

June 2014

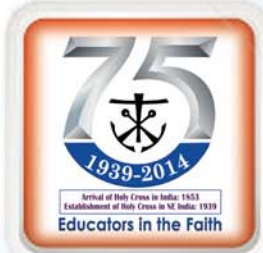


M'aves

Province Newsletter
Congregation of Holy Cross, Province of North East India



Bl. Basil Moreau
Founder



Platinum Jubilee Year



Provincial Speaks

"Alone we achieve nothing, both in game and in life", said Pope Francis on the occasion of the FIFA world cup 2014, now played out in Brazil. "My hope is that, besides being a sporting feast, the World Cup can become a feast of solidarity among peoples," he said in the message. The game kicked off on 12 June, Thursday night, with pop superstar Jennifer Lopez entertaining the crowds with the theme song "We Are One" in a glittering opening ceremony at Sao Paulo. The national teams of 32 countries advanced through qualification competitions that began in June 2011. A total of 64 matches are being played in 12 cities across Brazil and is scheduled to conclude on 13 July with the final. The winners will carry home the coveted cup and the prize money of US\$35 million!

All over the world people are following the games, at least, of their favorite teams, mostly on television. It is a festive time for football lovers to see the years of determination, preparation, and final presentation in 90 mts of the team's collective strength, stamina, skills and drills.

The words of Pope Francis are true in all walks of life. Great achievers are part of and contributors to the building up of a strong team. Even the best of players, but seeking personal fame and fortune, will contribute to the collapse of the team. Ethnic violence and violations of human dignity, lack of peace and progress in communities and families are all due to some group of people or a few individuals imposing their goals on others, thinking in a selfish way, being detrimental to the common good. The spirit that was in Cain, spirit of jealousy and competition, continues to prevail upon such persons and communities.

Let us all work together resolutely and promote togetherness towards greater effectiveness of our living and working together.

Abraham Kochupurackal, CSC



Editorial

"GREAT WARS ARE WON IN THE GENERAL'S TENT"

Let me open my account with a hard saying which I too find difficult to digest when it comes to personal victory over lack of self-mastery and time management. It's all about planning and preparedness which will be the undisputed denominator of our victory over oneself and the forces which hamper full flowering of one's God-given talents and abilities. Parishes and Social Welfare Centers report of successful conventions, retreats and seminars with joy and fulfillment – **the General's tent matters.**

Hearing the brilliant success stories of our Schools in High School and Higher Secondary School Leaving Examinations, we rejoiced and those in Educational field felt fulfilled and relieved punching air with joy and excitement – **the General's tent matters.**

Those in Administration and higher authority report of fulfilling trips made to different centers feeling the Hand of God accompanying His Own in all areas – encouraging and even less edifying ones for He is seen in our best and worst even here – **the General's tent matters.**

With these words dear "Generals", wish you all victory in days and months to come.

Michael Vanlalruata, CSC

*Congratulations to all the Principals,
Staff and Students on securing excellent results
in Board/University examinations.*



SPES UNICA 2014

SPES UNICA 2014 - a four days of live-in camp for the secondary and higher secondary students of Holy Cross - run schools in Meghalaya region under the aegis of Holy Cross Educational Foundation, Northeast India, commenced with the inaugural programme at Good Shepherd Higher secondary school, Jongksha, Meghalaya. In his message to the student-participants of the event, Rev. Fr. K. J. Abraham, the provincial superior and Chairman of the Foundation said, "In our time academic curriculum is becoming more competitive, fragmenting knowledge, focused on educating the mind, void of ethical values, creating a society that is self-seeking and self-profiting. Since 1838, when Holy Cross started the first school in Le Mans, France, it has a philosophy that seeks an integral development and a tradition that educate both the mind and the heart of students to be citizens in a pluralistic culture with the greatest regard and respect for persons of all ethnicity and economy."



The chief guest of the inaugural day, Dr. Ambrose Marak, Director of School Education and Literacy, Meghalaya, after planting a sapling, marking the beginning of the programme, was highly appreciative of the creative and innovative efforts of Holy Cross Fathers in the region in the field of education.

Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC., DD, Chief Guest of the concluding day, gave a clarion call to the participants of the event "to be bearers of light and beacons of hope" and enthralled the audience with his favourite song - 'I am only a human'.

'Connecting lives, creating synergy' was the theme of the megameet which had the modules that ignite leadership, self awareness and integral human formation. More than 350 selected student-participants from five schools of the region were engaged in the four days of living and learning experience.



The entire programme was held in a tastefully decorated 'panthal' which witnessed a celebration of life with scintillating music and rhythmic movements.

Davis Konuran, CSC

FIRST PROFESSION IN INDIA

"May God who began this good work in you, bring it to completion", with these words, the major superiors accepted the vows pronounced by the novices at the profession liturgy on 31st May 2014. In the presence of confreres, parents and relatives, friends and well-wishers, fourteen novices made their first profession in the congregation of Holy Cross, India. (1 professed for the vicariate of Brothers in India, 3 for the vicariate of Tamil Nadu, 4 for the province of North East India and 6 for the province of South India). Rev. Fr. Leo D'Souza CSC, the provincial superior of the province of South India presided over the con-celebrated profession liturgy, while Rev. Fr. Abraham Kochupurakal CSC, provincial superior of the NE province gave the homily. In his homily, Fr. Abraham reminded the newly professed, "The Lord chose each one of you and took you by the hand, all these years and for the rest of your lives he will go on forming you in order to send you to free, to heal, to create just relationships, to live as men who care and are trustworthy companions and who intercede for others before God. ... Begin afresh your life, now onwards as religious of Holy Cross. Take up your life with the same passion, confidence and competence as that of our Bl. Founder Fr. Moreau, embracing all things in Jesus, and as the new shoots of the vine let yourselves be embraced and carried by the vine, abandon yourselves to your Lord and Friend that he might clothe you in flowers and fruits".

Personal accompaniment of novices by Fr. Alexander CSC, the novice master and his assistant Fr. Clement Amo, CSC was acknowledged and appreciated by Rev. Fr. Justin Diraviam, CSC, the superior of the Vicariate of Tamil Nadu. Rev. Bro. Sesuraj, CSC, the vicariate Superior of Brothers in India gave away the cross, insignia of the congregation to the newly professed.



While thanking God for the newly professed members, let us also pray for them, pray to mother Mary, our patroness and intercessor before God to help them persevere in their

vocation and serve God's people joyfully, generously and zealously.

YOUTH BIBLE CONVENTION & PRAYER-2014



Immaculate Conception Parish, Moharpara, organized "YOUTH BIBLE CONVENTION & PRAYER-2014" for the youth of the parish. There were around 55 participants from different village churches. It was held from 23/05/2014 to 25/5/2014 – a three day's programme of prayer and sharing of the word of God. Many themes of the Bible were dealt by eminent speakers. Fr. Hormis John, CSC took classes on the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The origin of the Catholic Church and the history of Christianity, questions on faith and morals, Jesus of the Bible, were some of the topics conducted by Mr. Francis T. Uchoi. Fr. Binoy John CSC, taught about sin and the sacrament of reconciliation, Biblical basis of thanksgiving, prayer & fasting and preparation to family life. Classes on leadership and behavioural pattern in the church, Family & importance of family prayer were taken by Mr. Uttam Jamatia. We also had different spiritual activities like Eucharist, Adoration, Sacrament of reconciliation, Holy Rosary, introduction to divine mercy prayer and praise & worship. Thanksgiving Eucharist of the convention was presided over by Fr. Lawrence Darlong, the newly ordained indigenous priest of the diocese of Agartala. During his homily he inspired the youth to become radical followers of Jesus Christ. Thanks to the choir group led by Mr. Osam Jamatia for taking our hearts to God through music and hymns. Thus the Youth Bible convention & Prayer -2014 was a renewal and an enriching God experience to the youth of the parish.

Binoy John, CSC

PRINCIPALS' MEET

A meeting of the principals of Holy Cross Schools and College, the Northeast Province of Priest was held between April 03-04, 2014 at Moreau Community House, Agartala.

Thirteen principals working in different secondary, higher secondary schools and college located in three states of the region attended the meeting. While welcoming the principals, Rev. Fr. Jose Chempotical, the secretary of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation and the host of the meeting, gave a clarion call for professionalism in academics and administration.



N'aves

Rev. Fr. K. J. Abraham, Provincial Superior and Chairman of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, spelled out the legacy and core values of Holy Cross mode of education and enlightened the assembly about the original vision and mission of the educational ministry of the Congregation.



Two days of interface exchange aired concerns such as accreditation of the institutions to State / Center Boards, common policies, programs and projects that affect the educational apostolate in the province. The meeting also addressed the emerging educational scenario in different units. The assembly also willed to devise mechanisms to synergistic collaboration and thus optimize the resources and potentials of all the stakeholders of the institutions.

Enlightened and enriched by the interaction and exchange during the meet, the participants proposed to make this kind of assembly as an annual feature of the province, shifting the venue periodically.

Davis Konuran, CSC

INSTALLATION OF NEW PARISH PRIEST AT AGARTALA

Fr. Harry D'Silva, CSC was installed as the Parish Priest of St. Joseph Parish, Agartala, on 15th June, 2014, during a con-celebrated Eucharist. Fr. George Jacob, CSC, the Administrator of the Holy Cross Fathers, Province of North East India was the main celebrant of the Eucharist celebration and installed Fr. Harry as the Parish Priest. The parishioners thanked the outgoing parish priest Fr. George Kallungal, CSC and assistant priest Fr. Arun, CSC for their dedicated service to the parish. They also welcomed Fr. Harry to their midst and promised their support and co-operation. Fr. Harry was the Director of our minor seminary at Sumer, Shillong, before taking up this new responsibility. We wish him all the very best at Agartala.

WOMEN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



A series of women empowerment programs, leadership and faith formation seminars were conducted in St. Andre Parish, Bodhjungle, Tripura. The first of the series was held on 27th April with 60 women in attendance at the parish centre and the second one was held at Barkathal village on 25th May with 100 women in attendance. The third and last in the series was on 8th June and 97 women along with a few men took part in this program. The resource persons for these seminars were Fr. Jilson, CSC, the Parish Priest, Sr. Meri Halam, CSC, animator of women in the parish and Catechist Ananda Debbarma. They spoke about the different roles and responsibilities of women in the family, church and the society. The seminars did help the women folks of our parish to stand tall for their own rights, to know their importance and roles in the society and in the building up of the Kingdom.

Sr. Meri Halam, CSC

RETREAT FOR CHILDREN

St. Paul's Parish Kumarghat, Tripura, organized a retreat for the children from class-3 to class-8. 120 children from different villages came to the parish center on 24th May 2014 and returned on 25th, experiencing Jesus more closely. The two days programme was filled with lots of colorful events for the children. There were talks given on Bible and Saints. They also spent time praying together and working in groups. It was a time to experience God's grace in their life. A prayer service marked with lighted candles brought curtains down for the retreat.

Agi Paul, CSC



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MAWKYNREW DIARY

Holy Cross Parish, Makynrew, Shillong organized many programmes in the parish and in the school during the last months.

- The annual Easter house blessings have been just completed amidst heavy rains and storms. For the people it was a time of grace and strengthening of their faith.
- The Parish bid farewell to 2 sisters namely Rita and Selina who have been collaborating in the parish activities and welcomed three new sisters: 2 at Mawkynrew and 1 Holy Cross sister at Jatah village. Regent Marbilus has joined the community at Mawkynrew. We are indeed happy.
- Holy Cross Secondary School at Mawkynrew has been upgraded to Higher Secondary with Arts stream. This was a long awaited dream of and a blessing for the poor students of this place and the local people.
- Our School participated in the Science exhibition organized by the Mawkynrew Block and bagged many prizes. Congratulations to the winners!

Renju George, CSC

TIME TOGETHER FOR SENIORS



Nine Senior Confreres between the age group of 50-58 attended a renewal program at the Pastoral Centre, Shillong. Dr. Fr. Tony D'Souza, SJ from Mumbai animated three days reflection and sharing sessions which began from 3rd to 5th June. This is the third group in the province to have age-wise renewal program. The group mainly dealt on 360 degree feedback process in one's own life in relationship with others, Eastern spirituality, Psycho-spiritual growth in terms of Mid-life issues, etc. The group was really excited with sincere life sharing and proposed for a follow-up of the same process in the coming years.

Fr. Robert Mathias, CSC

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