

December 2014

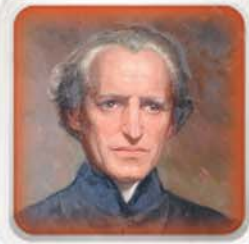


Waves

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



Jubilee Year



Bl. Basil Moreau
Founder

PROVINCIAL SPEAKS



"I am inspired and encouraged as I learned about the valiant missionaries and their sacrifices to build up the Christian community in the NE as well as establishing the community of Holy Cross in India. I feel great

to inherit that history and to belong to the family of such a valiant group of men of faith and courage", wrote a seminarian at the end of the celebration of the missionary legacy of 150 years of Holy Cross in the North East India.

Sesquicentennial celebration of the missionary presence of Holy Cross in the North East India was a tribute paid to the well-known and less-known Holy Cross missionaries who sowed the seed of Christian faith among people of different cultures and languages spread across the breadth and length of the hilly regions of the then East Bengal and Assam. Early Missionaries perished in water and on land, but their message endured. The mission was indeed the toughest, even cruelest on many aspects but they did not trudge; they strode. For they were men with hope. The legacy goes on of faith, hope and sacrifices in our following of the Lord.

"Be joyful missionaries", exhorted Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India, as he addressed Holy Cross missionaries gathered for the celebration at Agartala on Sunday, October 26th, 2014. "Joy of the heart is contagious. You are anointed with the oil of gladness to be the missionaries of the Risen Lord. Let the joy of your lives attract young men to carry on your missionary legacy".

We have a glorious past marked by the faith and sacrifices of the pioneering missionaries. Let our fidelity to the Lord and the joys of our lives assure a promising future for Holy Cross in NE India. Let the spirit of the celebration re-awaken the missionary in all of us!

Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC

EDITORIAL



"Better Late than never..."

Jubilee bells are ringing and then celebrations after celebrations have somewhat kept people like me away from putting all the memorable events and experiences into writing. Immortalize the moments so to say. It was best, had I been on time to do that. My apologies to all.

This edition reflects on lives of confreres elsewhere in the Province celebrating life especially in this Jubilee Year. Let those gone before us who have made remarkable selfless contribution in the field of evangelization and education in this part of the globe be our model and inspiration as we move ahead in our evangelical and educational ministry.

A new wing has been stretched with a new way of reaching out to people in the form of MIIT – Moreau Institute of Integral Training Shillong, which was inaugurated on the 30th of October 2014. This is an indication that Holy Cross NE has come of age daring to tread road never travelled before.

Fr. Michael Vanlalruata, CSC



A LITTLE UPDATE FROM HOLY CROSS CHAMPHAI

PARISH SUNDAY SCHOOL INKHAWMPUI (CONFERENCE) :

Sunday school students got an opportunity to meet, play, compete, share and most importantly pray together from 26th to 28th September. Nearly 250 Sunday school children from different villages attended the program. Competitions like group singing; recitation, bible quiz etc., were conducted.

Catechism classes are being conducted in the Parish Church as well as in the sub-centers after Masses on Sundays. As this has been the practice elsewhere in the state and in the diocese children all over the diocese are not deprived of catechesis and the Word of God. Bible reflections and Bible sharing during these classes have been building up the faith of the little ones who are



the promising leaders of the Church tomorrow. Classes are categorized as beginners, primary, juniors, intermediates, seniors, youth and for adults. Catechism classes are an opportunity for us to provide good Christian formation and faith building for the young and the old.

These are what make our life in the mission fulfilling and meaningful.

Fr. Emmanuel Ralte CSC

PARENT'S DAY KATHALCHERRA

"WHO CAN PREDICT THE MINDS OF GOD"

It was raining cats and dogs from early morning lasting almost 3 to 4 hours but we were praying hard and believed things would happen the same way that happened on the Children's Day when the rain stopped just before the program kicked off. Yes, that was true, rain stopped before we began our program and the rest of the day was clear and fine. We celebrated the Parents' day cum inauguration of new hostel block on 27th September. First we had the inauguration of the new hostel block. We are grateful to Fr. Abraham CSC, Provincial of Holy Cross Fathers NE India, who readily accepted our invitation to come and inaugurate the new hostel block. Shri Aghore Debbarma, Minister for Tribal Welfare, Agriculture and Animal Resource Development, Dr. Milind Ramteke, IAS, DM & Collector, Dhalai District and many fathers and sisters and all the students and guardians were witnesses of this mega event. After the inaugural ceremony we had the Parents' day celebration in the school square and the chief guest was Shri Aghore Debbarma (mentioned above). It was beautifully well organized; there were lots of items performed on stage like dances, rhymes, singing, and speeches. Everyone enjoyed the



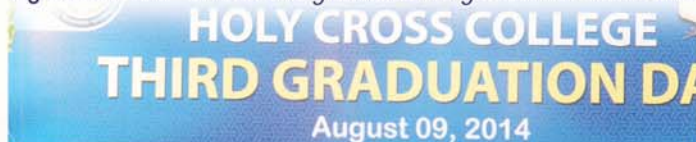
program. It was indeed providential that blessings didn't come in the form of rain, however, they came through the children's faces and smile that warmed and melted the hearts of parents and all present there. Indeed *"who can predict the minds and ways of God"*.

Fr. Jerome CSC

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE CELEBRATES THIRD GRADUATION DAY

Holy Cross College celebrated the third graduation day on August 09, 2014 through a solemn ceremony at its Durjoynagar campus. The function began with a ceremonial procession of graduates, faculty and dignitaries in colourful graduation attires with the accompaniment of St. Andre School band.

The official function began with lighting the ceremonial lamp. The chief guest of the occasion was Shri. G. K. Rao, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura. Quoting his own personal example he invited the graduates *"not to be constrained by their socio-economic backgrounds but to strive for excellence and success"*. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC Principal of Holy Cross College, in his welcome speech received the guests and dignitaries and *"invited the graduates to go forth to serve and*



learn with love in their hearts", which was the theme of the day. Rev. Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, Chairman, HCEF, Agartala, presided over the function and gave the benediction. In his message he *"congratulated the parents for placing their confidence in Holy Cross College by taking the risk of sending their wards to study in a new college and hoped that their expectations were fulfilled as they see their wards graduate"*. The commencement speaker for the occasion was Dr. Bro. John Paige, CSC, President, Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA. In his address he said that *"Holy Cross educational tradition provides, real and practical education and it aims to educate hearts and minds. He invited the graduates to serve the society with love and dedication and make a difference."*

Prof. Arunodaya Saha, the first VC of Tripura University and Shri Swapan Saha, Revenue Secretary Govt. of Tripura, were special guests on the occasion. The other dignitaries who attended the occasion included Prof. K. N. Jena, Director, DDE, TU, Prof. P. K. Haldar, HoD, Commerce, TU, Dr. V. K. Mishra, HoD, Hindi, TU. The occasion was attended by several other dignitaries like heads of institutions in the neighbourhood, students, teachers and well wishers of Holy Cross College.

This year, a total of 73 students, the third batch/class of Holy Cross College graduated from the college with their BA and BBA degrees.

Fr. Emmanuel CSC

150 YEARS OF HOLY CROSS PRESENCE IN THE NORTH EAST INDIA

Northeast Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated 150 years of its Mission Legacy and 75 years of the establishment of the first community in the state of Tripura on October 25th and 26th, 2014.

The celebrations on October 25th began with a symposium highlighting the Mission legacy of the Congregation. A number of veteran Holy Cross Missionaries and those associated with Holy Cross for a long period of time shared their experiences. Rev. Roy Thalackan, CSC in his key note address said, "The great sacrificial work of our missionaries, religious and lay collaborators has enabled us to arrive at this point of our history". While expressing his gratitude to the missionaries who have gone before us and those present with us, he said, "This jubilee invites us to a deeper commitment to spend ourselves and be spent for the needs of Northeast India, to be available and cheerful and to give witness while others hesitate."

In the afternoon a mega cultural evening was organized to mark the occasion in the city of Agartala. His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pinnacchio, the apostolic nuncio to India was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Felicitating the Congregation the Archbishop Pinnacchio said, "It is time to tell the stories of early missionaries to the next generation" He also said, "We salute the known and unknown missionaries and their collaborators who walked the breadth and length of the then Bengal Mission and made ultimate sacrifice of their lives. They beckon us today to fall in step with them" About 1500 invited guests attended the function along with many Government dignitaries, religious sisters, priests, brothers and members of the clergy. Welcoming the gathering, Fr. Abraham K. J., the provincial superior of the Province of



Northeast said, "Zealous missionaries and their collaborators lived a very humble life among the people in the remote villages and they elicit in us a similar apostolic zeal and love for the people, their language and culture and make a creative response to announce the Good News today." While offering hearty congratulation to the Congregation, Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC of the Diocese of Agartala, said "It is only appropriate that we celebrate this Sesquicentennial Jubilee with the theme that best describes the legacy left by the daring members of the Congregation whose committed life has beautified this land of North East India ".The function was marked with scintillating cultural dances from our institutions depicting the ethos of the foundation of Holy Cross in East Bengal and the rich cultural heritage of Northeast India.

On September 26th, His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pinnacchio addressed all the members of Holy Cross at Moreau Community House. While congratulating the Congregation very personally as 'a member of Holy Cross family' he highlighted the message of the Holy Father Pope Francis on the 'Joy of the Gospel'. During the occasion the foundation stone for 'Andre House', for the confreres of the Province who are in need of rest and cure, was blessed.

The culmination of the celebration was the Eucharistic celebration presided over by His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pinnacchio. Paying glowing tribute to the Congregation for 150 years of its Mission legacy, he said, "The Congregation and the people in Tripura are the sanctified people of God through the prayer of Jesus and through the works of the missionaries, for generations". The Jubilee Eucharist was concelebrated by over 50 priests and attended by about 150 religious and 2300 faithful and well-wishers of Holy Cross from Northeast India.

During the celebration key individuals from our parishes and institutions were honored and felicitated for their mighty contribution for the work of the Church and the Congregation.

In a letter addressed to the Members of the Province of North East for the occasion Rev. Richard Warner, CSC, the Superior General acknowledged with gratitude to God for the many men and women who served in Northeast India with significant success as well as challenges. He wished that, "We will continue to serve this special area, God willing, for many more years to come."



DEDICATION OF MOREAU INSTITUTE OF INTEGRAL TRAINING (MIIT), SHILLONG, NORTH EAST INDIA

"The Congregation of Holy Cross, Northeast Province dedicated Moreau Institute of Integral Training (MIIT), a new ministry in the province, to the valiant and pioneering Holy Cross missionaries who brought the seed of faith to this region 150 years ago, for the people of Northeast India" said Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC, General councillor from Rome, on the occasion of its dedication and blessing. His Grace, Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong, Blessed the Institute at a colourful function on 30th October 2014.



In his welcome address, Fr. K. J Abraham, Provincial Superior of NE province said that the blessing and dedication of the Moreau Institute of Integral Training is a defining moment in the 150 years of Holy Cross missionary legacy. He said, "The institute is committed to accompany individuals and groups for a richer life, and to form them to be leaven in the North East". He expressed his gratitude to all who sacrificed much to see the founding of the institute especially to the Congregation of Holy Cross for financial assistance and to Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC for his vision, planning and perseverance from its starting, progress and completion. The hard work of Frs. K. O. Joseph and Simon Fernandes, and the staff at 'Brookdene' for the execution of the project was specially acknowledged.

During the felicitation function Dr. Amparin Lyngdoh, Honourable Minister for Urban Development, Govt. of Meghalaya, inaugurated the website of the Institute: www.miiitshillong.org. Dr. Lyngdoh expressed her desire to work in close collaboration with the Institute and the Government.

Explaining the salient features of the institute Fr. M. C Abraham, CSC, the first director of MIIT said, "The institute is born out of a dream of accompanying individuals to develop their whole-person". He hoped that the institute will enable individuals to develop their potentials for wholesome living and in turn it will help them to be effective leaders for the animation of the communities in which they live and work. The institute situated at the heart of Shillong, the capital city of the state of Meghalaya, has the capacity to accommodate thirty five persons with allied facilities for dining, recreation, chapel, library, seminar and class room.

Most Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, the Archbishop of Shillong in his message said that he was happy to have the Moreau institute in his archdiocese. He expressed his hope and prayer that the institute would help people to find a creative response to the socio-cultural and religious vacuum or restlessness created by the popular culture of modernism and consumerism.

The inaugural function was also marked by scintillating dances and music by the candidates and the students of Holy Cross educational institutions in Meghalaya. They depicted the rich cultural ethos of the state of Meghalaya. The gathering concluded with a delicious lunch.

REGENTS MEETING

The two days we spent were days of joy and remembrance. We the regents of the year 2014-2015, had a half yearly evaluation on the 10th and 11th of December 2014 at Moreau Community House, Agartala. Fr. Suresh Kagoo CSC, the Formation Coordinator of the Province began the meeting with the introduction of the days to go. We were fortunate to have Fr. Thomas SDB as a resource person of the event. In spite of a short time he was able to put a lot of insights into us with his rich experience. The classes were mainly for self discovery. It was good to learn that there are four stages in adulthood, namely; Athlete (physical awareness), warrior (power), state-person (service) and spiritual. Every human being is bound to go through these stages in life. The points Fr. Thomas has given are very helpful to our ministry and much more to us to live as a true human person. In the meantime we had to share our different experiences in various mission centres. Listening to one another we were inspired to proceed ahead with our ministry. Fr. K. J. Abraham, the Provincial superior encouraged us to continue in our respective centre with zeal and enthusiasm. He also insisted that there are three important things in religious life, they are; Confession, spiritual guidance and meeting with the local superior regularly.

We also had a good and wonderful time as we visited different centres such as Holy Cross College, ASHA, Budhjungnagar parish and its centre and the Holy Cross Convent at Borokathal. As we have come to an end of this program of coming together, we are very delighted to have this opportunity to be together and listening to one another in building our group life. We would like to appreciate all the fathers who have made our stay comfortable.

Regent Prasanta Basumatary



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