, and gratitude for the mission and work of the Congregation of Holy Cross under the patronage of Our Lady of Sorrows. It is a time to celebrate Blessed Basil Moreau's enduring legacy, the congregation's ongoing mission, and the transformative impact of Holy Cross ministries worldwide. This joy is both a celebration of the past and a hopeful anticipation of the future as the congregation continues its mission to educate the mind, nurture the heart, and inspire the spirit.

Save the date! Join us wherever you are in the celebration of the Family of Holy Cross!

Warm regards,

Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC
Provincial Superior



Province of Northeast India NEWSLETTER

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PROVINCE UPDATES



CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

EDITORIAL



A Call to Protect Our Common Home



As we present this issue of WAVES, we reflect on recent natural disasters across the globe, including the severe floods in Tripura and the devastation in Wayanad, Kerala.

These events

remind us that many so-called "natural" disasters result from human negligence—deforestation, unsustainable development, and the disregard for environmental balance.



In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis urges us to care for our common home. He calls for a shift from exploitation to stewardship, a message that becomes ever more urgent as calamities increase in frequency and intensity. We must act now, consciously reducing our environmental impact as individuals and communities. Many of our institutions, as we read

in the pages of this newsletter, already stepping up with initiatives like

tree-planting drives and environmental education, but there is much more to be done.

As we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, on September 15th, we are reminded of her role as the patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Her deep compassion and suffering invite us to reflect on our responsibilities—toward one another and creation itself. Let us take inspiration from this feast day to redouble our efforts in caring for humanity and the Earth.



The future of our planet depends on our actions today. Let us rise to the challenge and work together to protect and preserve our world for future generations.

George Jacob, CSC

It is Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows who has founded the Congregation of Holy Cross, and evil designs will never be able to destroy it.

—Bl. Basile Moreau, (Letters)



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, BAGBASA

Independence Day Celebration

On August 15, 2024, Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with patriotic spirit. The event began with the Principal, Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, hoisting the national flag as the school choir sang the national anthem.

The celebration featured a special assembly with cultural performances by students from both morning and noon shifts, including patriotic songs and dances. Students and teachers delivered speeches on the significance of Independence Day,



and a quiz on Indian history was held. Prizes were awarded for essay writing, quiz, and drawing competitions conducted the previous day.

Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of freedom, unity, and responsibility. Guests from local organizations also shared their insights. The event fostered national pride and inspired students to contribute to the nation's growth.

Environment Day Celebration

On July 25, 2024, Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, observed World Environment Day with the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution." The day began with a

special assembly where students and teachers pledged to protect the environment. The school's Eco-Club presented a skit highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution.



Activities included a tree plantation drive, essay writing, poster-making competitions, a cleanliness drive, and an awareness rally. Principal Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, emphasized the importance of individual efforts in environmental conservation, and guests from local organizations encouraged students to become eco-warriors. The day concluded with a pledge to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Samuel Ranglong

Foundation Stone Laid for St. Andre Block

On August 5, 2024, the foundation stone for the St. Andre Block was laid at Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, marking a significant milestone in the school's journey. The ceremony was attended by Fr. George





Jacob, CSC, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, Fr. Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC, Provincial Councillor and other dignitaries. The new block will feature six classrooms and laboratories, enhancing the learning environment.

In his address, Fr. George Jacob, CSC, highlighted the role of education in shaping society and praised the school's commitment to excellence. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Sr. Rajni Kandulna, SAC, Headmistress of Holy Cross School, Bagbasa.

Tapas Chakraborty

Higher Secondary Inauguration

On July 5, 2024, Holy Cross School, Bagbasa, inaugurated its Higher Secondary level, marking a significant milestone in its history. The ceremony was attended by K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Holy Cross Fathers, and other esteemed guests.



Principal Fr. Ajith Philip, CSC, welcomed the gathering and acknowledged the support of Fr. Simon Fernandis, CSC and Fr. George Jacob, CSC, in realizing this achievement. Fr. K.J. Abraham praised the school's dedication to holistic education. At the same time, Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, the province administrator, highlighted the opportunities this new level will provide for students' academic and personal growth.



The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Kalmoni Reang, representing the teachers. The inauguration marks the beginning of a promising chapter for Holy Cross School, Bagbasa.

Kalmoni Reang

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA

Independence Day Celebration

Holy Cross School celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm, beginning on August 1st with



a week-long series of activities designed to inspire patriotism among students. The school's eight houses participated in various cultural competitions, including songs, dances, and dramatizations honouring India's rich history and freedom fighters.

Creative expressions like face painting, rangoli, and 'diya' painting, as well as a unique salad dressing competition, added to the celebration. The events



centred around the theme "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), with students presenting video



messages and bulletin board displays reflecting on India's progress.

The celebrations concluded on August 15th with a solemn flag hoisting ceremony, a march past by NCC cadets and school houses, and ethnic dance performances. Fr. Kitbok CSC, a distinguished alumnus, made the event especially significant as the chief guest.

Bethany Foundation Day 2024

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, founded on July 16, 1921, is particularly important for Holy Cross School, as the Bethany Sisters work closely with the Holy Cross Fathers in education. Students from junior and senior classes



honoured the sisters with cards and flowers, expressing their gratitude.

As a Cabinet member, I found this year's celebration particularly memorable. I was honoured to congratulate our sisters personally and collaborate on the invitation card. The joy on the sisters' faces made all our efforts worthwhile.



Krittika Indu, Literary Captain

Flood Relief Mission by Holy Cross School

In response to the severe floods in Tripura, Holy Cross School, Agartala, launched a flood relief mission to support affected communities. Staff members were organized into teams and provided

essential items like clothing, hygiene supplies, and emotional support across different regions.



The morning shift teachers focused on Amarpur, while afternoon staff reached Udaipur, and the administration team aided Korbook. The personal connection formed between staff and the displaced families brought hope and comfort in a difficult time.



Additionally, on August 24, 2024, our dedicated *masis and kakus* came together to make a meaningful contribution by working tirelessly for a full day to repair a road in our neighbourhood that had been damaged by recent flooding. Their selfless effort is truly commendable.

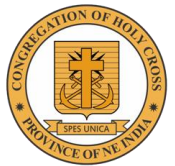
Holy Cross School's flood relief mission exemplifies compassion and community spirit. It offers material assistance and emotional support to those affected.



Priyanka Biswas, Academic Coordinator

Seminar for Teachers

Holy Cross School, Agartala, hosted a workshop on "Safeguarding Children" on 13th August 2024 for all



the faculty members. Fr. Abraham KJ, Provincial Superior of the Holy Cross Fathers, led the

session, emphasizing the importance of preventing child abuse and creating a safe student environment.

Fr. Abraham discussed the adoption of child-centred approaches and the critical role of educators in



promoting safeguarding. The seminar reinvigorated the teachers' commitment to student welfare, reminding them of their duty to maintain a secure and supportive environment for all students.

ST. ANDRE PARISH, BODHJUNGNAGAR

National Youth Sunday

St. Andre Parish celebrated National Youth Sunday on 11th August 2024, following a directive from the Diocesan Youth Commission. The day began at 9:30 a.m. with a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration led by Fr. Jilson Tom, CSC (Principal of Holy Cross School, Agartala), and concelebrated by five other CSC priests from the area. Parishioners and Religious Sisters from SABS, FCC, and Holy Cross joined the youth for the celebration.

After Mass, a lively cultural program featured dances, songs, and speeches. Fr. Jilson delivered an

inspiring message to the youth during the Mass and the cultural gathering, emphasizing the importance of living out their faith.

The celebration also formally welcomed the newly appointed Assistant Priest, Fr. Francis Gayang, CSC, who was introduced before the Mass and honoured during the cultural program. All participants were served a hearty meal, adding to the day's joy.

Over 110 active members of the Parish Youth from various sub-centres enthusiastically participated in the event. While the celebration has concluded, the hope is that the youth will continue nurturing their Catholic spirit in the coming days.

Mariaraj, CSC

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Administrative and Health Camp

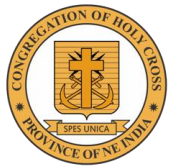
On August 5th, the Mohanpur Sub-Division organized an administrative and health camp at the



school. The camp focused on updating students' essential documents and administering TT vaccinations to students aged 10 and 16.

Major Superior Visit

On July 29th, Sr. Catherine SABS, the Major Superior of the SABS Congregation, visited our school. She



spent quality time with both students and teachers and expressed her satisfaction with the school's progress and the active involvement of the religious sisters and fathers in leadership roles.

HCEF Secretary Visit

Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, visited the school on August 12th and 13th. He received a warm welcome during the school assembly, where he addressed the students. He also attended a School Management



Committee meeting and engaged with students and teachers, discussing ways to enhance the school's development plans. Fr. George congratulated the teaching and non-teaching staff for their dedicated service.

Science Stream Approval

On August 12th, the school received CBSE approval to offer a science stream, allowing students to pursue scientific education. Fr. George Jacob CSC made the announcement, expressing gratitude to the CBSE affiliation cell and all stakeholders for their support in this achievement.

Independence Day Celebration

The school celebrated India's 78th Independence Day on August 15th, with Fr. George Jacob CSC as the chief guest. The celebration included a flag-hoisting ceremony, a march-past by different houses in the school and a patriotic cultural singing



competition. We proudly congratulate the students who participated in the cultural dance and the school band group, who won first prize at the SDM office.

Iswar Happa, CSC

ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

Youth Seminar

A two-day youth seminar was held in Sunaimuri village under the Kumarghat Zone. Registration began at 2:00 PM, followed by football competitions for boys and girls at 4:00 PM. The event was lively and well-received. A candlelit rosary procession



occurred in the evening, followed by an hour of adoration with active youth participation. The evening concluded with a brief cultural program. The next day started with morning prayer and breakfast. Animation sessions were conducted by Cate. Subia, Mr. Roitua Darlong, Sr. Gerald M.C., and Fr. Lancy CSC, focusing on the theme "Word of God and Praying Youth." The camp concluded with the Holy Eucharist and a fellowship meal, leaving all participants content and spiritually enriched.



Couples Day Celebration

On August 4th, the first Sunday of the month, the parish celebrated Couples Day. The event began



with registration, followed by the Rosary and a session on the role and responsibilities of couples in family life. During the Holy Eucharist, 80 couples renewed their marriage vows in a touching ceremony. Special prayers were offered for all the couples, making the day memorable and spiritually uplifting.

Mother's Day Celebration

Maria Sango of the Parish celebrated Mother's Day on August 11th, with 115 mothers in attendance. The celebration began with the Rosary, followed by the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Lancy CSC highlighted the crucial role of mothers in the family, society, and the Church during his sermon. The mothers led the liturgy, adding a special touch to the celebration. Mrs. Hunsangi Darlong, a nurse from the local



hospital, spoke on the importance of mothers maintaining their physical, psychological, spiritual, and societal well-being. Fr. Lancy also conducted a meditation, encouraging participants to reflect on their relationships with their mothers. The event

was interactive and left the mothers feeling blessed and appreciated.

Village House Visits

Sr. Soona CMC and Sr. Theresa CMC from Mariamnagar Retreat Centre conducted extensive visits to Catholic families in three villages of the



parish. They inquired about each household's well-being, spiritual, and family life. On the final day, they gathered the villagers at the local church for various sacraments, including reconciliation. Many who had been away from the Church for years returned, making heartfelt confessions and recommitting to their faith. The villagers expressed their gratitude for the sisters' dedication and time. May God bless them for their devoted service.

 **Lancy Dsouza, CSC**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

Independence Day Celebration

On August 15, 2024, Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. As chief guests, Dr. Bijaya Aditya, MD, Kumarghat Sub-division Hospital, and SPO Dipon Choudhury graced the event.

The celebration began with a warm welcome from Principal Fr. J. Sahaya Lourdu Raj and the school band. After a traditional welcome ceremony, Dr.



Aditya hoisted the national flag, accompanied by singing the national anthem. In his address, Dr. Aditya spoke about the significance of the day. The event featured a vibrant cultural program with



patriotic performances, and prizes were awarded to winners of various competitions. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Miss. Rawngbawli Darlong.

Later, students performed a patriotic dance at the PWD ground, organized by the SDM of Kumarghat, honouring the nation and its freedom fighters.

Extempore Speech Competition

Holy Cross School, Kumarghat, held an Extempore Speech Competition for Class X students on July 27, 2024. Eight students from different houses participated, showcasing their oratory skills. Miss. Lalnunsangi Lushai hosted the event, which was judged by Sr. Berthila FS and Sr. Ainita FS.

Each participant delivered impressive speeches, reflecting their confidence and ability to think



independently. Sr. Berthila FS, the headmistress,

provided constructive feed back and encouraged the students to continue honing their skills.

The competition concluded with the announcement of winners: Anujit Debbarma secured first place, Ashmit Das second, and Rajdeep Sinha third. The event was a success, highlighting the students' talents and fostering a spirit of healthy competition.

Drugs and AIDS Awareness Program

On July 16, 2024, Holy Cross School organized a Drugs and AIDS Awareness Program in collaboration with the Sanity Welfare Society. Mr. Nibir Chakma, the society's founder, served as the resource person, with Mr. Asish Chatterjee, a counsellor, also contributing to the session.



Mr. Chakma addressed the dangers of drug abuse, emphasizing the importance of avoiding bad influences. He also shared the vision of the Sanity Welfare Society: to create a drug-free society and support those struggling with addiction. Mr. Chatterjee expanded on the adverse effects of drugs and AIDS, urging students to lead a healthy, spiritual life.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks from Miss. Elvina Baite, expressing gratitude to the resource persons and attendees for their participation.

Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC



HOLY CROSS PARISH KOLORIANG

Lectors Training and Initiation

On August 9, 2024, Holy Cross Parish in Koloriang organized a one-day training and initiation program for prospective lectors. The event began with an opening prayer led by Fr. Prasanta, CSC, who



introduced the purpose and structure of the training. The program aimed to prepare participants for proclaiming the Word of God during church services. Key objectives included developing practical reading skills, understanding the liturgical significance of the lector's role, and building confidence in delivering Scripture readings. Participants engaged in interactive practice sessions and a Q&A segment, which helped clarify doubts. The training was well-received, with 25 individuals volunteering to serve as lectors. The day concluded with the Holy Eucharist, where prayers and blessings were offered for the new lectors. Thanks to Fr. Prasanta, CSC, for his guidance and dedication.

Youth Seminar

A two-day Parish Youth Seminar was held on August 27-28, 2024, focusing on "Prayer in Action, Living a Life of Devotion." Resource persons included Mrs. Tei Hampu, Miss Dongche Yasa, Mrs. Bengia Paling, Mr. Nangram Jarjo, and Fr. Stephen Malneu CSC.



The seminar featured sessions on leadership, career development, mental health, prayer life, and social responsibility. Participants were highly engaged and appreciated the valuable insights and connections made during the event. The seminar concluded with a call to action, encouraging attendees to apply their new skills and perspectives to daily life challenges.

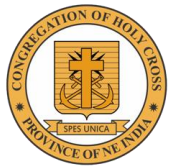
Leadership Training Program

A leadership training program themed "Equipping Trainers and Supporting Families in Prayer Life" was held on August 27-28, 2024, at Holy Cross Parish, Koloriang. The program, led by Fr. P.J. Francis and Fr. Prasanta CSC, included action songs, lectures, and interactive sessions on topics like Salvation History, the role of the Holy Eucharist in Christian salvation, and the importance of leadership in the



Church. The event, attended by 25 participants, provided practical tools and fostered a stronger sense of community among church leaders. The training concluded with a commitment ceremony where participants pledged to apply what they had learned in their roles, contributing to the church's mission and growth.

Prasanta Basumatary, CSC



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KOLORIANG

Health Camp & Awareness Session

On August 3, 2024, the medical team from Koloriang conducted a health screening program at our school as part of the National TB Elimination Programme. The same day, the principal, Fr. Stephen CSC, led an



awareness session on "Gender Equality" for the students. He addressed various aspects of gender inequality, including workplace disparities and educational opportunities, and emphasized fostering an inclusive environment. The session featured interactive discussions and group activities, encouraging students to take actionable steps towards supporting gender equality.

Independence Day Celebration

Our school participated in the celebration at General Ground, Koloriang. Sixty-five students



performed a patriotic dance during the cultural program. Special thanks to Miss. Chate Roshni and

Miss. Bengia Ape for their tireless efforts in making the event a success.

Stephen Malneu, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MAWKYNREW

Independence Day

Holy Cross Higher Secondary School in Mawkynrew marked India's 78th Independence Day with a day full of pride and patriotism. The celebrations began with a lively morning assembly, where students led the proceedings, setting the tone for the day. The school's notice board featured artwork from a student drawing competition-themed "Independence Day," adding a vibrant backdrop to the event.



The day's highlight was the flag hoisting ceremony, conducted by the Chief Guest, Sr. Karishma CSJ. This was followed by the national anthem, which instilled a profound sense of pride. The school captain then led a parade, emphasizing discipline and leadership.

Sr. Karishma delivered an inspiring speech, reminding everyone of the values of freedom and unity. The program also included performances by the school choir and energetic dance routines, showcasing the students' talent and enthusiasm. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the Headmistress, expressing gratitude to all participants and reinforcing the day's significance.



The celebration left a lasting impact on everyone, strengthening the spirit of independence and unity.

Parents and Teachers Collaborate for Student Success

Holy Cross Higher Secondary School in Mawkynrew hosted a productive Parents-Teachers Meeting (PTM) on July 26 to strengthen the collaboration between educators and families. The event coincided with the announcement of the Half-Yearly Exam results, creating a celebration and constructive dialogue atmosphere.

The day began with the distribution of results for top-ranking students, followed by the school report presented by the secretary, highlighting the institution's progress and challenges. Teachers from various grades shared insights on student performance and classroom dynamics, emphasizing the critical role of parental involvement.

An open forum allowed for direct interaction between parents and teachers, fostering a healthy exchange of ideas on student discipline and academic support. Parents appreciated the school's efforts and provided valuable feedback for further improvements. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment from parents and teachers



to work together to address the challenges students face and ensure their continued success. The school expressed heartfelt thanks to all parents for their active participation, underscoring the importance of a strong partnership in education.

Visit of Fr. George: A Day of Encouragement and Growth



Holy Cross Higher Secondary School in Mawkynrew welcomed Fr. George, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, for an important visit to assess the school's progress and provide motivation to both staff and students. Accompanied by Sir Paul, Fr. George's day began with a vibrant school assembly, where he was warmly introduced and honoured with a bouquet and shawl by Fr. Sharon.

During his visit, Fr. George engaged in meaningful discussions with the teaching staff, acknowledging their hard work and dedication. He emphasized the vital role of educators in shaping young minds and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence. The visit was an inspection and a source of inspiration for the entire school community, reinforcing the Holy Cross Educational Foundation's commitment to nurturing and empowering educators and students alike.

Sharon Piuse, CSC

NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MOHARPARA

Farewell and Welcome

On July 27, 2024, the school community came together for a heartfelt ceremony to bid farewell to our esteemed Principal, Fr. Roby V. Menacherry,



CSC, and to warmly welcome our new Principal, Fr. C.V. Jose, CSC. The event marked a significant transition, honouring past achievements and



looking forward to new opportunities. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary of HCEF, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

As we turn this new page in our school's history, we express our deepest gratitude to Fr. Roby for his dedicated leadership and extend a warm welcome to Fr. Jose. Together, we look forward to a future filled with promise.

Independence Day

The school celebrated the 78th Independence Day with a vibrant event showcasing national pride and unity. Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, Administrator of Holy Cross Northeast Province, honoured us as the Chief Guest, with Fr. Francis Xavier, CSC, Administrator of the Diocese of Agartala, serving as the Guest of Honor.



The celebration meaningfully reflected the values of freedom and unity while fostering cultural

enrichment and camaraderie among all who attended.

IC PARISH MOHARPARA

Family Mission Retreat

Immaculate Conception Parish, Moharpara, organized a Family Mission Retreat from July 26-27, 2024, at St. John Church, Debthang. Before the retreat, a team of twelve members and two preachers from Kerala conducted house visits in six villages over five days, offering prayers, counselling, and teachings on family prayer, daily Rosary, Bible reading, confession, and regular church attendance.



Over 300 participants from various sub-centres attended the retreat, which featured praise and worship, adoration, preaching, and opportunities for confession and family counselling. The focus was on fostering unity in families through prayer and Christian marriage. A video presentation on the second day highlighted the importance of the daily Rosary, and a healing session concluded the event. The retreat ended with a shared meal, leaving participants with renewed faith.

Leadership Training

On July 11, 2024, around 80 local church leaders from Moharpara Parish gathered at Divine Mercy Church, Twicholong, for a one-day training. Resource persons Fr. Binoy John, CSC, and Catechist Ananda Debbarma led sessions on liturgy and rubrics, especially in the absence of priests, and



provided practical tips for preaching. The event concluded with a Q&A session and a shared meal.

Marriage Preparation Course

Moharpara Parish held a three-day Marriage Preparation course from August 7-9, 2024, with twenty participants from various sub-centers. Resource persons Frs. Maxim SVD, Hormis John CSC, and Mr. Ashim Uchoi led interactive sessions on the sacrament of marriage, emphasizing it as a covenant between a man and a woman, sanctified by God. The course also offered advice on resolving family issues amicably and highlighted the importance of family prayer.

Fr. Hormis addressed church laws regarding divorce and remarriage. On the final day, couples had the opportunity to clarify their doubts and share what they learned. They committed to daily family prayer and breaking the trend of small families. The course



concluded with Fr. Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC, the Parish Priest, rectifying and blessing marriages.



Arbok Lyngdoh, CSC

ST. ANDRE PARISH, NYAPIN

Training for Catechists and Church Leaders

From August 26th to 28th, 2024, St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, hosted its annual program for catechists and church leaders. Twenty men and women attended the program, which benefited greatly from the guidance of Fr. Roshan, a highly regarded resource person in the diocese and a local priest fluent in the native language.



This three-day training was crucial for local catechists, who play a vital role in faith formation and basic catechism in the villages. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the program, noting how it strengthened their faith journey and deepened their understanding of the Bible, Church teachings, and leadership skills from a biblical perspective.

Installation and Farewell Ceremony

On August 4th, 2024, St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, celebrated the installation of its new parish priest,



Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, CSC, while bidding a



heartfelt farewell to the outgoing priest, Fr. Stephen Lohrii, CSC. The ceremony was officiated by Fr. Manu, the delegate of Bishop Benny Varghese, who delivered an inspiring homily. Fr. Alfred D'Souza from the provincial administration also graced the occasion.

The Holy Mass was followed by a cultural program, where the community expressed gratitude to Fr. Stephen and welcomed Fr. Lawrence. The event was filled with blessings, and the following fellowship meal strengthened the unity among the faithful.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

Tree Plantation Day

In celebration of Tree Plantation Day, our school hosted a meaningful event on July 6th that



highlighted our love for nature and gratitude to Mother Earth. The event was graced by Shri. Dibakar Jamatia, DCM Panisagar, Shri. Binod Reang, Ranger Officer Panisagar, Shri. Dhanjanjoy Das, and Shri. Moharamlal Haram. The program began with vibrant dances by students, emphasizing the importance of planting trees in our homes and neighbourhoods. After the performances, the dignitaries and students planted saplings on the school campus. This event served as a powerful reminder to our students of the vital role trees play in protecting us from pollutants, preventing soil erosion, providing habitats for various species, and mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.

ST. JUDE SCHOOL, NYAPIN

78th Independence Day Celebration

The 78th Independence Day celebration at St. Andre Parish began with a solemn liturgy by Fr. John Nongphud, CSC. In his homily, he emphasized the role of Mother Mary in the history of salvation and the significance of the Assumption as a symbol of God's honour for those who do His will.

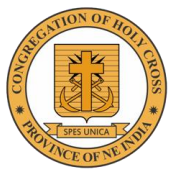


After the Eucharist, students, teachers, and parishioners gathered for the flag hoisting. Fr. Lawrence Wanniang, the parish priest, delivered a message on national pride and the call for better citizens. The celebration continued with a march-past and dance competition at the General Ground in Upper Nyapin, where the students secured second place in the march-past. Congratulations to them!

Desing John Nongphud, CSC

Peace Club Meet

In today's world, peace is more important than ever, and nurturing this value in young minds is essential. The social wing of the Diocese of Agartala organized a two-day Peace Club Meet on July 27th and 28th for selected students from various schools. Five of our



students and Miss Lalbiaki participated in this program and gained valuable insights. They also had the opportunity to visit significant sites in Agartala.



Annual Medical Check-Up

As part of our commitment to student well-being, an annual medical check-up was conducted on August 12th and 13th with the support of the local



PHC. Three doctors were present to examine all students, ensuring their health needs were addressed.

Independence Day Celebration



Our school proudly celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with events that filled the day with pride and dignity. The ceremony included a meticulously organized march-past, colourful mass drills, and cultural performances. Shri. Sujit Ruddra Paul, Inspector of Schools, and Dr. Somendra Kumar, Senior Scientist KVK Panisagar, hoisted the national flag and received honours from the parade groups. The students showcased their talents through patriotic dances and music, leaving

a lasting impression on the parents and guardians who attended.

Sports Achievements

Our students excelled in various sports competitions in August:



On August 18th, our under-14 football team participated in the Block Level Football Tournament and qualified for the state level.



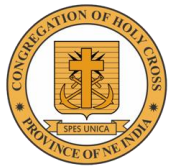
On August 19th, our girls' kabaddi team competed in the Block-Level Tournament, and four players were selected to advance to the district level.



On August 20th, our under-19 football team competed in the District Level Tournament and earned a spot in the state-level competition.

Debate Competition

On August 28, students of Classes IX and X organized a debate competition on the topic "Use and Abuse



of Mobile Phones." The event was marked by enthusiastic participation, with students showcasing their knowledge and eloquence in a spirited discussion. The competition fostered a healthy exchange of ideas and highlighted the students' impressive language skills and critical thinking.

Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC

ST. ANDRE MINOR SEMINARY, BODHJUNGNAGAR

Farewell to Senior Candidates

On July 9th, the SAMS community bid a heartfelt farewell to senior candidates who had completed their studies with distinction. The day was a mix of sadness as they prepared to leave and joy as they moved on to the next stage of formation in Holy Cross. The afternoon began with a lively football match between seniors and juniors, highlighting their camaraderie. This was followed by a moving Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Mariaraj,



where the community prayed for God's blessings on the seniors. The day concluded with a cultural program in honour of the departing candidates, celebrating the strong bonds shared among them.

Farewell to Fr. Vicky and Welcome to Fr. Francis Gayang

After completing his B.Ed. with outstanding results and assisting in the formation house, Fr. Vicky was

ready to take on new responsibilities at Twikarmaw. On July 30th, the SAMS community organized a grand farewell to express their profound gratitude for his service. The evening began with a Holy Eucharist filled with prayers of thanks and blessings for Fr. Vicky as he embarked on his new role. The community also welcomed Fr. Francis Gayang, the new Assistant Director of the seminary. The



evening's cultural program was a heartfelt expression of love and appreciation for Fr. Vicky while marking Fr. Francis's official welcome, celebrating both the past and future with warmth and joy.

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary and Independence Day Celebration

The SAMS community prayerfully celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary with a solemn Holy Eucharist in the morning, followed by a



candlelight procession in the evening from the house to the Grotto in honour of the Blessed Mother.

The Independence Day celebration was filled with enthusiasm and pride. After the Holy Eucharist, the community gathered to hoist the national flag, with Fr. Bilingshar leading the ceremony and candidate



Heimonmi Pale delivering a message. In the afternoon, a football match was held between



SAMS and Sacred Heart Study House, fostering unity and friendship among the seminarians. The day concluded with an inter-committee quiz competition organized by Fr. Francis Gayang, where everyone participated with enthusiasm and a competitive spirit.

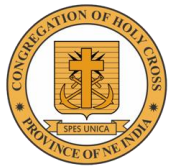
Billingshar Syiemlieh, CSC

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

Sumer's lush, fertile environment continues to captivate nature lovers. Fr. Shaiju, a psychologist turned organic farmer, ensures that every inch of



land is used well, making Sumer a must-visit for those who appreciate nature's bounty. On July 23rd, we organized a "Marathon Paddy Plantation Day," with many local villagers joining us to lend a hand. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the generous communities of Sumer, Mawlein-Mawkham, and Lum Sohphoh for their support.



On August 15th, we observed Independence Day,



fostering a sense of duty toward our country and encouraging positive engagement with society's socio-economic and political issues. The candidates demonstrated their commitment to the nation with a splendid March Past, led by Commander Bapynshngain Tlang.

On August 16th and 17th, Fr. Arul J. CSC introduced our candidates to a deeper form of prayer through



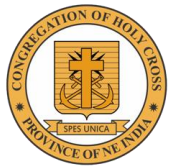
the "Small Christian Community" (SCC) model. His passionate presentation of the Seven Steps, the core of SCC prayer, will undoubtedly impact their spiritual journey.

Clement Amo, CSC

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL, JONGKSHA

Inter-House Competition

In celebration of Independence Day, the Good Shepherd School Community organized a two-day inter-house competition. Events included a debate on the importance of speaking English, a singing competition, and a fancy-dress contest with themes like "Best from Waste" and "Mother Nature."



Students also performed a play depicting the lives of Khasi freedom fighters, highlighting the importance of tradition and the strength of the people. These activities fostered teamwork, healthy competition, and a sense of belonging and pride in their houses while encouraging a love for nature and the nation.

Antony Jose, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

NCC Camp

From June 25th to July 4th, 2024, 23 students from our school participated in the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) organized by the 13 Tripura NCC at Agartala NSRCC. The camp featured various activities, including drill practice, an awareness program, a motivational speech by Olympic gymnast



Dipa Karmakar, weapon training, rifle shooting, personality development, leadership, yoga, and meditation sessions. Our students returned enriched and motivated, thanks to the guidance of ANO Sir Nibaran. Kudos to all participants!

Visits

The school recently hosted several important visitors who brought fresh energy and valuable insights. From July 6th to 8th, Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior, and Fr. Alfred, CSC, Provincial Administrator, visited the Tuikarmaw Mission. Their time with us revitalized our commitment to



community life and ministry. During his visit, Fr. K. J. Abraham CSC led a seminar on Child Safety for our teachers, highlighting the risks children face and how schools can protect them. All who attended this session greatly appreciated it.

Fr. George Jacob, CSC, Secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, also visited, observing classes and meeting with teachers for two days. He emphasized the importance of integrating life skills into teaching, and the staff valued his practical advice and continued support.



We were further honoured by a visit from Sr. Catherine SABS, Provincial of the Adoration Sisters in the Northeast. She addressed the school assembly and shared a powerful story about



responsibility, love, and care that deeply resonated with the students. We thank Sr. Catherine for her time and wisdom.

Independence Day

The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Fr. Thomas Pereira, CSC, the school manager, hoisted the national flag and urged students to contribute to nation-building by being responsible citizens. The event featured a march-past by different houses, patriotic dances, songs, and traditional performances. Our NCC cadets also participated in the Sub-Divisional Level parade, with the girls' team securing second place. Congratulations to all involved!



Volunteer Appreciation Picnic



To acknowledge the dedication of our school volunteers, nearly 40 of them enjoyed a "Cooking Picnic" on the school campus. Despite the rainy weather, the day was filled with teamwork, cooking, dancing, and games. This picnic was a token of appreciation for their role in maintaining discipline and their love for the school. Thank you to all our spirited volunteers for making us proud!

Environment Day

On July 23rd, we celebrated World Environment Day with Fr. Alfred CSC as the chief guest. Coordinated

by the Peace Club and NCC, the event underscored our duty to protect our planet. Fr. Alfred praised the students' efforts and encouraged continued



dedication to environmental stewardship.



Renju George, CSC

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, UMKIANG

Half-Yearly Results and Parents-Teachers Meeting

On July 31st, 2024, Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Umkiang, held its half-yearly results



announcement and Parents-Teachers Meeting. Miss Bianglangi Pohsnem delivered a motivational session, emphasizing parents' crucial role in their children's education. The meeting, chaired by the SMC president, Fr. Francis Sebastian, CSC, also included the formation of the PTA association, with six parent members alongside the president and secretary. Afterwards, parents collected their children's results from the respective classes.



Independence Day

The school celebrated India's 78th Independence Day on August 15th and Shri. Rajesh Das, Officer-In-Charge of Umkiang Outpost, was the chief guest. In his speech, he encouraged students to uphold the country's legacy, resist challenges like drugs and corruption, and contribute meaningfully to society. The event also featured patriotic dance and speech competitions to mark the occasion.



Roby Menacherry, CSC

MAWPAT MISSION

Last month, Mawpat witnessed a dynamic series of community-centred initiatives, driven by the collaborative efforts of Holy Cross Parish and St. John Bosco Secondary School.

Dental Health Awareness for Young Learners

On August 8th, students from Classes 1 to 4 participated in a Community Dental Health



Programme. Dr. Feddie Kharmawlong led the session, educating children on the importance of oral hygiene. Each student received a dental care kit with toothpaste and a toothbrush to reinforce these lessons.

Youth Seminar on the Power of Prayer

The Holy Cross Family Ministry organized a youth seminar on the power of prayer on August 9th, bringing together students from Classes 8, 9, and 10 for an enriching session. Fr. Roy, CSC, led the



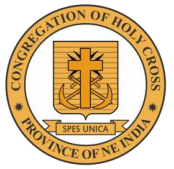
seminar on the "Importance of the Rosary and Family Prayer," captivating the students with his engaging approach. The session concluded with the distribution of rosaries and colouring sheets as takeaways.

Independence Day Celebration

On August 15th, St. John Bosco Secondary School celebrated India's Independence Day. The day's festivities began with an impressive march past, followed by a vibrant cultural program featuring diverse dance performances. Sr. Meena FSM, the Chief Guest, delivered an inspiring speech and



raised the national flag. The program concluded with a special Mass offered by Fr. Valerian and Fr. Friny



National Youth Sunday in Mariam Village

National Youth Sunday was observed on August 18th in Mariam Village, attracting youth from surrounding areas. Fr. Friny Peter led the



celebrations, with Sr. Moncy, FSM, organizing interactive competitions that energized and entertained the participants.

Village Visits Strengthen Community Faith

Holy Cross Parish continued its outreach efforts throughout the month with regular house visits and prayer sessions, bringing faith directly into the



homes of local families. Parish members conducted evening rosary prayers and celebrated Sunday Mass in various villages, offering spiritual support and prayers for the sick.

Friny Peter, CSC



TRAINING SESSIONS

Nurturing Minds, Healing Hearts – A Transformative Training in Bangalore

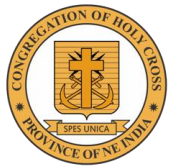
Eight teachers, including two principals from Northeast India, joined their counterparts from Holy Cross Schools across the country for a two-day training program at the Peyton Institute for Families in Bangalore on July 12th and 13th, 2024. The program focused on supporting emotionally disturbed children, understanding their home environments, and helping them succeed in school.



Rev. Fr. K.J. Abraham, Provincial of the Northeast Province, opened the program with an insightful session on the Holy Cross educational philosophy and the vision of its founder, Fr. Basil Moreau, who established the first Holy Cross school in France in 1836.



Fr. Royal Nazareth followed with a session on "Cultivating Empathy in Education," highlighting the



importance of empathy in creating emotionally safe spaces for students. He provided practical strategies for teachers to foster students' social and emotional development. Participants were also encouraged to share their experiences, and we presented our schools' approach to supporting emotionally disturbed children.

The second day featured a powerful session on work-life balance by Dr. Manila Cavalho and Mr. Alan Cavalho, who offered practical advice on cultivating a positive mindset, effective planning, and managing time and stress.

The experience was enriching, with collaborative activities and opportunities to build new connections with educators across India.

Be the Change - Teachers' Seminar

The Holy Cross Educational Foundation (HCEF) organized a significant seminar for over 100



teachers from seven Holy Cross schools in the Meghalaya region. The conference, led by Mr. Shrish P. Sebastian from Pune, focused on

communication, leadership, overcoming obstacles, and staying motivated to inspire students toward success. Teachers were



encouraged to see each child as a beacon of hope, helping them discover their potential by fostering passion and purpose. The seminar emphasized the importance of empowering students to create a positive impact and build their lives on a solid foundation.

Know your GPS – Students' Seminar

On August 22nd, a student seminar titled "Be the Change" was organized for Class X and XII students from Holy Cross School, Mawkyntew, and Good Shepherd School, Jongksha. The Holy Cross



Educational Foundation (HCEF) facilitated the event, with Mr. Shirish P. Sebastian as the resource person.

Mr. Sebastian, a well-regarded motivational speaker, led an engaging and impactful session to inspire students to set meaningful goals and pursue them with dedication and effort. He emphasized the importance of effort-based learning, where



consistent hard work and perseverance are vital to



success. Throughout the seminar, students were encouraged to be God-fearing and respectful, recognizing the value of their school community as a lifelong source of support and inspiration.

The Holy Cross Educational Foundation, recently hosted a Educators Conference from July 19 to 21, 2024, at the Holy Cross Provincial House, Agartala. This collaborative event brought together 47

Holy Cross Provinces in India Unite for Transformative Education Conference

educators from various Holy Cross provinces across



India, focusing on "Transformative Education for the Future: A Holy Cross Pathway."

Key topics included Transformational Leadership, Curriculum Leadership under the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), Convergent Media vs. Life Skills for Millennials, and Financial Management. These sessions addressed current educational challenges and equip educators with the skills needed for future advancements.



Participants appreciated the insightful discussions and practical strategies, emphasizing visionary leadership, relevant curriculum adaptation, and balancing technological advancements with essential life skills. The conference highlighted the



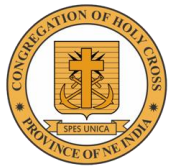
importance of financial sustainability in educational institutions.

The event was a resounding success, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices among Holy Cross educators. The Holy Cross Educational Foundation, operating 20 schools and a postgraduate college in northeastern India, continues to lead in promoting innovative and transformative educational practices, reaffirming its commitment to shaping the future of education in India.

Holy Cross Seminary, Pune: Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination

The Congregation of Holy Cross in India celebrated a momentous occasion at Holy Cross Seminary, Pune, with the Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination of seven seminarians. On August 2, 2024, these men took their Perpetual Vows, followed by their ordination as deacons by Bishop John Rodrigues of Pune on August 3, 2024. The theme of the celebration was "With Christ for His Mission."

Three of the newly professed seminarians are from the Northeast India Province, two from the South



India Province, and two from the Tamil Nadu Province. Their vows were received by their respective Provincial Superiors: Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC (Northeast India), Fr. Roque D’Costa, CSC (South India), and Fr. Joseph Gaspar, CSC (Tamil Nadu).

The Mass of Perpetual Profession was led by Fr. Roque D’Costa, with a homily by Fr. K.J. Abraham, who emphasized the significance of the evangelical counsels—Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience—and their importance in living "With Christ for His Mission."

The celebrations were attended by the Holy Cross family from all three provinces, along with the families of the newly professed, adding joy and vibrancy to the occasion. The following day, Bishop Rodrigues, during the ordination, highlighted the importance of prayer in the lives of the new deacons and urged them to stay close to Christ in their service.



The names of the newly ordained deacons are:

Northeast India Province:

- ✙ Dn. Newton Basumatari, CSC
- ✙ Dn. Preet Anupam Beck, CSC
- ✙ Dn. Shanborlang Mawrie, CSC

South India Province:

- ✙ Dn. Eedara Vamshi, CSC
- ✙ Dn. Jessel Pradeep Cutinha, CSC
- ✙ Dn. Thomas Lima, CSC

Tamil Nadu Province:

- ✙ Dn. Santhiya Philomone, CSC

This celebration marks a significant milestone in the journey of these seven men, who dedicate themselves to serving the Church and the Congregation of Holy Cross.

- **Preet Anupam Beck, CSC**



Cyberbullying: A Growing Challenge

With the rise of technology, cyberbullying has become a significant issue for students and families. It involves using social media, messaging apps, websites, and other online platforms to send abusive messages, spread harmful rumours, or exclude others. Cyberbullies may also impersonate someone online or misuse their login details.

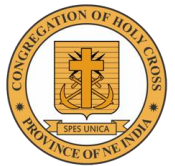


COMMON FORMS OF CYBERBULLYING:

- Teasing or mocking someone online, causing emotional distress.
- Spreading rumours or false information.
- Repeatedly sending unwanted messages.
- Damaging a person’s reputation by sharing untrue statements.
- Cyberbullying can affect anyone, and the anonymity of the internet often emboldens bullies. It can involve individuals or groups, such as classmates or online communities.

HOW CYBERBULLYING DIFFERS FROM TRADITIONAL BULLYING

While traditional bullying is well-known, cyberbullying introduces new challenges due to the nature of technology:



INVASION OF PERSONAL SPACE: Cyberbullying can occur 24/7, invading a student's personal space at home or school.

WIDER AUDIENCE: Online messages can quickly reach a large audience, making it difficult to control the spread of harmful content.

ANONYMITY: Cyberbullies often hide behind fake profiles, making it harder for victims to identify their harassers.



UNINTENTIONAL HARM: Sometimes, cyberbullying occurs unintentionally when someone fails to consider the impact of their online actions.

THE LINK BETWEEN CYBER ADDICTION AND CYBERBULLYING

Excessive internet use increases exposure to cyber-related issues, including cyberbullying, online gaming addiction, and cyber grooming.

TIPS FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE:

- Parents should be aware of the content their children access online.
- Use parental control apps to monitor and block inappropriate content.
- Stay informed about the latest online trends and risks.
- Schools should educate students about cyber security.
- Parents should talk to their children about online safety and its associated risks.

EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF CYBERBULLYING

Victims of cyberbullying often feel ashamed, anxious, and insecure, leading to withdrawal from friends and family. This can result in negative thoughts, isolation, and a decline in mental health. In some cases, victims may skip school, turn to substance abuse, or engage in violent behaviour.

Seeking help from a trusted friend, family member, or school counsellor is crucial.

REPORTING CYBERBULLYING

The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal in India allows victims to report cybercrimes, including those targeting women and children. This portal provides law enforcement with the information needed to address the issue.

Both face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying leave lasting effects, but cyberbullying also leaves a digital footprint that can be used as evidence. Everyone has the right to justice, and offenders should be held accountable.

Remember, treat others online as you would in person. Follow the Golden Rule: Be kind in online and offline interactions.



(Devidatta Bose is working as the Academic Coordinator of Holy Cross School, Agartala)



Happy Feast



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