



Congregation of Holy Cross

Province of Northeast India

NEWSLETTER

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PROVINCE UPDATES

WAVES 2025

PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

Living the Year of Mission



Starting on April 28, 2025 the Congregation of Holy Cross marks a significant milestone—a *Year of Mission*, commemorating 185 years since Blessed Basile Moreau sent his first missionaries beyond the frontiers of France. With deep conviction and a heart grounded in Christ, Fr. Moreau responded to God's call and embraced the mission entrusted to him. He sent men of faith to distant lands—Algiers, the United States, Canada, India, Italy, and Poland—to be educators, to build communities, and to share the Gospel.

The theme of the Year of Mission is ***“Hope Beyond Borders.”*** This significant observance also coincides with the establishment of the Congregation’s new Holy Family Mission in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. This expansion represents not only a geographical step forward but a spiritual call to renew our commitment to mission wherever we are.

To be human is to be purposeful. Purpose gives direction to our lives. It fosters growth in families, ignites transformation in communities, and inspires the work of organizations. When we live with purpose, we live with passion. Fr. Moreau’s life reminds us that a purpose-driven life is not only meaningful but missionary.

Today, the mission continues. The call to mission is not just for those sent across oceans—it is for each of us, wherever we are.

Are we ready to become missionaries in our own context? Can we go beyond our comfort zones, our familiar routines, and our safe expectations? Can we help others discover their mission in life by living ours with purpose and joy?

I invite the readers to join us to reflect on this Year of Mission and ask God for the grace to live more intentionally. May our purpose be rooted in love, our service be marked by faith, and our lives bear witness to Christ’s mission in the world.

“Purpose produces passion. Passion fuels mission. And mission brings life.”

Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC
Provincial Superior

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EDITORIAL



A Time of Grace, A Call to Mission

As we journey through this Easter season, we are blessed to witness moments of grace that continue to reaffirm our identity and mission as disciples of Christ and sons of Blessed Basile Moreau. At the heart of this grace-filled time is the Year of Mission, officially declared by our General Administration, which began on April 28, 2025. This year invites us to reflect more deeply on our founding call, to cross borders of every kind—geographical, cultural, and spiritual—in hope and love. The theme, Hope Beyond Borders, could not be more timely, reminding us that amidst uncertainty and division, we are called to be bridges of healing and hope.

We also take this moment to offer our heartfelt prayers and deep respect for the late Holy Father, Pope Francis. His passing is a profound loss for the Church and the world. Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis exemplified courageous witness, pastoral humility, and an unwavering commitment to the Gospel. His emphasis on synodality, care for creation, and a Church that reaches the peripheries deeply resonated with our Holy Cross charism. Even in his final years, he tirelessly called the Church to be a field hospital—a place of healing, mercy, and dialogue. As we honour his legacy, we are inspired to carry forward his vision by renewing our own missionary zeal with greater love, boldness, and fidelity.

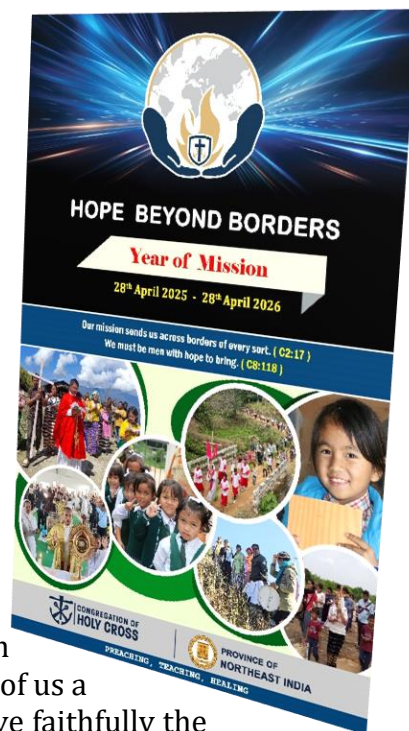
We also celebrate with joy and pride the academic achievements of our Holy Cross schools. The recent board examination results have once again demonstrated the commitment of our educators and the hard work of our students. Congratulations to all our school leaders, teachers, and families who nurture these young minds with love, discipline, and excellence. As

Holy Cross educators, we continue to form not only scholars but citizens of character and compassion.

In the spirit of Blessed Moreau, let us move forward together—priests, brothers, sisters, collaborators, and lay partners—with courage and hope. Let our shared mission be marked not merely by programs, but by the witness of lives given generously in service of the Gospel.

Let us pray that this Year of Mission may awaken in each of us a renewed desire to live faithfully the words of our Constitutions: “Our mission sends us across borders of every sort” (2:17) to make God known, loved, and served.

- **George Jacob, CSC**



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KUMARGHAT

Remembering Pope Francis

On April 23rd, the school community gathered in solemn remembrance of Pope Francis, uniting in prayer and silence to honour his life and legacy. The morning assembly was marked by a spirit of reverence as students and staff paused to pay tribute to a shepherd who inspired the world with his humility, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice.

The prayer service was led by our Headmistress, Sr. Berthila FS, setting a reflective tone for the occasion. A heartfelt thanksgiving prayer was offered by Sr. Ainita FS, our Supervisor, followed by intercessory prayers led by Madam Sangi Lushai and Madam Jaya Chakma, invoking God's mercy and peace.



Our Principal, Fr. Francis Xavier, delivered a poignant reflection on the extraordinary witness of Pope Francis. He highlighted the Pope's deep love for the poor and the marginalized, his tireless advocacy for peace, and his courageous voice against war and violence—especially his concern for the innocent victims of conflict in regions like Gaza.

- **Francis Xavier, CSC**

ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KUMARGHAT

Inauguration of Pilgrim Center

On March 19th, St. Paul's Church, Kumarghat, was formally inaugurated as one of the two designated Pilgrim Centers in the Diocese of Agartala for the Jubilee Year 2025. The occasion was marked by deep faith and festive spirit, drawing a large gathering of over 700 faithful from nine parishes, along with 16 priests and several religious sisters.

The celebration commenced with a Rosary procession from Holy Cross School to the church, culminating at the newly renovated Grotto of Mother Mary. Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC, Vicar General and parish priest, hoisted the Jubilee Flag and blessed the Grotto. Together with Fr. Ivan

D'Silva, he then inaugurated the Jubilee Door, symbolically opening the church to pilgrims for the Holy Year. A solemn Eucharistic celebration followed, with Fr. Ivan D'Silva delivering a moving homily that reflected on the grace and spiritual



significance of the Jubilee.

Parish Secretary Mr. Roitua Darlong offered heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event. The day concluded with a festive community meal, marking the joyful beginning of St. Paul's Church as a place of pilgrimage and renewal for the faithful.

- **Francis Xavier, CSC**

International Women's Day Celebration

On April 6, 2025, St. Paul Parish, Kumarghat celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm. Organized by the Maria Sango Parish Executive Committee, the event brought together 136 women for a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship.



The celebration began with the Sunday Parish Mass at 9:00 AM, presided over by Fr. Lancy, CSC, and concelebrated by Fr. Francis, CSC. In his homily, Fr. Lancy highlighted the strength and

faith of women in the Bible, encouraging all women to be prayerful, courageous, and to follow Mother Mary as their model, especially in this Jubilee Year.

After the Eucharist, a group photo was taken, followed by a session on health and hygiene led by Mrs. Huansungi Darlong. The rest of the day featured cultural performances, fun activities, and prize distribution. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal shared in joy and unity.

Special thanks to the Maria Sango Executive Committee and Sr. Margret FS for their leadership in making the event a success.

- **Margret, FS**

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, TUIKARMAW

Staff Picnic to Dumboor Lake

On April 5, 2025, the teaching and non-teaching staff enjoyed a refreshing picnic to Dumboor Lake, located 85 km from Tuikarmaw. Thirty-four staff members travelled together and spent the day engaging in games, nature walks, and boat rides. Lunch was prepared and shared on-site, fostering a spirit of camaraderie. The outing



offered a much-needed break and strengthened bonds among the staff.

Teachers' Orientation

A Teachers' Orientation was held on March 17, 2025, in the school hall to prepare the staff for the new academic year. Led by the Principal, the



session focused on the vision and mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross, core values of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, and the importance of lesson planning and discipline. The program concluded with an interactive session for feedback and clarifications.

School Re-Opening 2025-26

The new academic year began on April 23, 2025, with a special prayer service invoking blessings for a fruitful year. The school community also paid tribute to the late Pope Francis and mourned the tragic passing of Dikshan Reang, a Class VIII student. The Principal welcomed students back, emphasizing discipline, punctuality, and a spirit of learning.



Nursery Inauguration



The Nursery class for 2025-26 was inaugurated on April 28, in a heartwarming ceremony. Chief Guest Mr. Surajit Reang, BDO of Rashyabari and an alumnus, shared inspiring words with the school community. A symbolic rice-letter tracing ritual marked the little ones' first step into education, making the occasion both traditional and memorable.

- *Vicky Gayang, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, PANISAGAR

Farewell to Sr. Sandraline

On March 7, the school community bid an emotional farewell to Sr. Sandraline, our Headmistress for the past five years. With heartfelt gratitude, students and staff honoured her dedicated service through songs, dances, and gifts. Her tenure was marked by transformative leadership, discipline, and a deep commitment to holistic education. The school remains thankful for her valuable contributions.



Welcome to the New Headmistress

On March 17, Sr. Tresa Arimadei was warmly welcomed as the new Headmistress. With extensive teaching and leadership experience in Manipur, she brings vision, dedication, and a passion for excellence. The school community received her with songs, flowers, and warm wishes. We look forward to her inspiring leadership in the years ahead.



Teachers' Seminar

On April 10, a staff seminar facilitated by Mrs. Romi Saha, an experienced teacher and student



counsellor from Agartala, offered a platform for professional growth. The day included interactive activities, creative presentations, and meaningful discussions that enriched the teaching community.

National Science Day

Celebrated on April 16 at Dharmanagar subdivision level, National Science Day honoured the legacy of Nobel Laureate Dr. C.V. Raman. Students participated enthusiastically in competitions such as poster-making, model presentation, and speeches—many of them winning accolades for the school.

Welcoming New Teachers

Seven new faculty members joined the school as the new academic year began on April 22. Welcomed with joy by students and staff alike, they bring diverse skills and fresh energy to the institution. We wish them success in their journey with us.



KG I Initiation Ceremony

On April 26, thirty-five little learners were welcomed into the Holy Cross family during a delightful initiation event. Chief Guest Dr.



Padmaja emphasized the role of parents, while Fr. George Jacob, Guest of Honour, and the Principal encouraged a nurturing start to their academic journey.

Election of Student Leaders

On April 30, the school conducted elections for the roles of School Pupil Leader (SPL) and Assistant SPL. Candidates addressed the assembly with their visions, demonstrating strong leadership potential. This democratic exercise fostered responsibility and active participation among students.

- **Kanikkai Jeyraj, CSC**

NOTRE DAME HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, MOHARPARA

Teacher Seminar and Staff Meeting

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, a one-day seminar was organized by Principal Fr. Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC, focusing on "Characteristics of a Good Teacher" and "Report Writing". Fr. Lourdu highlighted the vital role of a teacher's character in inspiring students and shaping their growth.



The second session addressed the importance of documenting school events. Teachers were guided on effective report writing, photo documentation with proper camera settings, and using MS Word efficiently for school records.

In the staff meeting that followed, the academic plan was discussed, and committee coordinators shared their upcoming agendas, seeking the cooperation of all teachers.

Investiture Ceremony and Felicitation of Fr. Newton, CSC

On Monday, April 28, 2025, the school hosted a combined Investiture Ceremony and Felicitation of Fr. Newton Basumatary, CSC, recently ordained a priest. The program began with an address by



Principal Fr. Lourdu, who spoke on the values of leadership and responsibility.

Newly elected student leaders, including House Leaders, Class Leaders, the School Pupil Leader, and Assistant SPL, took their oath of office. Mr. Martin Kaipeng, Head Teacher, formally felicitated Fr. Newton, who then shared inspiring words on the importance of education and encouraged teachers in their mission of shaping young minds.

- *Sahaya Lourduraj, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, AGARTALA

Igniting Awareness-Fire Safety Drill

On March 27, 2025, Holy Cross School, Agartala, hosted a fire safety demonstration led by the Tripura Fire & Emergency Services. The session focused on equipping students with essential skills to respond calmly and effectively in fire emergencies. Demonstrations included orderly evacuation procedures and the use of safety equipment. Hands-on participation fostered confidence, awareness, and collective responsibility. The initiative was widely appreciated as a proactive step in promoting safety and preparedness within the school community.



Grandparents Day-Celebrating Generations of Love and Wisdom

The biennial Grandparents Day celebration was held under the theme “A Tribute to the Generations of Love and Wisdom.” Esteemed guests, including Shri Gerry Arathoon, Bishop Lumen Monteiro, Fr. KJ Abraham and other



dignitaries, graced the occasion. Students from Nursery to Class IV presented heartwarming performances on cultural values, family traditions, and the changing role of grandparents. Teachers’ efforts brought life to the stage, drawing praise from all.

Teacher Training

In collaboration with ExtraMarks, the school conducted a teacher training program aimed at enhancing the use of digital tools in the classroom. The session focused on classroom management, lesson planning, and assessment techniques through the ERP system’s features, such as automated grading and interactive whiteboards. The training empowered teachers to deliver more engaging and student-centered



learning experiences, marking a significant step toward digital transformation in education.

- *Jilson Tom, CSC*

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, KATHALCHERRA

Farewell and Welcome

On April 22, 2025, Holy Cross School, Kathalcherra, bid a heartfelt farewell to its outgoing principal, Dr. Fr. Davis Konuran, CSC, and extended a warm welcome to the new principal, Fr. Sharon Pius, CSC. The ceremony was attended by Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, Administrator of the province, Fr. Abraham, CSC, Manager of the school, and Fr. C.V. Jose, CSC, School Administrator. The event began with a short tribute to the late Pope Francis, remembered for his compassion and humility.



Led by Sr. Cicilia Kujur, BS, the headmistress, the farewell programme featured vibrant cultural dances by students and a touching song by the teachers. Heartfelt speeches were delivered by Miss Josephine Darlong (student representative), Mr. Tapan Debbarma (teacher representative), Sr. Cicilia, Fr. Abraham, and Fr. Alfred, all expressing gratitude to Fr. Davis and welcoming Fr. Sharon.

In his farewell message, Fr. Davis thanked the school community for their support during his tenure. Fr. Sharon, in turn, expressed his eagerness to work with the staff and students to continue building a strong learning environment.

Honouring Dedicated Service

On March 21, 2025, Holy Cross School, Kathalcherra, bid a heartfelt send-off to two of its esteemed teachers—Mr. Valerian Kachua and Mrs. Tanuja Rajkumari—who retired after years of dedicated service to the institution.

In a warm and dignified gathering, the school community came together to express deep gratitude for their selfless contributions. Dr. Fr. Davis Konuran, CSC, the principal, honoured both teachers with traditional rishas and commemorative souvenirs, acknowledging their commitment to nurturing generations of students with care and integrity.

The retiring teachers shared emotional reflections on their long association with the school, recalling memorable moments and the joy of shaping young minds. Their words resonated with the staff and students, many of whom were visibly moved.

Though it was a moment of farewell, it was also a celebration of a legacy of service. The Holy Cross family wished Mr. Kachua and Mrs. Rajkumari a joyful and fulfilling retirement, filled with peace and cherished memories.

- *Sharon Piuse, CSC*

ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, BODHJUNG NAGAR

Welcoming a New Academic Year

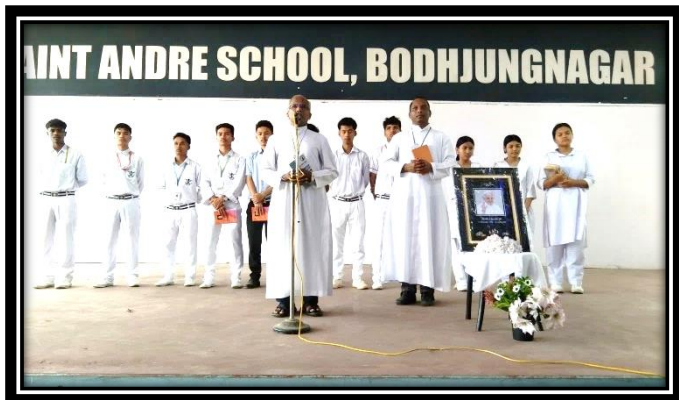
Saint Andre School marked the start of the new academic year on April 23, 2025, with a spirit of enthusiasm and renewal. The day began with a prayerful assembly and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the school manager, Fr. Mariaraj, CSC, alongside student and staff representatives. The initial classroom sessions were devoted to introductions, setting a positive tone for the months ahead.



In Memory of Pope Francis

On the first day of school, the Saint Andre community joined the global Church in mourning

the passing of Pope Francis. A solemn moment of silence was observed during the morning



assembly, with students and staff paying heartfelt tribute to the late Holy Father.

Leadership Formation-Investiture and Electoral Club Activities

The Investiture Ceremony was held on April 30, 2025, to formally induct the newly appointed house leaders. Dr. Fr. Davis Kunnuran, CSC, Vice Principal of Holy Cross College, Jubatara, presided over the ceremony and administered the oath. In his address, he urged the student leaders to be models of honesty and responsibility.



In a significant step towards experiential learning, the school conducted a democratic election for the roles of SPL and ASPL on April 29. Organized by the Electoral Club, the process allowed candidates to present their manifestos, followed by a structured voting process. The initiative offered students firsthand insight into the democratic process and the responsibilities of leadership.

- *Ishwar Happa, CSC*

ST. ANDRE PARISH, BODHJUNG NAGAR

A Season of Growth and Mission

The St. André Parish in Bodhjunnagar has experienced a vibrant season of renewal and mission. The renovated presbytery now serves as a welcoming space, where weekly Monday Masses followed by fellowship breakfasts with the SABS Sisters have become a new tradition of community and prayer.

Thanks to the support of Holy Cross priests from nearby institutions, five Sunday Masses are celebrated weekly, enriching parish life. The parish also bid farewell to Sch. Ajith Anburaj, CSC, from Tamil Nadu Province, who completed his regency here and left a mark of quiet dedication.

This Easter season, priests visited homes to offer blessings, embodying the parish's focus on mission for the year. The newly ordained Fr. Anupam, CSC, was warmly welcomed, and a new chapel at RK Para was blessed by Bishop Lumen Monteiro on May 6—signs of a faith community growing stronger.

With active involvement of four women religious congregations and a spirit of collaboration, St. André Parish continues to walk in hope and service.

- *Mariaraj, CSC*

ST. JOHN'S THE APOSTLE PARISH, KHAWZAWL

Holy Week Celebrations

St. John's the Apostle Parish, Khawzawl, witnessed a deeply spiritual and vibrant celebration of Holy Week, uniting the faithful in prayer, reflection, and joy.

Palm Sunday was marked with solemnity and devotion in both Khawzawl and Chhawrtui villages. The faithful participated in large



numbers, joining the traditional procession and Eucharistic celebration. The parish's Lenten emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation had spiritually prepared the community, making the celebration all the more meaningful.



Good Friday was observed with reverence and a deep sense of participation. Particularly moving was the Way of the Cross in Ngaizawl village, where the Passion of Christ was enacted for the first time. The heartfelt dramatization, organized by the Altar Servers, left a profound impact on the community and was highly appreciated for its spiritual depth.

The Easter Vigil marked a historic moment for the parish, as it was presided over for the first time by Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, DD. A large



number of parishioners participated in the candlelight procession and the liturgy, which was further enriched by Dr. Albert's soulful rendition of the Easter Proclamation in its original tune. The Bishop's homily brought words of hope and encouragement to the faithful.



Easter Sunday added another layer of significance to the celebrations with the blessing of the Centenary Jubilee Stone by the Bishop, commemorating 100 years of the Catholic faith in Mizoram. This meaningful gesture placed St. John's Parish at the forefront of the centennial observances and deepened the community's sense of identity and gratitude.

Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation

Forty-two children received First Holy Communion, and 30 youth were confirmed during the Easter celebrations. Thanks to the dedication of the Sunday School teachers, the candidates were well-prepared. A short fellowship with songs, recitations, and quizzes followed. The celebration concluded with a community meal symbolizing the joy of the Resurrection.



Co-Missionary Team Meeting

The Easter Monday meeting brought together 18 religious men and women from various congregations. Held at the priests' residence in Khawzawl, the session included mission sharing



and a fellowship lunch. The gathering concluded with an outing to Khawpuitan. The Bishop commended the dedication of all present and encouraged continued commitment to mission work.

Final Profession

Sr. Lucy Niandehman, SSpS, made her perpetual profession on April 23, 2025, at her native village, Ngaizawl. She is the first Holy Spirit Sister from the village. Bishop Stephen Rotluanga presided over the ceremony, attended by many faithful, sisters, and the SSpS Provincial Team. Sr. Lucy has been assigned to serve in Vietnam.

Blessing of St. Anthony's Church

The new St. Anthony Church in Vanchengpui was inaugurated and blessed, a testament to the unity and generosity of the local faithful who raised funds for the construction. The Bishop's presence



added solemnity to the occasion, and prayers were offered for the people of the village.

Farewell to Fr. Ishongkun Kurbah

The parish bid farewell to Fr. Ishongkun Kurbah, CSC, upon his transfer after one and half years of dedicated service. His language skills, pastoral dedication, and friendliness endeared him to the faithful. Farewell ceremonies were held on Easter Sunday and in various villages.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, KHAZWAWL

New Academic Year 2025

The school reopened on April 7, 2025, focusing solely on the primary section (Nursery to Class V) as per Provincial Council guidelines. With an enrolment of 64 students, the school is committed to offering quality education. Gratitude is extended to the Provincial Administration for continued support.

- *John PKC, CSC*

HOLY CROSS PARISH, MAWKYNREW

Honouring Service and Embracing New Leadership

Holy Cross Parish, Mawkynrew, recently experienced a moment of transition as the community bid a warm farewell to Fr. Sharon, CSC, who served both the parish and the school with exceptional dedication. His contributions to the development of

school infrastructure and parish life were deeply appreciated by the faculty and the Parish Pastoral Council. At the same time, the community joyfully



welcomed Fr. Preet Anupam Beck, CSC, as the new Assistant Parish Priest and Principal.

A Time of Spiritual Renewal

In celebration of the Jubilee Year—Pilgrims of Hope—a healing retreat was organized for the parishioners, offering an enriching opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation. The retreat witnessed enthusiastic participation and was a source of renewal for many.



The parish youth also gathered for a special spiritual formation program that included sessions on faith, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and reflections on the Jubilee Year, fostering unity and commitment among the young members of the Church.

Empowering Women

The Zonal Annual Gathering of Women was hosted at Holy Cross Parish, bringing together women from the region for a two-day event filled with prayer, reflection, and fellowship. The program included the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Richard Majaw. It



was a deeply empowering and grace-filled experience for all who attended.

Holy Week Observances

The Holy Week celebrations were marked by strong community participation and pastoral collaboration. Six priests, including Frs. Binoy, Shaiju, and Jowelson, joined the Mawkynrew



parish team to lead services across various villages. A moving Good Friday service was held at the parish, featuring a powerful enactment of the Way of the Cross at the football ground. The reflections delivered by Fr. Kitbok, CSC, left a lasting impression on the faithful.



Year of Mission Inaugurated

The parish inaugurated the Year of Mission on April 27, with the faithful gathered in prayer and commitment. Members of the Small Christian Community were entrusted with copies of the New Testament and blessed by Fr. Anupam to carry out evangelizing efforts within their prayer groups. Simultaneously, the annual Easter house blessings began, with parish priests traveling to nearby villages to bring the Easter message and blessings to families.

- **Preet Anupam Beck, CSC**

HOLY CROSS PARISH, UMKIANG

Celebrating Faith and Jubilee in Huroi Village

Holy Cross Parish, Umkiang, experienced a deeply spiritual celebration during the Parish Eucharistic Procession held on February 22–23, 2025, which also marked the Golden Jubilee of faith in Huroi Village. In preparation for the event, a variety of faith-strengthening initiatives



were organized, including a three-day retreat and renewal programme from February 14–16, conducted by the team from Umroi Retreat Centre. The retreat offered the faithful a meaningful opportunity to deepen their relationship with God.

The Eucharistic Procession was presided over by Most Rev. Ferdinand Dkhar, DD, Bishop of Jowai,



and was attended by many priests from the Meghalaya Region. Sacraments including Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Baptism, and the rectification of marriages were administered during the celebration. A large gathering of faithful participated, publicly

professing their faith in a vibrant expression of devotion.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, UMKIANG

Creative Celebrations

To foster creativity and holistic development of students, the school organized various events,



including a School Anthem competition (featuring original lyrics and tunes), a Fancy Dress and Fusion Fashion Show for different age groups, and contests in essay writing and drawing. These co-curricular activities helped students discover hidden talents and stay positively engaged.

Child Safety Awareness

The school was privileged to welcome Rev. Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Northeast Province, from April 8–10, 2025.



During his visit, he addressed the students and conducted an awareness seminar for teachers on the important topic of Safeguarding Children from Abuse.

- ***Roby Menacherry, CSC***

HOLY CROSS PARISH, KOLORIANG

A Solemn and Stirring Good Friday Procession

This year's Good Friday observance at Holy Cross Parish, Koloriang, was deeply moving. A large



number of the faithful participated in a solemn Way of the Cross procession, which began at the Koloriang Town Helipad and concluded at the Parish Church. The emotional reenactment of Christ's Passion touched many hearts and inspired renewed devotion.

Joyful Easter Celebrations and Special Guests

The Easter Vigil was prayerful and well-attended, presided over by Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC. The celebration was followed by the sharing of Easter eggs and tea. On Easter Sunday, the church was filled with new faces, with many actively participating in the Eucharistic celebration. The liturgy was followed by a fellowship meal.



The community was especially honoured by the presence of Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil, SDB, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati and veteran missionary Fr. C.C. Jose, SDB. Fr. Jose shared inspiring reflections from his mission experience in Palin Parish, while Archbishop Thomas spoke meaningfully on the growth of faith in Arunachal Pradesh.

Engaging with Civil Leaders and Local Well-Wishers

In the spirit of collaboration and goodwill, the parish team visited several prominent local leaders. These included Smt. Vishakha Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Kurung Kumey District; Madam Nido Ronnie and her husband, Sir David; Sir Nangram Pingkap, ADC Koloriang; and Sir Bomken Basar, SP Koloriang. Their gracious hospitality and continued support were deeply appreciated.



Village Outreach and Youth Engagement

During the Tridum celebration, Fr. Stephen Langsianmunga, CSC, along with catechist Yumlam Tache and a group of enthusiastic youth, visited three villages. Despite a hectic schedule, the team embraced the opportunity to be present among the people. To refresh after the pastoral efforts, the team enjoyed a picnic at the scenic Ziro Valley.

House Blessings

The annual Easter house blessings were carried out with determination, despite heavy rains and poor road conditions. The parish team ensured that every household was visited and



blessed, bringing joy and spiritual renewal to the families.

A Dream Realized-Inauguration of Holy Family Church in Relung

A momentous occasion unfolded on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2025, with the inauguration and blessing of the new Holy Family Church in Relung village. The realization of this long-awaited dream was made possible under the leadership of Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC, and through the



generous support of benefactors such as Mr. Bengia Bado and Madam Tei Hampu, CDPO. A large and joyous congregation gathered to witness the event, celebrating the growth of the Church in this remote village.

- **Prasanto Basumatary, CSC**



VOCATION CAMP

From April 13-15, 2025, St. Andre Minor Seminary (SAMS), Bodhjungle, hosted a Vocation Camp for the Tripura region, drawing 32



enthusiastic young men eager to discern their call

to religious and priestly life. The camp was organized under the leadership of Fr. Arbok, CSC, and Fr. Vicky Gayang, CSC. Over the course of three days, participants engaged in spiritual talks, group sharing, adoration, and guidance sessions led by priests and seminarians.

A special highlight was the presence of Rev. Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial of the Northeast Province, who presided over the Holy Eucharist and offered an inspiring message on faith, service, and commitment. Several other Holy Cross priests also contributed their support, helping to make the camp a deeply enriching experience. The seminary community extended its gratitude to all organizers, benefactors, and participants for their contributions to this meaningful initiative of vocational discernment.

- **Francis Gayang, CSC**



SACRED HEART STUDY HOUSE, LEMBUCHERRA

A Time of Spiritual Renewal

The Annual Retreat for 2025 was held from April 11 to 14 at Sacred Heart Study House, guided by Fr. Joseph M. Thohrii of the Archdiocese of Imphal. Centered on the theme "Experience, Encounter, Enliven," the retreat offered seminarians a meaningful time for prayer, reflection, and vocational discernment.



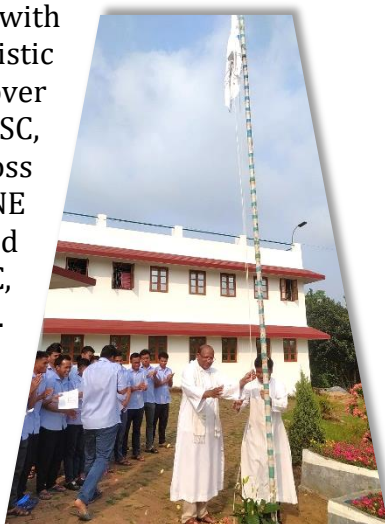
Fr. Joseph's talks combined practical wisdom with personal testimony, inspiring participants to deepen their commitment to the priestly vocation. The retreat

concluded with a motivational session, where he encouraged perseverance in the call to priesthood and made himself available for future guidance. The experience left all renewed and spiritually uplifted.

Launching the Year of Mission

On April 28, 2025, the Sacred Heart Study House joined the global Congregation of Holy Cross in inaugurating the Year of Mission—a year dedicated to strengthening missionary discipleship.

The celebration began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC, Director of Holy Cross Family Ministries-NE India and concelebrated by Fr. Kitbok, CSC, Director of SHSH. Following the liturgy, the community held a symbolic flag-hoisting ceremony, during which Fr. Roy and Fr. Kitbok raised the Mission Flag.



As the flag ascended, the candidates sang the Holy Cross anthem with pride and purpose, marking a moment of unity and commitment to the congregation's mission worldwide.

- *Kitbok Khongrymmai, CSC*

HOLY CROSS PINE VIEW STUDY HOUSE, SUMER

Formation Activities and Faith Encounters

March and April were filled with meaningful events for the Holy Cross Pine View Study House,

Sumer. From March 24–28, the seminarians participated in their annual retreat at Umroi Retreat Centre—a time for deep reflection and renewal in their vocational journey. On April 1, Bishop Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, visited the house, stayed overnight, and delivered an encouraging talk emphasizing the growing need for committed Holy Cross priests.



Meanwhile, two vocation camps were hosted: a “Come and See” programme on March 12–13 for Class X students, which included inspiring inputs and teamwork by Frs. Shaiju, Binoy, John Valan, Shanbor, and Anupam; and the Meghalaya Region Post-Matric Vocation Camp on April 23, which saw 18 participants. The community remains hopeful for a positive response from the attendees.

Visits and Community Engagement

The Study House was blessed with the visit of three scholastics from the Province of South India—Philip, Jacob, and Preetam—who were attending a module in preparation for their Final Profession. On March 28, Fr. Jowelson, CSC, returned after completing a diploma in Spirituality, Psychology, and Counselling. He is currently accompanying the pre-novices in preparation for their novitiate.

Other visitors included Fr. Leo D’Souza, CSC, and Bro. Joseph Karickal, CSC, who



surprised the seminarians with thought-provoking questions. On April 21, Fr. K.O. Joseph,

CSC, returned after three years of service in Pune Seminary and was warmly welcomed back to the region.

Celebrations, Farewells, and Reflections

March 20 marked the farewell of Fr. Shaiju Anthony, CSC, who was officially transferred to Brookdene. His departure left a noticeable void in the Sumer community.

On March 13, the community also took a moment to felicitate the newly ordained priests, Fr. Shanborlang Marwein, CSC, and Fr. Anupam Beck, CSC, during the closing of the “Come and See” camp.



On April 12, the seminarians staged a moving Good Friday Passion Play with the help of the Sumer youth, drawing a spellbound audience. The month ended with a long-awaited picnic to Cherrapunji on April 21, a joyful outing tempered by the sorrowful news of the passing of Pope Francis.

Year of Mission Inauguration

On April 28, the community inaugurated the Congregation's Year of Mission with a solemn Eucharist presided over by Fr. K.O. Joseph followed by the hoisting of the Mission Flag. The celebration marked the community's



renewed commitment to missionary discipleship in the spirit of Holy Cross.

- *Clement Amo, CSC*



MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

Our mission team of seven has been warmly welcomed in the South Pacific. We've been divided into two groups and assigned to two parishes run by two different religious congregations in the diocese—both rooted in the region's traditions and deeply pastoral in their approach.



My group—two priests and two brothers—was placed in a modest guest house near the Bishop's residence. We manage our own cooking and laundry, which, though simple, helps us integrate more deeply into the local rhythm of life. We'll shift to our permanent residence in a few months, hopefully with some domestic assistance.



During Holy Week, we were fully immersed in pastoral ministry, visiting sub-centres across the parishes. The local pastors created intense schedules for us that helped us quickly connect with the faithful. We were thrown into liturgical life almost immediately, reading Mass in Tok Pisin, the local language. Engine boats are our

mode of travel—20 minutes across shores to reach various mission points.

One of the most beautiful responsibilities we've embraced is preparing children and parents for baptism, many of whom received the sacraments during the Easter Vigil. Now, we've begun preparing couples for marriage. The hunger for



the sacraments is palpable—the people are spiritually eager, warm-hearted, and incredibly welcoming.

Of course, the climate is harsh—hot and humid with no regular electricity. Water must be boiled, food is simple, and illnesses are a reality. Despite occasional health setbacks—stomach upsets, fevers, mosquito bites—we are adjusting. Personally, I've found boiled fish and bananas surprisingly sustaining. I've begun reading Scripture in Tok Pisin,



taking regular walks, and sleeping well. My life and ministry in Mizoram prepared me well for this mission—it gave me roots for this transition.

The scarcity of priests here means many villages go weeks without the Eucharist. It's a reminder of why we're here: to be present, to serve, and to

bring Christ to the margins. This ministry, though challenging, is deeply enriching. I am slowly finding my place here—and I am grateful.

- *Thomas John, CSC*



ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF HOLY CROSS EDUCATORS - 2025

Shaping the Future of School Leadership

The Annual Conference of Holy Cross Educators for 2025 was held from May 2nd to 4th at Agartala, drawing together 40 principals and headmistresses from Holy Cross schools across the region. This year's theme, "Imagine, Innovate, Inspire: The Emerging Tomorrow of School Leadership," served as both a vision and a call to action as the participants explored new paradigms of educational leadership.



The gathering was marked by meaningful dialogue, reflection, and a shared commitment to fostering transformative education. The presence of two distinguished resource persons, Mr. Emmanuel Braggs and Mr. Sanjay Radhakrishnan, greatly enriched the experience.



Mr. Braggs led a focused session on revisiting recruitment policies and service rules, encouraging school leaders to think critically

about institutional structures and ensure fairness, clarity, and sustainability in school staffing practices. His practical insights helped schools rethink their HR approaches in alignment with Holy Cross values.



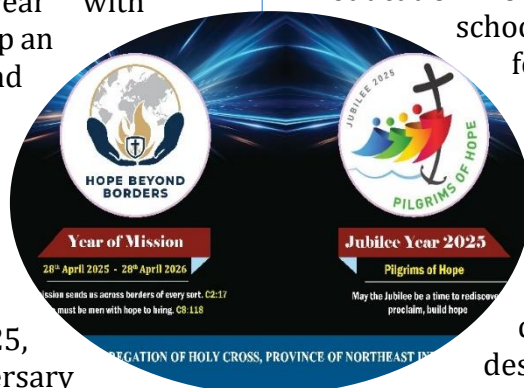
Mr. Radhakrishnan's sessions on visionary school leadership and the pursuit of excellence were energizing and forward-looking. Drawing from his vast experience, he challenged participants to reflect on their roles not just as administrators, but as change-makers capable of shaping dynamic and values-driven learning communities.

Throughout the three days, the atmosphere was one of renewal, collaboration, and inspiration. Participants left the conference with a deeper sense of mission and a renewed commitment to lead their schools with imagination, courage, and faith.



NORTHEAST PROVINCE EMBARKS ON 'YEAR OF MISSION' WITH VISION AND ZEAL

The Congregation of Holy Cross, Northeast India Province, has begun the year with earnestness and vision, drawing up an ambitious calendar of activities and spiritual engagements in response to the Congregation-wide call to observe the Year of Mission (2025–2026). This special year was formally launched by the General Administration on 28 April 2025, commemorating the 185th anniversary



of the first Holy Cross missionaries being sent to Algiers in 1840.

Under the unifying theme “Hope Beyond Borders,” the Year of Mission invites every Holy Cross religious and collaborator to cross physical, cultural, and spiritual boundaries in the service of the Gospel. Drawing from the Constitutions—“our mission sends us across borders of every sort” (2:17)—this global initiative emphasizes encounter over division, and justice over indifference. It is placed under the patronage of Servant of God Brother Flavien LaPlante and Servant of God Bishop Vincent McCauley, both enduring models of missionary dedication.

The Superior General has outlined four core objectives for this holy year:

1. To reflect on the mission entrusted to us by Blessed Basile Moreau in the context of today's Church and world;
2. To renew our missionary zeal and deepen our commitment to be men and women of hope with a preferential option for the poor;
3. To cultivate the courage and openness to go wherever the mission calls;
4. To inspire lay collaborators and partners to more fully embrace the Holy Cross mission.

In alignment with the vision set forth by the Superior General, the Northeast India Province has crafted a robust and far-reaching action plan for the Year of Mission. This comprehensive plan includes province-wide webinars on the theology of mission, parish-level engagements, faith education for children, and mission-themed school programs like SPES UNICA. It also features initiatives such as data collection on mission outreach, regional reflections on key ecclesial and congregational documents, the honouring of pioneering missionaries, and storytelling through video documentaries. These efforts are designed not only to deepen

missionary awareness but also to foster community reflection, celebrate our missionary heritage, and inspire renewed commitment across generations and ministries.

The Superior General has called for “deep reflection and bold action,” reminding all that the

mission must be pursued with “the competence to see and the courage to act” (C2:14). With numerous programs already underway and more in preparation, the Northeast Province stands ready to walk this year in faith, hope, and generous service—truly making borders places of encounter.

In Grateful Remembrance



POPE FRANCIS

17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025



With Hopeful Heart



Pope Leo XIV

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