



# Waves

## Province Newsletter

Congregation of Holy Cross, Province of North East India  
September 2013

### PROVINCIAL SPEAKS



Our pilgrimage continues through the year of faith. As Christians we are all educators of faith in every context of our lives, such as in families, in small communities, in parishes, in institutions etc. We are truer to ourselves when we bear witness to the faith in our private and public life. Truer self is a joyful and confident self, a Self that endures through all vicissitudes of life! Today so many people lack joy in their lives and harbour bitterness in their hearts. They feel and think that both, the world and God are unjust to them. Personal or communitarian experiences of defeats and deprivations often crush the seed of faith. Today the pilgrim journey is tough and rough for many people. It is in this context that we read the enlightening and refreshing reflections of our Holy Father, Pope Francis in his first encyclical, *The Light of Faith*.

The month of September is very dear and special to us. I consider this month, 30 days of Grace and Gratitude for us in Holy Cross. Awesome ways God has guided our history through the humble and holy leaders He gave to the Congregation. Tearful and fearful stories from the pages of the chronicle give us a glimpse of the courage and hope that the people witnessed in the life of our missionaries who walked before us. As missionaries with a message, disciples with a charism, our identity in Holy Cross is that of educators in faith. It is my wish and prayer that in this year of faith, we would have the wisdom and the humility to understand the nobility and the divinity of our call to be an educator of faith and be given anew, what was given to the frightened apostles, the Holy Spirit.

I wish all the readers Happy Feast of Mary, Mother of Sorrows on 15th September.

*Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC*

### EDITORIAL



Dear readers of Waves,

We are happy to present to you one more issue of "Waves", the news letter of the Province of Northeast India. As usual, this issue is also full of reports of the activities at the various centers of the Province. Teachers' Day was celebrated in all our schools and College and you will find a report of the celebrations from our schools at Agartala and Kumarghat and the college at Agartala. You will also read about the seminars and training programs for youth, catholic lay-leaders, women and couples. Caring for our mother earth and training and educating the young to make our planet green, by planting more trees have also taken place in some of our centers as you will read about it in this issue of Waves. Reports about empowering programs for parish council members, rosary procession, parish feast, cultural competitions and renewal programs for members of the province have also been included in this issue. You can also find here an account of the second graduation day of Holy Cross College and a report about the releasing of the third book of the college which is an achievement during the short four years of the life of the college.

The editorial team thanks all the contributors to this issue and we wish the readers a happy and informative reading. We also wish our readers a very Happy Feast of the solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patronal feast of the Congregation of Holy Cross. May our blessed mother, the mother of sorrows, our patroness intercede for us so that we can continue to be the favourites of our heavenly mother and her dear son, Jesus.

With festal Greetings,

*Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC*

### FORTH COMING EVENTS

1. October 5 – 8 - Leadership Seminar for students at Agartala
2. October 8 – 12 - Meeting for Superiors/Parish Priests
3. October 19-20 - Silver Jubilee of Kathalcheria Parish
4. October 24 - Ordination of Dn. John Chorei
5. October 26 - Ordination of Dn. Michael and Dn. Emmanuel
6. October 21-27 - Renewal Programme for Junior Priests at Dhaka
7. October 30 - Ordination of Dn. John Valanarasu
8. November 3 - Ordination of Dn. Pappy Valan



## TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT AGARTALA



Teachers' Day is celebrated in India on 5th September every year to mark the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was India's second President and an extremely respected scholar, and teacher of philosophy. On this day, we pay special honour to our teachers for their immense contribution to the country and the community. A great teacher is one a student remembers and cherishes forever. Teachers have long-lasting impacts on the lives of their students, and the greatest teachers inspire students towards greatness.

Our students from Nursery to Class XII, expressed their sentiments of gratitude with a phenomenal presentation of modern and traditional dances from east to west. The teachers were extremely happy with the presentations of students and the school management on behalf of the students presented gifts and mementos. This day also marks the birthday of Radhakrishnan and the death anniversary of Mother Teresa. So the school principal in his address thanked and appreciated the teachers for their many sacrifices and invited them to be like Radhakrishnan as **Beacon of light** and Mother Teresa as **Angel of mercy** as both were wonderful teachers to their students.

*Fr. Kanikkai Jeyaraj, CSC*

## KCYM SEMINAR AT KATHALCHERRA

On August 11, 2013 KCYM (Kathalcherra Catholic Youth Movement) members gathered at the Parish Centre for one day Seminar on the theme



**'Catholic Youth : Challenges & Opportunities'**. The main resource person for the seminar was **Mr. Uttam Debbarma**, SDO, Department of Electricity, Manu. Giving the example from his personal life he motivated the youth to live a life of prayer and hard work. In the following session **Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC**, Parish Priest highlighted the role of youth in family prayer. The day began with the Eucharist and ended with the adoration in which about ninety five youth from different mondlies participated.

*Fr. Valerian Castelino, CSC*

## MONDOLI LEADERS' SEMINAR

Good Shepherd Parish, Kathalcherra organized a two day **Chalok Seminar** on 6th & 7th of April 2013 for all the mondlie leaders of the Parish. The two day seminar was attended by 70 representatives from the different mondlies of the Parish. **Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD**, the resource person for the seminar highlighted the role of leaders in leading the Sunday Service at local church in the absence of a priest. He emphasized the role of chalok in making the community pray, adore and worship on Sundays and other weekday

gatherings at different local units. The leaders clarified their doubts with regards to liturgy, significance of altar and very many symbols used at church services. This year being the year of Faith it was an occasion to



build faith of the community through common sharing of ideas, opinions and expressions.

*Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC*

## DEVELOPING WOMEN LEADERS

A four day residential Women Leadership Training was conducted at ASHA Holy Cross, Damdamia from 1st to 4th August, 2013. The theme for the training was **"Women for a Change"**. **Mrs. Poornima Roy**, Chairperson, Tripura Commission for Women was the Chief Guest for the programme. **Mrs. Roy** in her address to 49 women from 20 villages said that the women commission is actively involved in finding solution for the women issues and urged the participants to approach the women's commission office and meet her personally for any women related issues.

**Rev. Fr. Robert Mathias**, the Director of ASHA Holy Cross, said that through this progressive learning, women develop and join networks of peers, mentors and experts and serve as effective leaders in their respective families and the society as a whole and opined Leadership as a process that leads to greater choices for all by fostering communication **among individuals who learn from each other, create a shared vision, and reach a common goal** forged by consensus.

The introductory training module was designed to support capacity building for women leaders in *Domestic Violence, Harassment of Women in Workplace, Women and Child Law and Leadership*. Women were taught on these subjects by the resource persons – **Mrs. Poornima Roy**, **Ms. Debbie Halam**, **Mr. Francis Thanda Uchoi** and **NNET Partners** – **Sr. Therese Simon**, **Sr. Punitha Mary**, **Sr. Juliana** and **Sr. Rose**. **Mrs. Roy**, in her special talk on "Domestic Violence" said the status of women in modern India is a sort of a paradox. If on one hand she is at the peak of the ladder of success, on the other hand she is mutely suffering the violence afflicted on her by her own family members. Compared with women in the past, women in modern times have achieved a lot but in reality they have to still travel a long way. Women have left the secured domain of their home and are now in the battlefield of life, fully armoured with their talent. They had proven themselves.



But in India they are yet to get their dues. The sex ratio of India shows that the Indian society is still prejudiced against females. There are 917 females per thousand males in India according to the census of 2011, which is much below the world average of 990 females.

The women leadership training concluded with the colourful and rhythmic ethnic dance by the participants.



## **STRENGTHENING MARRIAGE THROUGH MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at 9.00 am, the seminar on marriage enrichment was started at ASHA Holy Cross, Damdamia. 12 couples from different walks of life attended the enrichment seminar. Rev. Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC was the resource person for the seminar. He speculated marriage enrichment programs following an educational approach to enhance couple relationships. The goals of marriage enrichment are to help couples become aware of selves and their partners, explore their partners' feelings and



thoughts, encourage empathy and intimacy, and develop effective communication and problem-solving skills. His

basic concepts addressed marriage and other important

determining aspects of marriage. He further explained the couples the skills required to make marriages strong, satisfying, and enduring.

He cited various risk factors involved in marriage and drew a conclusion that - you marry "for better or worse". Therefore, if through no fault of yours, your married life is unhappy, or if your partner has left you, or if you find God's law hard to observe, ask God for the strength to do His will. The Sacrament of Matrimony gives married people special graces to live their lives according to God's laws and to break them for any reason is a serious sin. Do not try to judge whether your or anybody else's marriage is valid or invalid. That can be done only by one who is skilled in the knowledge of these laws. The seminar was very enriching and there was a lot of satisfaction and joy among the participants and wished for more of the kind in coming days.

*Mr. Birolal Jamatia*

## **EMPOWERING THE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

On July 14, 2013, a small and humble residence for Fathers was blessed at Holy Cross parish Bagbasa by Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior, Many confreres from the region, Sisters, and many faithful were present on the occasion. It was followed by a very meaningful concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration. After the mass a session for the parish leaders was conducted and the resource person, Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, spoke to the Parish Council members, Youth and Women on the importance of Steward & Participatory Leadership. He invited the local church leaders to take the lead and active role in the Parish activities and bring new way of life in their Mondoli. All the participants were happy about the inputs and returned with more enthusiasm to continue their mission.

*Fr. Arokiasamy Innaci, CSC*

## **HOSTEL BLESSING AT PANISAGAR**

The dream of 150 boys of Holy Cross hostel Panisagar came true on 4<sup>th</sup> August with the blessing and inauguration of another floor to the existing hostel. The boys were making use of the class rooms in the school building as their dormitories. But now they have a space in the hostel itself and this saves them time from shuttling between the hostel and school for their stay and other activities. Thanks to the generous help given by Kindermissionwerk and Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. The new floor was inaugurated by Fr. Thomas Thengumpally, CSC and blessed by Fr. George Jacob, CSC in the presence of many Holy Cross confreres, Sisters and Students. Fr. Sojan, CSC, the Principal of Holy Cross School Panisagar thanked everyone who made this dream possible. The joy and happiness of children on having more space for their living was evident on their smiling faces.

*Fr. Sojan, CSC*

## **HOLY CROSS CELEBRATES - FOREST FOR ALL AND ALL FOR FOREST**

Holy Cross School, Agartala, organized a program on 12 July, 2013 to create social awareness about the importance of tree plantation. The school conducted Art exhibition, Cultural program, tree plantation and most significantly the donations of the students and school Rs.100,000/- towards Utharkhand, Flood Relief Fund was handed over to the honorable minister.

This event was organized in the school premises under the banner of "Forest for all and all for forests". Sri Jitendra Choudhury, Honorable Minister for Rural Development, Forest,



industries & Commerce, Govt. of Tripura was the chief guest and while addressing the students he highlighted the need and necessity of caring for the plants and the necessity of planting trees every year. Mr. Balam Singh, IFS, was the guest of Honor and in his address he lovingly invited the students to work today in order to save tomorrow. And they also planted trees along with all the leaders of the classes in the campus and had a short interaction with them.

The students and teachers felt proud of being part of the social action project and promised to "work today to save tomorrow". And on the following day, school management along with all the assisting staff, the drivers, conductors, helpers and office staff planted over hundred saplings in the campus for the benefit of the future generation.

*Fr. Kanikkai Jayaraj, CSC*

## **HOLY CROSS COLLEGE HOLDS THE SECOND GRADUATION DAY**

Holy Cross College has entered into the fifth year of its existence and the second batch of 58 graduates (Class of 2013) passed out of the college on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 in a solemn and colourful function. Shri Manik Sarkar, Hon. Chief Minister of Tripura was the chief guest. In his speech to the graduates, he quoted Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, and said that "the main objective of education is to build character". He emphasized on moral character and holistic education. "Character is more important than a



degree. One should be truthful, honest, transparent and courageous". He emphasized on the need of the students to have love for the common man. He thanked Holy Cross College and especially

the management and faculty members of the college for their contribution in building up the character of the students and helping them to become graduates.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Costa, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Notre Dame University, Dhaka, while addressing the students said that "we as human beings find meaning for our existence in how we live and what we do for our families and for our society".

Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala had a word of appreciation to the founder Principal and his team who has brought this 'infant college' to reach such heights of excellence in such a short time. He invited the graduates to go out "to serve and to learn with love" which was the theme of the graduation day.

*Rev. Fr. Abraham, KJ, CSC, Provincial Superior, Province of Northeast*



India who presided over the function, said, that Holy Cross College has the reputation of educating both the mind and the heart. Speaking to the graduates he said that "education is giving you something powerful and that is the power of character."

**Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC**, the Principal, while welcoming the dignitaries and the graduates congratulated them and invited them to be passionate about the motto of the graduation day to "Go out to serve and learn with love". He invited the graduates "to be persons of character and serve the society with love in their hearts".

**Shri V. P. Mahawar**, Assets Manager, ONGC, Tripura, **Brigadier D.A.B. Udaya Kumar**, **Shri Rajesh Bhattacharjee**, Joint Director, Higher Education, Govt. of Tripura, East and Northeast Regional Executive members of the Xavier Board for Higher Education in India, Principals of neighboring schools and colleges and many other dignitaries, parents, well wishers and friends of Holy Cross College were also present for the function and the **College Year book: "Jyotirgamaya 2013"** was released by the *Hon. chief guest, Shri Manik Sarkar* on that occasion. Holy Cross College offers under graduate courses in Arts, Sciences and job oriented professional courses.

*Sri Pankaj Chakraborty, HoD, Pol. Science, HCC*

### RENEWAL PROGRAMME

A renewal Programme was organized for two groups of Province membership (Ordination years 6-10 & 11-15) from August 18 to 20 & 21 to 23 respectively at Jesuit Novitiate, Umbir, Meghalaya. These days were spent in reflection and sharing by the participants. Away from our busy ministerial schedules, we had an opportunity to spend time with the group members listening to one another and learning from each other's varied experiences. Input sessions by Fr. Kuriakose on Call and Consecrated life, Fr. Joe Francis on New Evangelization and Fr. Jose on Challenges to Faith Formation helped us to reorient ourselves in ministry and religious life. It was a well spent time and all of us gained a lot and came back rejuvenated.

*Fr. George Jacob, CSC*

### BOOK RELEASE AND TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS AT HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

Holy Cross College officially released its third Book entitled: "Contemporary English Literary World: Emerging trends" which is a collection of the selected articles from the International Seminar held at the College on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013. A colourful program was organized by the students to honour the teachers on the occasion of the teachers' day and the third Book of the College was officially released during the program by the First Vice Chancellor of Tripura University, Prof.



Arunoday Saha in the presence of all the students, faculty members and invited guests. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Arunoday Saha praised the efforts of the management and faculty of the college in the areas of co-curricular activities, seminars, research and publications without diluting the efforts in the field of academic excellence. He congratulated the principal, the management and the members of the faculty for doing so much in so little

time of four years of the existence of the college. As a person currently involved in NAAC accreditation inspection team, he stated that Holy Cross College in his opinion is eligible for the higher ranks in NAAC accreditations if he were to compare HCC with other similar colleges in the country.

*Sr. Caron, BS*

### TEACHERS' DAY AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL KUMARGHAT

Holy Cross School Kumarghat celebrated teachers' day on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2013. In his key note address, Fr. Abraham K.J CSC, Provincial Superior thanked all the teachers for their dedicated service to Holy Cross in the field of education. On the same occasion he blessed the new wing of the school. Provincial acknowledged and appreciated the great works began by Fr. Thomas Pereira CSC. It was Fr. Thomas Pereira who was instrumental in shaping the school to its present stage.



*Fr. Agi Paul, CSC*

### ROSARY PROCESSION AT KUMARGHAT

Kumarghat parish celebrated the birthday of our dear mother on 8<sup>th</sup> of September with a prayerful rosary procession. The procession began at Fatima Convent. People with lighted candles walked from the convent to the Grotto in front of the parish. Fr. Arul J CSC the Parish Priest in his message invited the people to make Mary as their model in doing God's will. He said that Mary truly following the will of God brought Jesus to the world and accompanied him till Calvary. The Rosary procession came to an end with final blessing by the Parish Priest and light refreshment was served to all.

*Fr. Agi Paul, CSC*

### HOLY CROSS SCHOOL MAWKYNREW TRIUMPHS!

Holy Cross School Mawkynrew once again proved that they can do better everytime they go out to perform. This time around, the students who participated in the Block level cultural show, organized to encourage the Khasi culture and tradition, came out successfully with three first Prizes, two second and one third prizes. It was truly a reward for their hard work and support of the teachers. Kudos to them...

*Fr. Renju, CSC*

### PARISH FEAST AT MAWKYNREW

Holy Cross Parish, Mawkynrew celebrated its Parish Feast on 15<sup>th</sup> September amidst large number of faithful, our confreres and friends. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Peter Chittayath, CSC, the pioneer of Holy Cross Mission at Mawkynrew way back in 1985. The presence of Holy Cross confreres added more Joy to the parish community. The solemn Eucharist was followed by distribution of snacks and tea to the people.. There were about 2000 people who came from different villages of the parish showcased the strong faith of the community. There was also benediction followed by cultural programme during which leaders of the parish community including parish council members were felicitated. Indeed it was a meaningful celebration.

*Fr. Renju, CSC*

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**Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC & Fr. George Jacob, CSC**

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