



Guwahati Newsletter

Archbishop's House, Ambari, Guwahati

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Installation of Fr. Jacob at Rangjuli



Installation of Fr. Rajesh at Nagaon



Installation of Fr. Messiah at Matia



Installation of Fr. Raj Kapoor at Lumding



Installation of Fr. Thomas at Kaki



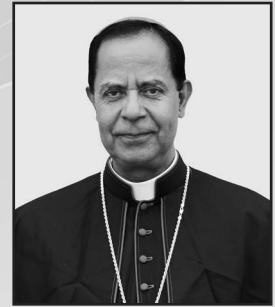
Installation of Fr. Paul at Changsari



Installation of Fr. John at Amsoi

*Congratulations!
All the best for your
New Mission*

SHEPHERD SPEAKS



Environmental Protection

The theme of the North East Regional Pastoral conference 2022 was Climate Change in Northeast India and Care for God's creation. The participants were highly appreciative of the theme and the animators were passionate in their plea to take steps to save the earth and suggested various ways and means especially when the world is witnessing upheavals and unpredictability of climate.

The book of Genesis speaks of the world God had created. "Yahweh planted a garden in Eden...there he put the man he had fashioned...From the soil Yahweh caused to rise up every kind of tree enticing to look at and good to eat... A river flowed from Eden to water the garden...The man and the woman heard the sound of Yahweh walking in the garden in the cool of the day..."

The Misery of Mother Earth: The good earth that God had created has been suffering from many maladies over the years. Scientists have calculated that 1.7 million species exist now. It might have been 20 or 30 million, some years ago. 30 species are becoming extinct every day. Every species has its position in the ecosystem and we cannot afford to lose them. Naturalists have stated that if the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, mankind would only have four years left to live. The extinction of any species is like losing a limb. There is desertification, depletion of underground water and pollution of rivers and seas with waste dumped into them. We are leaving to our posterity a wounded, polluted and sickly world. We have not cared for mother earth which provides us food, water and fresh air and have made life here miserable.

My Experience: As a young priest I used to travel through dense forests to reach some of our parishes and villages. Now after 35/40 years when I travel through those same roads there is no trace of a forest. Settlements and factories have sprung up there. Timber is cut off and sold outside the state by unscrupulous elements with the connivance or negligence of Govt machinery. As a result the hill sides and plains have become barren, and rivulets dried up, rains have become less, and when it rains fertile soil is washed away; garbage is everywhere and life in towns is unhygienic; pollutants in the cities and towns freely flow into our rivers and water ways. Pesticides and fertilizers are used widely and the water in the rivulets has become dangerous both for man and animals.

Signs of Hope: Yet all is not lost. God is raising up young and old, Church personnel and civilians to champion the cause of the earth, though their cry seems to have come too late. On



2nd November 2021 Vinisha Uma Shankar aged 14 an environmentalist and an innovator, and the winner of Children Climate prize 2021 made a speech in the UN at the International Climate Change Conference before Narendra Modi, Boris Johnson, Joe Biden and other world leaders telling them that she and the youngsters of her age are frustrated by leaders who make empty promises. She said she is not just a girl from India but a girl of the earth. She said "We don't need an economy built on fossil oil because it adds to pollution. We need a new vision. We need to protect and restore nature. We need clean air, revive our rivers and ocean, a waste free world and to fix our climate". Now rains are coming out of season, wild fires are more frequent and perennial rivers are running dry. There is more of her ilk now: Greta Thunberg the Swedish young environmentalist protested at the inaction of her Govt, before the Swedish Assembly in 2018. Coming to our own country there is Rajendra Singh- the waterman of India, Jadav Payeng the man who planted a forest, Rakhibuddin Ahmed the environmentalist from Assam. In short they tell us to love and respect nature, save energy and water; plant trees and grow gardens, reduce waste; reuse, and recycle, volunteer to clean up and maintain cleanliness.

Interconnectedness of nature and mankind: Earth our common Home is composed of living and non-living organisms. They are interconnected. No living creature can live without reference to non-living organisms. The interaction between the living and nonliving, makes the earth balanced, healthy, resourceful and beautiful. When balance is lost we have environmental disasters caused by overproduction, overconsumption, and pollution resulting in air and water borne diseases, global warming, floods, earthquake, storms, drought, etc. Environmental degradation creates migration, large slums, and large number of people living under poverty line. Children suffer more than adults due to environmental issues. It is estimated that 1.5 million Children die annually due to diseases and disabilities caused by environmental pollution though they are the least responsible for the same.

Poor Implementation of Environmental Laws: India has mechanism and laws to save and protect environment but has no will to execute them. We have human rights, child rights, minority rights and environmental rights. There is wild life protection Act (1972), Environmental Protection Act and Ministry of Environment. At judicial level we have National Green Tribunal. But environmental issues are used by politicians and the rich for political and monetary gains. 70% of our water sources are contaminated. In environmental performance India is placed 169 out of 180 nations.

What does the church teach? Pope Francis said that the cry of the earth is the cry of the poor. God made man the steward of creation. He is not its master but received it as a gift. Pope John Paul II said, "Concern for creation is an essential part of our faith". Vatican City State has set an example as a carbon neutral state. Seeing the example of Vatican churches and institutions are going for lawns, organic gardening, using renewable and biodegradable materials. Some have started using waste tires and other non-degradable materials for construction that these do not cause environmental damage.

What can we do? We can, with concerted action, give back to mother earth its pristine beauty and health as when God had created it and left it in the care of humans. The responsibility to save the world depends on each human being as we are the cause of much disaster. The Pastoral

council has suggested steps we need to take in our parishes and institutions to save the environment.

- * In our talks and homilies focus on eco-concerns.
- * Celebrate Earth Day, Green Sunday etc.
- * Encourage eco-friendly habits: avoid plastics, conserve energy, tree plantation programs, not killing of birds and wild animals, etc.
- * Encourage better waste management.
- * Encourage kitchen gardens.
- * Give plants as gifts during the various programs conducted in parishes and schools.
- * SCC, SHGs and women groups could be motivated to work on climate change issues.
- * Motivate teachers, students and parents through assemblies and seminars.
- * Organize poster making, drawing competitions and promote eco-clubs in the schools.
- * Create green spaces in schools.
- * Organize better waste management.
- * Organize Children's Parliament in schools.
- * School canteens should not be allowed to sell junk food and the use of plastics.
- * Have a policy of not cutting trees.
- * Give awards to best green campus at the diocesan level.
- * Encourage use of solar energy and rain water harvesting.
- * Print quotes from Laudato Si and exhibit them in the school buildings.
- * Tap governmental funds for eco-friendly projects.
- * Encourage local communities to avoid deforestation.
- * Encourage tribal customs and methods of preserving and protecting the environment.
- * Conscientize the village leaders and encourage them to be involved in these issues.
- * Make people aware of the harmful effects of mining.
- * Encourage the use of traditional medicines.
- * Encourage the growth of local trees and fruits.
- * We could go by the caption, "Simplify your Life." And above all be personally transformed.

Conclusion: Let us take the issue of environmental protection to heart and promote it especially taking the above mentioned steps. I also want to inform all in the archdiocese of Guwahati that between 15 November and 14 December 2022 all the institutions will be evaluated by a team from the archdiocese and the cleanest and greenest institution/school/parish will be awarded during the Pre-Christmas Celebration on 15th December. God bless you

+John Moolachira
Archbishop of Guwahati



ARCHDIOCESE OF
GUWAHATI

Editorial

Care for our common home!

When we speak of the care for our common home, we are reminded of the Book of Genesis, of the Old Testament where we clearly read about our place, responsibility, duty and attitude towards our environment that is the protection of our nature, our mother earth in which we live as humans in accordance with God's will and plan. We know that we are created in God's image and have received a mandate to subject to the earth and all it contains, and to govern the world with justice and holiness (GS 34). When we see the creation we are reminded of the whole of creation, in all its mystery, variety, and beauty is the work of God's hands. What God has created in its entire splendor, is very good. Thus, we are placed in the world as stewards to tend the world, use it wisely and preserve it for successive generations.



Today, due to human's greed; the activities of men have caused disastrous effect on the whole creation. Instead of being its steward, we seek to dominate in such a way that our actions have often caused great harm to nature. The whole creation, with human beings, out of compassion, love and mercy of God, is created and destined to be recreated in Christ and we are invited to strive to restore creation to its original blessing and goodness as when it first came from the hand of God, the Creator. We need to restore the ecological balance in creation, without plundering its natural resources, polluting the air, water and earth.

Hence, we are invited to work strenuously to create awareness among humanity, the importance of ecological issues for the survival of our planet, and join hands together to create a home free from all abuses. Let us strive to create our home, our world; the gift we have received from God, a better place to live in, for ourselves and for the generations to come. May our Archdiocese in all its activities strive to protect our environment, caring for one another and the whole creation, especially our planet earth, which is groaning in pain.

Fr. Lucas Hemrom

NORTH EAST INDIA REGIONAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE-2022

The NORTH EAST INDIA REGIONAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE-2022 on the Theme "Climate Change in North East India and Care for God's Creation" was successfully organized on 12th to 15th September, 2022 at Jubilee Memorial Hall, North East Diocesan Social Service Society, Joypur, Kharghuli, Guwahati.



All the Archbishops, Bishops, Mother Generals, Major Superiors, Provincials and all the important leaders of the Church attended the Conference. The inaugural program began with a prayer dance by the Pre-Novices of the Holy Cross of Chavanod, Guwahati as a fitting gesture of seeking God's presence and assistance. It was followed by the Bible reading from Genesis 1:26-28 by Rev. Fr. Anil Joseph Vaniyakunnel, Assistant Director, NEDSSS.

Most Rev. Paul Mattekatt, Bishop of Diphu led the participants in prayer, followed by lighting of the lamps by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and President, NEIRBC, Most Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima and Secretary General, Bishop Dominic Lumon, Vice-Chairman of NEIRBC, Rev. Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Bombay, Fr. Dr. Sebastian Ousepparampil, Director, NEDSSS, Sr. Philomena Mathew, MSMHC, Superior General and Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, President of CRI, SVD Provincial for North East.

It was followed by the introduction to the program and Most Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima and Secretary General, NEIRBC briefed the theme of the Conference. He explained that we are experiencing concretely climate change; effect of changes and atmosphere in the world. So the theme based on this caring for the universe in our local situations and the environment that we live is relevant. We need to take real decisions as the leaders and need to take first step to care for the creation. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and President, NEIRBC, officially welcomed the gathering and he declared the Pastoral Conference-2022 opened.

The main resource person of the Conference, Most Rev. Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop,

Archdiocese of Bombay, presented the Keynote Address. Giving insights to the assembly on the theme, he spoke about 'Enlivening Faith through the Restoration of Ecological Relationships'. He pointed out the Role of Humankind and quoted from the *Laudato Si*- Tend to the earth with love while seeking the kingdom of heaven. He dealt extensively on Sustainability and Catholic Social Teaching and Human Dignity-Common good-Solidarity-Subsidiary-Participation-Discern-Stewardship-Preferential Option for the poor.

The other resource persons included: Rev. Fr. Robert Athickal S.J, Director, Tarumitra Bio-Reserve, Patna; Prof. Abani Kumar Bhagabati, Professor, Department of Geography, Guwahati University; Dr. Vincent Darlong Ph.D-former Vice Chancellor, MLCU and Agricultural Scientist; Dr. Ujjal Deka Baruah, Associate Professor, Dept of Geography, Cotton University and Dr. Lukose P. J., Department of Social Work, Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati.

A well prepared scientific papers were presented with the help of power-point by the resource persons and they extensively dealt on the topics of *Laudato Si*: Its significance for North East India: Being Merciful to Mother Earth-Care for our Common Home; An Eco-Spirituality for our Times; North East India: Environmental Issues and Challenges; Caring for our Mother earth-Pathways to Conservation-Searching for the new heavens and the new Earth"; Soil and Water Conservation with Reference to North East India; Climate change is the concern of everybody; Recurring Floods and Landslide: Causes and Prevention; Flood and Erosion: Its Nature, Dimension, and Characteristics with special reference to Assam and Sustainable Development Goals 13: Vision for the North East and Church's Role.

The Panelists included: Rev. Fr. Chacko Karinthayal, Director, Shalom Centre, Dimapur, Rev. Fr. Johny Parankimalil SDB, Rector and Director, DBI, Guwahati, Rev. Fr. Jose Kuzhikkattuthaze SVD, Director, SANSKRITI-NEICR, Guwahati, Fr. Dr. Walter Fernandes S.J, Director, NESRC, Guwahati, Rev. Fr. Andrew Xavier SDB, Green Promoter, Salesian Province, Dimapur, Dr. Mukesh K. Srivastava, Assistant Professor, NIRD, Guwahati. They presented a well prepared papers on the topics: Climate Change and Church's Response from the perspective of Pastoral Apostolate; Climate Change and Church's response from the Perspective of Educational Apostolate; Climate Change and Church's Response from the Perspective of Indigenous Community; Climate Change and Church's Response from the Perspective of Social Apostolate and Climate Change in NEI and Care for God's Creation-Early Habit Formation in Green Living - taken into grass-root level.

ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL CONFERENCE 2022

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Conference - 2022 with the theme "TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH" was held at Don Bosco School Auditorium, Panbazar on 06-09-2022. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, Rev. Fr. Mathew Anchukandam, Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Crospier Sangma, Chancellor, Rev. Fr. John Paul, Procurator, all the Parish Priests, Assistant Parish Priests, Provincials, Regional Superiors, Delegates, Superiors of different communities, Touring Sisters, Parish Council Representatives and Youth Representatives participated in the Pastoral Conference.

At 9.30 A.M the Pastoral Conference began with the inaugural ceremony and Fr. Messiah PK, the compere of the inaugural function guided the participants to understand the purpose of the conference. At the onset of the programme, Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati and other representative from different groups lighted the lamp, which was followed by video song on "Shine Jesus shine". The program began with a prayer led by Rev. Fr. Phillip Pazhambasseril, Rector of St. Jerome Minor Seminary and Psalm 25, a prayer for God's guidance and for deliverance was prayed by all the participants followed by intercessory prayers for various intentions and concluded with a Prayer for Synod. After the prayers, Mr. Allen Brooks, Vice President of ADPC officially welcomed the gathering.

After the welcome address, Fr. Anna Amala Christian, Member of the Diocesan Synodal Team moderated the report of the Synodal Summary and it was presented by Fr. Joby Abraham-Chief Coordinator of the Synodal Team. He gave a concise synthesis of the meaning, aim and purpose of Synodality.

Reports received from 23 Parishes and Archdiocesan Synthesis were read out and after every presentation of the document through the power-point, the assembly was given time for comments, interactions and clarifications. The reports were presented by Fr. P.D Johny SDB, Fr. Xavier Kachappily OSST, Sr. Kabita Pani DSP, Fr. Nicholas D. Sangma, Ms. Sophia Neicy Doungel, Fr. John Barman MSFS on Communion and Community Building, Participation of the Lay Faithful: Roles and Responsibilities, The Leadership, Governance, Decision Making, The Faith Formation, Spiritual Growth and Evangelization, Mission, Collaboration, Visibility, and the Extract from National Synod respectively were read out.

Synthesis of Group Reports and Action Plan:

Communion:

- * Under the leadership of Parish Council different groups are to be constituted like Youth, Women Wing etc. for better communication and deepening of faith.
- * There is a need to strengthen the SSC and Parish Council, support groups.

Participation:

- * Faith formation by making the faithful enjoy the faith through Sunday classes, catechism classes, seminar etc.
- * Assignment of responsibility of Parish activities to all age-groups - children, youth, women, and men.
- * Organize separate Holy Mass for Youth and children at least once.
- * The Parish Council and finance committee is to be set up for monitoring and better laity participation.
- * Create a corpus fund in the Parish level for the education and medical support of the needy.

Mission:

- * Constant visits to the people who do not come to the Church. Family Visit is needed to be given top most priority
- * Send laity for short term training courses, need to train the catechists.
- * Formation and strengthen the Parish Council, SCC, Bible Group, laity group etc.
- * Involve Zone groups of the Parish for Sunday liturgical and other activities.
- * Learn local languages.

At the end of the presentation of the group reports, the moderator thanked everyone for their active participation and for sharing their ideas. Then he invited Archbishop John Moolachira for Synthesis and Resolutions. He said that the main purpose of the pastoral conference is to bring together the important leaders of the Archdiocese of Guwahati so that he/ she understand their duties and take our Archdiocese forward.

1. He expressed his concern on a strong Parish Council at any parish. He advised those Parish Priests who are not capable or afraid to organize the Parish Council meeting, need to accept their limitations and quit from the post or make active effort and establish the strong Parish Council team.
2. Only 23 Parishes submitted the Synodal Report. He felt that some of the Parish Priests have not yet organized the Synodal meetings. He invited those Parishes to start the Synodal journey.
3. Synod calls us to journey together or being together or walking together: Church does not belong to Pope or Bishops alone but it belongs to every believer, as a result we walk together. Therefore, we have Communion, Participation and Mission. Thus, it is supporting and promoting one another, responding to someone, transforming one another, respecting, communicating, understanding, sharing, bearing with one another, it is forgiving. When we expressed all these in our journey, it is communion and making communion grow and Pope is asking us to share this communion. Communion starts from Triune God: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We have diverse natures, cultures, languages and traditions but our faith has brought us together.
4. Pope says that everybody is part of the Church and should participate in the mission of the Church. Therefore, renew our enthusiasm for the Church and include everybody and must forgo our self will. Church is mission and Mission is with God. God is Missionary and sent His Son to the world and when Jesus completed His earthly Mission and ascended into heaven, He sent Holy Spirit to sanctify us. If you are the Church member, automatically you are missionary. We give our best that our Church become alive and it will be ongoing mission.
5. Renewal of the faithful through Retreat shall be animated in Parish and local levels.
6. Areas need to work hard to establish SCC in all the Parishes and family visit is compulsory.
7. Every Parish should have action plan for every group.

After his exhortations, he gave some of the important announcements and concluded the words of appreciation.

ST. CLARET CHURCH, BORJHAR

Silver Jubilee of Death of St. Mother Teresa Celebrated at Shanitdan, Lonkeswar

On Sept. 5, the sisters and inmates of Shantidan celebrated 25 years of death anniversary of Mother Teresa at Shantidan (Missionaries Charity House) Lonkeswar. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati con-celebrated the Holy Mass together with the fathers of neighboring communities. After the mass there was



Floral tribute to the the statue of Mother followed by cultural fiesta arranged by the sisters, inmates and village people of Lowerhat parish. On the occasion Shri HPS Khandari, Commandant, I Bn. NDRF spoke on Mother Teresa. As a conclusion all the inmates and guests had festal meal.

Elderly People honored at Borjhar Parish



On the occasion of the feast of St. Joachim and St. Anna, the grandparents of Jesus, on July 30 the grandparents of St. Claret Parish were invited for celebration in the Church. After the Confession and Holy Mass, the elderly were felicitated with gamocha and then tea and snacks were served to all.

Pastoral Visit of Archbishop to Borjhar Parish

Most Rev. John Moolachira offered Holy Mass at St. Claret Church Borjhar on Sunday June 19, 2022 and met the Priests together with Parish Council members. People expressed concern over the need of having a Catholic Cemetery in this area. Since the land is unavailable in the vicinity and because of its high cost, all suggested to have in Moirapur village, in the Rani area. People as well as Archbishop appreciated all the Parish activities there.



Mother's Meal Kits distributed in Borjhar Parish every month

Since last three years, every month, NavJan: A People Empowerment Trust of the Claretians distributed Kits worth Rs.500 to 60 Assamese families in Dhokhla, Borkuchi and Bongra villages under Borjhar Parish, in Kamrup District, Assam. After the Covid-19 Pandemic, they continued the distribution, focusing more to the challenged people, with different kind of disabilities. Due to the disability, parents cannot go for work or somebody has to always accompany them: blind, deaf, mentally ill, bedridden or autism patients. So, the Kits provided were really a support for those families and they were always grateful for this generous act. Thanks to the many generous people who donated the amount and the volunteers who distributed every month.



Environmental Day Celebrated

World Environmental Day was celebrated at Borjhar, Guwahati with the people of the Parish on June 6, 2022. Sapplings were planted by women leaders and explained to the people the need of preservation of nature, avoiding plastic and keeping the public places clean. On the previous day valuable plants were planted in the campus by Fr. Joseph and the staff. St. Claret School had also its celebration on the previous day with conscientization program and plantation drive in the school campus by the students.



ST. THOMAS CHURCH, BHALUKDUBI

Parish Day Celebrated

St. Thomas Feast Day was celebrated on 3 July 2022 with pomp and gaiety in St. Thomas Church, Bhalukdubi, Goalpara. The day started with bright sunshine, cheer on every face and high spirit who came to take part in the Parish Day celebration as it could not have it last two years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. People gathered at the main gate of the parish to welcome his grace John Moolachira, the archbishop of Guwahati, the main celebrant of the day. He was welcomed with the Adivasi



colorful traditional dance to the parish Church. The Holy Mass begun at 10 AM. Fr. Subhas Chandra Lima, the parish priest welcomed His Grace, fathers, sisters and the faithful to the celebration with his warm words of welcome and introducing the celebration.

On this propitious day, the joy was doubled as 36 Children received First Holy Communion and 97 Children received the Sacrament of Confirmation. After the Holy Mass there was a short eye-catching Cultural Program and felicitation, after which followed a grand meal for everyone. The parishioners worked hard to make the event a grand success.



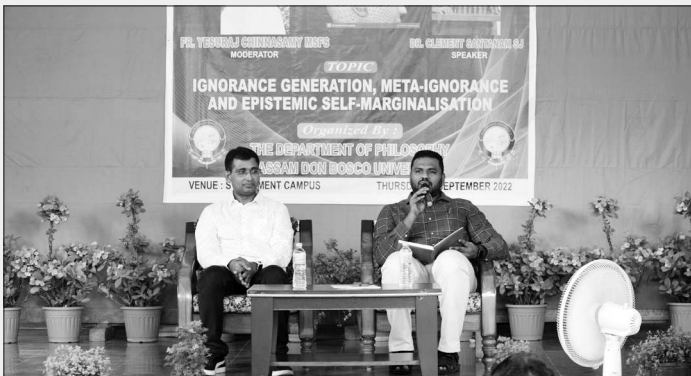
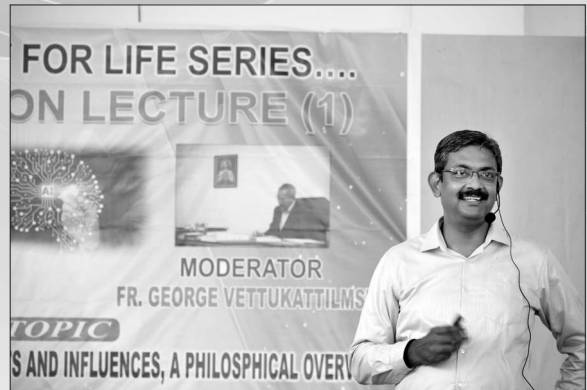


ST. CLEMENT COLLEGE, NAGAON

Philosophy For Life Series

St. Clement College has initiated from this academic year (2022-23) a series of **EXTENSION LECTURES** titled as Philosophy for life Series. There would be a lecture each in every two months delivered by an expert in that particular field. Two lectures are already delivered.

The first lecture was on "Artificial Intelligence (AI): Influences and Impacts" delivered on 19th August 2022 by Professor John Jose from IIT, Guwahati. He in his lecture highlighted the tremendous impact AI has made particularly in the field of medicine, national security, education and service sectors. The professor also underscored the moral dilemma caused by the over influences of AI. It was new field of information to the students of philosophy. Fr. George Vettukattil MSFS Moderated the session.



The second lecture was held on 29th September 2022 and delivered by Professor Clement Santanam SJ from JDV, Pune. He spoke on "Ignorance Generation, Meta Ignorance and Epistemic Self-Marginalization". Ignorance Generation takes place in two ways: a) When a person knows the truth, he hides it and deliberately disseminates the false information. The receiver

believes the false information as true. b) When the speaker does not have the truth and he imparts the false information as the truth and the receiver accept the false information as true. When the whole community believes the false information as true, it is called meta-ignorance. For instance, the whole world believed in the geo-centric world view and lived believing geo-centrism as true. Such communities live in Epistemic marginalisation, deprived of truth! Fr. Yesuraj Chinnasamy moderated the session. This talk cautioned the students to be careful in accepting information particularly in this age of "post-truths" and biased media culture.

Blessing of Mariam Nivas, Hostel for the Student Sisters

11th of July 2022 was a day of blessing for the St. Clement campus. The search by the student sisters for a comfortable and safe study house came to an end with the completion of Mariam Nivas, a hostel for the sisters who would be studying at St. Clement College. The hostel was blessed by Most. Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati, and inaugurated by very Rev. Sr. Philomena Mathew MSMHC, the Superior General of MSMHC in the



presence of His Lordship Albert Hemrom, the bishop of Dibrugarh, invited guests and students. Mariam Nivas was built by the Archdiocese of Guwahati and is entrusted to the MSMHC sisters of Guwahati Province. Rev. Sr. Lisa Chetri, Provincial of Guwahati Province of MSMHC thanked everyone particularly Fr. Joseph Olickal and Fr. John Paul for their support and prayers in actualizing the hostel.

Inauguration of the New Academic Year



St. Clement College entered into the seventh year of its existence with the Inauguration of the New Academic Year on 11th July 2022. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, Rector, welcomed everyone for the Mass of The Holy Spirit which was officiated by His Grace Most Rev. John Moolachira the Chairman of St. Clement College. Most Rev. Albert Hemrom concelebrated with him so also many other fathers of the seminary and around.

The keynote address was delivered by Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Mahapurush Srimant Shankardev University. In his address he underscored the need to be sensitive to the needs of the other. Demonstrating the example of the joint family system he said, just like in the joint family where the children show respect towards their parents, and the parents are sensitive to the need of the children and whole family members support every one with proper understanding, so too the members of an educational institution have to be respectful, sensitive and offer mutual support to bring out the best results among the students and guide the institution to greater heights. The students were enriched by the

fatherly advice given by His Grace, inspiring message by Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial and Governing Body member of St. Clement College.

4th Convocation



4th Convocation Day of St. Clement College was held on the 3rd of June 2022. Thirty-two students successfully completed their graduation in Philosophy from Assam Don Bosco University. The Chief Guest of the day was Brigadier Sumer D'Cunha, Dy GOC, HQ, Narengi, Guwahati. In his Convocation Address he emphasized the need to live in freedom to grow to maturity and be responsible priests and religious in the future. He loved the motto of the college, "Truth Shall Set You Free (Veritas Liberabit Vos) and exhorted the students to live

the motto by being seekers of truth and true freedom. He gave away the course completion certificates along with Most. Rev. John Moolachira, the Chairman of St. Clement College and Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, The provincial of MSFS Guwahati province. Bro. Dominic Lalremkima of Aizawl diocese obtained the first rank.

Debate on Social Media

Social media has grown leaps and bounds. It has entered into every sphere of human life. Social media play a vital role in education, healthcare, communication, entertainment, sports and even in religion and social life. Social media helps one to access things faster and quicker. But is social media all that hunky dory? Social media also has made people individualistic cut off from real human interaction, made people addicted to video games, pornography and social friendship. Sometimes it appears that social media is more harmful than good.



In this context, St. Clement college took a day to debate the merits and demerits of Social Media under the title "Social Media a boon or bane?". The Chief Guest of the Debate was our beloved Archbishop, Most. Rev. John Moolachira. The debate was well moderated by Dr. Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, Rector, St. Clement college. The participants were Bros. Noel Urang, John Well Timung, Yaoreishang Shanglai and Sr. Regina Sunwar taking the stand that social media is a boon while Bros. Jit Ekka, Gedion Shylla, Arbison Lyngdoh and Sr. Aitihun Lyngdoh considering Social media as bane. The team that considered social media a bane defeated the other team.

Vestition

Bros. Paul Marak, Tartius R Marak, and Matish Sangma of the Guwahati Archdiocese received clerical habit on June 4, 2022 along with 12 other brothers of different dioceses. They are now doing regency in various Parishes of the Archdiocese of Guwahati.



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH DAMRA

Parish Day Celebrated at Damra



St. Michael's Church of Damra started in 1946 by Fr. Hubert Colzani SDB celebrated its Parish Day with great joy and enthusiasm on Sunday the 25th September 2022. The Most Rev. John Moolachira Archbishop of Guwahati who had rushed back from Bangalore was given an affectionate and colourful welcome at 9.45 AM from the convent gate by a huge crowd of parishioners led by Garo, Bodo and Rabha dancing contingents in their cultural attire.

The Church was full and overflowing with faithful all around the Church. The Holy Eucharistic presided over by the Archbishop with many concelebrants and religious was enlivened by a wonderful choir musical team.

After the Holy Mass, a short cultural program followed during which the Parish Priest Fr K.O. Augustine SDB requested the Archbishop to give away Certificate of appreciation and cash awards to our Meritorious Students of HSLC and HS students.

The felicitation program also saw the rich cultural heritage of the place in the Wangala Garo, Bodo, Rabha and Devotional dances. Snacks were given to all and a festive lunch for the special guests. The Archbishop praised the sense of unity and cordiality among all sections of the Parish. It was a blessed day indeed.



A new Village Chapel

Archbishop Most Rev. John Moolachira blessed a village Chapel of Our Lady of Mary Help of Christians at Kamalpara in Damra Parish on Sunday 5th June 2022. On this auspicious occasion he also conferred the sacrament of Confirmation. This graceful occasion came to an end with a community meal.



ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH, DERAPATHER

Feast Day Celebration



St. Vincent's Church, Derapather celebrated the Feast of its patron, St. Vincent de Paul on 28th September 2022 with solemnity. Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of the Guwahati was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist as well as the Chief Guest for the cultural programme which was held after the Holy Mass.

His Grace was welcomed by the priests and faithful of the

parish with traditional welcoming and with Wangala dance. Holy Eucharist began at 10.00 AM. A good number of people from different villages of Derapather parish and neighboring parishes were present. His Grace in his homily, spoke about the life of St. Vincent de Paul and the virtues we could learn from his life. Fathers and sisters from Klurdung, Kaki, Lumding, Hojai, Kathiatoli and Simulguri were present. It was indeed a solemn celebration.

Soon after the Holy Mass there was a short cultural program showcased by the hostel boys and girls, youths and women from different villages. In his speech, His Grace congratulated all the participants for the colorful program and exhorted to give more emphasis on Sunday school and catechism. After the programme agape meal was shared and all returned home blissfully.

HATIGAON

The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness (Lam 3: 22, 23).

Striking the Golden and silver year of religious life as the MSMHC is a mark of God's unfathomable love and faithfulness towards the humanity. Jubilee indeed marks the significant milestones that certainly need to be celebrated. On 27 August 2022, 46 MSMHC Sisters celebrated their Golden and Silver Jubilee. 13 Golden Jubilarians and 33 Silver Jubilarians gathered in Little Flower Convent, the MSMHC generalate at Hatigaon, Guwahati. The grand finale of the Golden-Silver Jubilee Celebration marked with a



solemn thanksgiving Holy Mass presided over by Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati. His Grace with a profound note of appreciation thanked the Jubilarians stating that, "You are a people whom God has blessed." He congratulated them for their perseverance in their vocation and appreciated them for their hard work in carrying out the mission of the Church so far. In her introduction to the Holy Eucharist, Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General conveyed her deepest sentiments of joy and gratitude to the Jubilarians as she placed them at the altar of the Lord. She added a praiseworthy note saying that, their being rooted in God and in his mission "sustain the younger generation and pass on the meaning of religious life in its fullness."

"Recall, Rejoice and Renew" was the theme of the month-long preparation the Jubilarians underwent prior to the grand celebration. With a series of spiritual renewal classes and personal



reflective sessions they recalled their 50 and 25 years of religious life. The preparations in Bethel ended with a spiritual retreat. On the eve of the grand finale at Hatigaon, there was a thanksgiving prayer service organized by the Superior General and the General Councillors. The Sisters raised their hands and minds singing the symphonies of gratitude and praise to the Lord for His tenacious love and closeness. It was indeed a great joy for the mother Congregation to gather the sisters to acknowledge and appreciate their dedicated life and service to the Church and His people for the past 50 and 25 years. For the jubilarians it was a time to walk through the memory lane of yesteryears, pages of the awesome experiences of God, persons and events that sustained the journey so long. The entire celebration concluded with a mega cultural show by the junior sisters in the evening. As the new horizon of life unfolds, they are strengthened to continue to sing along with Founder, "Always more Always better" and trusting in the power of God they go on saying: So long Thy Power hath blest me sure it still will lead me on.



SACRED HEART PARISH NAGAON

The Feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated in Nagaon parish on 26 June 2022. On this day Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati graced the occasion with his presence, wishes and prayers. On this auspicious day Fr. Rajesh Toppo SDS was installed as the new parish Priest of the Catholic Church, Nagaon. During the Holy Mass, presided over by His Grace 7 children received Confirmation and 7 children received First Holy Communion. The parishioners were glad at the visit of His Grace and it was a moment of encouragement for them.



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE, KHETRI

Religious Sisters' Retreat

Every year we conduct two religious Residential retreat in our Centre. In the month of July, Residential retreat for Religious Sisters was held from 4th July, 2022 to 9th July, 2022.

The retreat was animated by Rev. Fr. Jacob Arimpur, Asst. Director of Tabor Ashram, Mumbai and the Divine Team at Khetri. Most Rev. Archbishop John Moolachira (Archbishop of Guwahati), Most Rev. Archbishop Victor Lyndoh, (Archbishop of Shillong), Rev. Fr. Mathew Anchukandom (Vicar General) celebrated the Holy Mass on different days with beautiful sermons. They encouraged and appreciated the sisters who attended the retreat. Around 150 Sisters from different Congregations participated and received blessings.



Family Renewal Retreat In 'Karbi' Language

People from the diocese of Diphu, Assam came in a large number for the family renewal retreat. Around 300 people participated in this retreat. The retreat was conducted in Karbi language from 10-13th of July. Fr. Jacob Arimpor and DRC team Khetri led the retreat. Rev. Fr. Augustus Lakra and Rev. Fr. Joseph SDB (Vice-Provincial) gave highly inspirational talks on various subjects related to the Renewal of Families. It was a time of God experience and spiritual renewal for the participants. Though the days were too hot the people all prayed and were blessed.



Adieu to Fr. Libin

The DRC community had a solemn special thanksgiving Holy Mass on 9th September 2022 and in the afternoon all the members of the DRC team along with Fathers from Jagiroad, fathers and sisters from Khetri parish and Ursuline community gathered together for short felicitation programme as a sign of our love and gratitude for all the selfless services he rendered for the past one year in our centre after which followed by a fellowship meal.

Special Bible Conventions for Nagas

We had a special Bible Convention in the centre for the people of Nagaland from 14-17 of July 2022. There was a big number of participants and we found it difficult to accommodate them. But they were all happy to adjust with our limited facilities. The retreat was led by Fr. Jacob Arimpoor VC, Fr. Francis Karuthan VC, Fr. Santhosh Moolan VC and the DRC team Khetri. Most Rev. Archbishop John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati, celebrated the Holy Mass on 15th July at 6:45 AM and gave an inspiring homily. The participants were filled with God's Grace.



Vincentian Koinonia

There was a Vincentian Koinonia at Mission House in Khetri on 14th and 15th of September 2022. Almost all the fathers under the mission had gathered. It was a moments of joy and sharing in the mission. "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together" (Psalm 133:1). All the fathers were solemnly welcomed by the whole DRC community and

the residential retreatants in the evening followed by sumptuous dinner.

St. Vincent Day Celebration

His Grace Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati celebrated the Holy Eucharist on 27th September, 2022 at 6.00pm to commemorate the feast of St. Vincent De Paul. Rev. Fr. Mathew V.G along with many fathers and religious from the neighboring communities joined in the Eucharistic celebration. It was followed by fellowship meal for all. Many fathers and religious from neighboring communities joined us in the celebration.

His Grace blessed the Newly built Grotto of Our Lady of Nation at the entrance of Divine Retreat Centre, at 5.30pm in the presence of many Priests and religious.



ST JOSEPH PARISH, KUMARIKATA

Confirmation & First Holy Communion at Kumarikata

After the great lockdown which started from 2020, St. Joseph Parish, Kumarikata was privileged to have the presence of shepherd in the person of Most Rev. John Moolachira, on 17 July 2022. It was a long-awaited need to have His Grace with us specially to confer the sacrament of Confirmation and also First Holy Communion.



In spite of the heavy shower in the morning, His Grace arrived at 9.30 AM, and was welcomed at the entrance of the presbytery. As the faithful prayed the morning prayers, the priests sat for confessions. The Holy Mass begun at 10:30 with the entrance dance. Fr. Aloysius Hemrom, the parish priest welcomed His Grace, the guest-priests, sisters and the faithful from 27 villages with his welcome note.

In his homily, His Grace spoke about the importance of the sacrament of confirmation and communion; that we need to be strong in the profession of our faith. It was a very relevant message for the faithful. Archbishop conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 164 candidates and 32 children were all dressed in angelic white, received the First Holy Communion. There was devotion and faith in the reception of the sacraments.

There was a short felicitation program thereafter. His Grace and other fathers and sisters were honoured with a Fulam Gamusa each. After the meal His Grace left for Guwahati. We look forward for his future pastoral visits to strengthen our faith, hope and love for the Lord Jesus!

BOOK RELEASE

On 22 July 2022 a book authored by His Grace Emeritus Thomas Menampampil, titled Values Must Come Alive was officially released at Archbishop's House, Ambari, Guwahati at the august presence of Archbishop John Moolachira, Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparapil, Archbishop Victor Lyndoh, Bishop Paul Mettakatt, Bishop Lumen Monteiro and Bishop Andrew R. Marak. They were given a copy each to all the bishops present on the occasion.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, MATIA MAJERBURI

Cultural Diversity cum Environment Day 2022

The Don Bosco School, Matia Majerburi celebrated the Cultural Diversity cum Environment Day 2022 on 04 June 2022 in the school premises. The Celebration was divided into two parts. In the morning there was the presentation from the four houses of the students about environment which was then followed by the tree plantation drive. Fr. Vincent Mochahary was the guest honor at the morning session. The second part of the celebration was a Cultural Program performed by the students according to their houses. The theme of this Program was "Preserving our Cultural and Traditional Identity". The Chief Guest of the program was Shri Jayanto Rabha, the Panchayat President who was accompanied by four of his members. The celebration was coloured by the performance



of the students who presented their cultural dances in various cultural attire,

viz. Rongdhani Rabha, Garo, Bodo, Assamese, Bengali and Patti Rabha. The Chief Guest delivered a beautiful message based on the theme of the day, "Preserving our Cultural and Traditional Identity". The students were made aware of the importance of cleanliness and care of the environment and preserving one's cultural identity with due respect to other communities.

Retreat for Children

A Retreat for Garo Children of the parish was organized from 1-3 July 2022. Fr. Brilliant Sangma OFM Cap with his team from Mariampur animated the retreat. Many children participated in the retreat and spiritually benefitted. We thank Fr. Brilliant and the team for sparing their precious time to animate the retreat. May God bless them with his numerous blessings to preach the Word of God.



Independence Day Celebration in the School

This year being the Jubilee year of our country's Independence Day, the School community celebrated the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsab 2022 in a very grand manner. Students put up an extravaganza cultural program which showcased their patriotism and belongingness to the country exhibiting their talent and love for the motherland. The chief guest of the day was Bro. Lamphrang OFM Cap., the Principal of the School. At the end of the program, he thanked everyone especially the students for the beautiful program that they had put up. He also appreciated the teachers for their hard work and cooperation.



Teacher's Day Celebration

On 5th September, 2022, Don Bosco School, Matia-Majerburi organised Teachers' Day on the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former president of India. All students decorated their classrooms and gave their teachers a token of love and appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Students performed various cultural dances, remixes, songs, skits and fashion show. The students poured out a lot of love and affection in the form of gifts and wishes from the students. The day was filled with joy and contentment as Fr. Lamphrang, the principal of the school, gave a speech thanking and appreciating all the teachers for their hard work and dedication and for helping the school achieve new heights. The program ended with the words of appreciation from the MC of the day, thanking the teachers for their efforts in shaping the life of students and inspiring them.

Women's Day Celebration

The Parish Community celebrated the Women's Day on 10 September 2022. Sr. Anisha CMC, the Superior of CMC Convent, Matia Majerburi animated the program. The program was very lively which included prayers, adoration and input



sessions. Sr. Jyoti CMC came from Tezpur to animate a prayer session. Sr. Scholastica FMA, from Auxillium College, Solmari also animated the gathering based on the importance and role of a mother. In the afternoon there were various competitions held; reciting the Word of God, searching the quotations from the Bible, reciting of the Creed and some small party-games for amusement and merrymaking. Around 45 women from the four villages of the Parish participated enthusiastically in the program. The Parish community was thankful for Sr. Anisha CMC and the members of the Women's Group of the Parish for arranging the program successfully. It indeed spiritually benefitted the Catholic Women of the Parish.



FERRANDO PROVINCIAL HOUSE, GUWAHATI

Inauguration and Blessing of Ferrando Provincial House

The Missionaries Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, of Ferrando Province, Guwahati expressed their symphony of praise and profound gratitude to God the Almighty for having blessed them with the Newly built Provincial House and had its blessing and inauguration on 8 September 2022 (the Nativity of our Blessed Mother Mary) which is the most beautiful and significant day in the Holy Catholic Church. It was indeed a day marked with great joy and blessings from above as the long-awaited dream of the province has been fulfilled. On this grace filled event Most Rev. Archbishop John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati blessed the newly built Provincial House and Rev. Sr. Philomena Mathew MSMHC, the Superior General inaugurated it in the presence of Fr. Provincials, Bro. Provincials, Regional Superiors of various Congregations, priests, religious, invited guests, neighboring communities and neighbors. The day was solemnized with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Most Rev. Archbishop John Moolachira and concelebrated by 16 priests. After the Holy Eucharist Sr. Lisa Chettri, the Provincial Superior of Ferrando Province warmly welcomed everyone to the gathering and the sisters of the province felicitated all the priests, religious and invited guests. After the felicitation a family meal was served for everyone.



MALIGAON PARISH

Parish Day Celebrated in Maligaon

During Covid-19 Pandemic people were confined to their homes. The people almost got use to a lethargic style. It was in this context that we had joy of seeing the Catholics of Maligaon come in large numbers to celebrate the Parish Day in Maligaon Parish on 18th September, 2022.

The Archbishop John Moolachira graced the occasion. The entrance procession begun with the entrance dance by the candidates from St. Mary's Convent, Maligaon. They were followed by the candidates receiving First Holy Communion the sacrament of Confirmation. A total of 18 youths received the Sacrament of Confirmation and 4 young adolescents received the holy Communion for the first time on this auspicious day. It was indeed a beautiful sight as the children of the Lord looking angelic in their new spotless attire.



At the end of the Holy Mass Fr. Ethelbert Minj, the parish priest filled with gratitude thanked His Grace particularly for conferring the Sacrament of confirmation and First Holy Communion.



Refreshment for all sponsored by Mr. Mahendra was served soon after the Mass. Then the people gathered together in the veranda to begin the felicitation programme to honour His Grace and those who received the Sacraments. The short programme of felicitation ended with a sumptuous meal prepared by the Catholic lay leaders of the Parish. We thanked the good Lord for the beautiful day.



ST. ALPHONSA CHURCH, TILLAPARA

The name of Jesus is very sweet to my tongue - St. Alphonsa

31st July 2022 is a red-letter day for St. Alphonsa Church, Tillapara as it celebrated its Parish Day. Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati presided over the Holy Eucharist along with Fr. Pramod, the Parish Priest and priests of neighboring parishes. During the Holy Eucharist Archbishop administered the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion to the prepared candidates. The presence of several priests and sisters from neighboring parishes added joy and colours to the celebration. After the Holy Eucharist the parishioners staged a small cultural show to entertain the guests and glorify God. We concluded the celebration with sumptuous meal.



ST PAUL'S PASTORAL CENTRE RANGIA

Find Your Path: A Career Guidance Program

The Catechetical Commission of the Archdiocese of Guwahati organized a Career Guidance program for the Catholic boys and girls who completed the final year exam of class 10 and 12 and waiting for the results. There were 72 children participated in the animation program. The focus was to introduce, instruct and guide our



Catholic students to choose their profession for their better life. It was animated by Mr. Ranjan Barua, the CEO of youth development department of the Government of Assam, Mr. Prakash Bara the business consultant with the help of Fr. Meby OSST, Sr. Grebita CFMSS and Sr. Clearbone CFMSS. The children were motivated and departed enlightened and enthused to do better in their life.

The Summer Retreat

Focusing on the spiritual formation related to the basic formation, St. Paul Pastoral Centre, Rangia of the Archdiocese of Guwahati organized a Catechetical Training program for the catholic boys and girls studying in class V to X. The Goal of the program was to encourage the children to learn about and live a catholic life and to prepare them to be the witnesses and disciple of Christ through the mission life of the Archdiocese. The training was for Garo and Hindi- Assamese speaking communities and there were 532 children for Hindi-Assamese group and voluntarily participated in this training program. The training program was animated by Rev. Fr. Lucas Hemrom, the secretary to the Archbishop along with Sr. Nirmala CFMSS, Fr. Pritam Paul Kerketta, Fr. Bidhin OSJ, Sr. Glory CFMSS, Sr. Selina George FS and Sr. Nita Charoh FS. The Garo program was animated by Fr. Nicholas D Sangma, the assistant Parish Priest of Resurrection Church, Songaighuli.



To the Vineyard: Touring Sisters Program

Catechetical commission of our Archdiocese organized a catechetical training program for the touring sisters in St. Paul's pastoral centre, Rangia. There were 42 participants for the program from different parishes of the Archdiocese. The program mainly focused on the practical implications of basic faith formation in each parishes by touring the villages. The goal of this program was to enable the touring sisters to prepare an action plan for their own parishes for the better faith formation.



Rev. Fr. Philip Pazhambasseril, the rector of St. Jerome Minor Seminary, Sonaighuli inaugurated the program. And Fr. Bosco Dhanwar animated the program with the help of Fr. Edwin Simethy OSJ.

Catechists Training Program

Archdiocese of Guwahati organized a catechetical training program for the Garo speaking catechists in St. Paul's pastoral centre, Rangia. It was fifteen days Program and 38 Catechists attended the program. The goal of the Catechetical training program was to enable them to aid, teach, and guide the faithful and others in their personal relationship with God. Seeing mission nature of our Archdiocese this formation program helped the Catechist to continually grow in their



own knowledge of word of God and the teaching of the Church particularly Catechism of the Catholic Church. Rev. Frs. Crosper Sagma, Joy Thomas, Salnangberth Ch. Marak, Bolwari Marak Peter MSFS animated the training program. Last three days the annual retreat was animated by Rev. Fr. Antony Theckanath with the help of Sr. Grebitha Marak CFMSS, Sr. Glory CFMSS, Sr. Selina George F.S, Sr. Nita Charoh F.S.

SMI PROVINCIAL HOUSE, RUKMINIGAON

Jubilee of SMI Sisters Celebrated

July 16 2022 was indeed a day of joy and gratitude for the SMI Sisters, province of Guwahati as we celebrated three different coloured Jubilee of our Sr. Augustina Thayilkunnumpurathu, Sr. Mary Nirmala Lakra, Sr. Miriam Barket Masih and Sr. Sharline Pulickal and Srs. Bency Panickassery, Kirti Xalxo, Lourdu Sahaya Mary, Rejina Mondol and Shiny Arangathukuzhiyil. We joined them as they offered their symphony of gratitude to God for 60 years, 50 years and 25 years respectively. Their hearts overwhelmed with exuberant joy and gratitude to Abba Father for his faithfulness in walking with them these years. We appreciate their whole hearted dedication and selfless service to love God and help others to love Him. We were privileged to have the presence of our dear Sr. Dina Vellamaruthunkal, our Superior General and several sisters of the province to honour and felicitate our Jubilarians.



The day of gratitude to God was highlighted with the Solemn Eucharist presided over by His Grace Archbishop John Moolachira at 6 PM along with 9 other concelebrants at the Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Rukminigaon, Dispur. It was followed by a short felicitation programme for them, their relatives and invited guests at the parish hall, and the day ended with fellowship meal.



Little Flower League Day Celebrated at Dispur Parish

Sister of Mary Immaculate (SMI) celebrated the Little flower League Day at Dispur parish on 1 October 2022. Around 80 children were gathered from 12 mission centers of SMI sisters to celebrate Little Flower League Day. The day was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Issac Rayappa, the director of NECHA. After the inauguration the life and importance of St. Theresa of child Jesus was explained to the children by the major superiors of SMI sisters. There was a special mass offered with the participants, which was presided over by the parish Priest Fr. Joby Abraham. In the homily, father explained to the children the meaning of the Little Way. In the afternoon the children had some cultural program and sharing. On the following day after the Sunday Mass in the morning the children were taken for site seeing and all returned to their respective places by Sunday evening.





PUB BORAGAON

In the month of June 2022, the state of Assam has witnessed unusual torrential rains which caused a lot of havoc to the people living in most part of the state. The incessant rains that lasted for weeks inundated a vast majority of the areas especially people living closer to river beds and water bodies. Large number of people were taken shelter in various rehabilitation centres set up by the Government agencies and NGOs.



A large area of Kamrup Rural District faced the brunt of the flood and many people were left with nothing to sustain themselves. Realising the urgent need of assisting the flood affected people, the Franciscan Brothers at Boragaon, together with their school staff rushed with essential food items and medicines to Changsari and Hajo villages. They could visit more than hundred flood affected families at various spots and could hand over the food items and medicines. It was of much relief and succour to the people who were in dire need of such things.

- Bro. Joseph Vinod, CMSF

SUKANJULI

St. Thomas Village Chapel Blessed



On 3 July 2022, at the Feast Day of St. Thomas, the apostle to India St. James Parish was blessed to have a new Village Chapel named after St. Thomas in Jarbari. The Chapel was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. John Paul and was blessed by Rev. Fr. Lucas Hemrom. The faithful of Jarbari were really blessed by the presence of many priests and large number of lay

faithful and they really felt that they are loved and cared by so many. Fr. Lucas Hemrom in his homily exhorted the faithful through the life of St. Thomas to imbibe the missionary qualities, live by them and this was for many a great learning and experience. There was a short cultural program and a common meal was served thereafter for all.

Divine Mercy Church Blessed

On 7 August 2022, Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati blessed the Divine Mercy Chapel, Paharpur under Sukanjuli parish. It was inaugurated by the village headman Mr. Somai Hembrom. It was the pressing priority of the people of Paharpur to have a church there, as they had to go across a big river to reach Sukanjuli church for prayers, which was a big challenge for them. It was indeed a great blessing for the village. This new Church consists of 35 Catholic families.



In His homily, His Grace encouraged the faithful to love the Church, care for it, come together for prayer and worship. The Church is the house of God, where He dwells and we come to this house we receive lots of blessings from Him. The Church is the place of unity where love, friendship, brotherhood is shared among one another.

St. Monica's Feast Celebrated

The feast of St. Monica was celebrated with pomp and gaiety in St. James Church, Sukanjuli on 27 August 2022. In honour of St. Monica about 210 mothers from different villages gathered to express their love towards her. Fr. Lucas



Hemrom presided over the Holy Mass to solemnize the occasion. In his homily he beautifully enumerated the life sketch of St. Monica, as the most outstanding Christian mothers in the history of the Church. In a short felicitation program after the Holy Mass there was a colourful cultural program and words of encouragement and exhortation from Fr. Jose Hemrom, the assistant parish priest of Sukanjuli Parish. Fr. Lucas Hemrom too in his speech fostered them and strongly recommended to do their duties and responsibilities well as ideal mothers for their families. Sr. Odily in her speech also motivated them and asked them to be inspired by the pious example of St. Monica and take steps towards it to make life meaningful. A delicious meal was prepared by some of their husbands for the gathering and it was served for all.

YOU CAN ALWAYS GIVE SOMETHING,
EVEN IF IT IS ONLY KINDNESS

This year's floods in Assam have been merciless from the month of April, May and June had been the most crucial time for Assam to fight with the flood. In many parts of the state, both rural and urban, shoals of water drove people from their homes and forced many of them to seek shelter for their livestock. In many places, people failed to save standing crops. Granaries were damaged and mud houses were filled with sand brought by the rivers in space. The retreating waters - before the onset of



another flood cycle - could leave behind more wreckage. The plight of the people was great. There was no drinking water, no electricity, no means of communication, no means of transportation, shortage of food and some of them trapped inside the house filled with water

more than a month. Many even have lost their lives and property battling with the flood. It is indeed very pathetic condition with the lack of hygiene.



Our Sisters from St. John's Hospital, Christian Basti, Guwahati went to different places with medicine, food kit etc. to show our solidarity with them. We were privileged to go to Rangia and Morigaon region for the flood relief with the food kit. We also went to Killing village belonging to Byrnihat Parish of Ri-bhoi district to conduct free medical camp along with our medical team from St. John's Hospital - Guwahati, and we were able to offer our service to 81 people there. We also conducted similar free medical camp for Chibra village under Narengi Parish for 88 people there. Through the instrumentality of Fr. Nicksen Sangma MSFS from Narengi, we were made possible to go to this two places for the health camp and also met their spiritual needs by hearing Confession and celebrating the Holy Eucharist in both places. It was really a moment of great joy and satisfaction to help the most needy people in their misfortune. Little deeds of kindness, little words of love; help to make earth an Eden, like the heaven above.

GGSS

Humanitarian Response to the Effects of Flood 2022, Assam

The people of Assam had been affected by the effects of first and second wave of floods since the middle of May 2022 in 29 districts. The massive damages caused by the incessant rain fall and its consequent flood disasters was immensely harmful and frightening which took the lives of many people in the state. A great number of people were displaced and forced to live in different temporary relief camps. The destructive effects of floods had



damaged houses and road and communications, properties and livestock etc. The essential needs for food, shelter and health care became a great matter of concern and crucial problems for the affected families.

At this juncture, Guwahati Gana Seva Society, (GGSS) the Social Work Wing of the Archdiocese of Guwahati had carried out an emergency humanitarian relief response to combat the effects of floods and to alleviate the crisis and problems of affected families. The emergency relief and free medical camps were conducted in six districts of Assam; Hojai, Nagaon, Morigaon,



Tamulpur, Kamrup (R) and Kamrup (M). This humanitarian response intervention focused on providing immediate basic requirement of food and wash kit materials as well as medical assistance to the affected populations within the Archdiocese of Guwahati. Through this intervention, GGSS could reach out and support 4904 families with dry ration and wash kit materials in the remote villages of the Archdiocese. GGSS also supported another 913 flood affected families by transferring Rs. 6299/- to each family as an unconditional cash transfer to their bank accounts for multi-purpose use. Besides the unconditional cash transfer, 43 households also received additional cash amount of Rs. 10000/- each to repair their damaged houses. The total number of 5817 affected families, approximate of 26,000 individuals were assisted to combat the flood affected people.

Along with emergency relief response, GGSS also conducted 8 free medical camps in different locations with the help of medical team from Camelian Task Force and St. John Medical College, Bangalore. 940 individual beneficiaries were given free treatment during the medical camps. In terms of financial resources, GGSS was supported by Manos Unidas, Catholic Relief Service, Tarze Brothers as well as different diocesan and religious institutes of the Archdiocese. The GGSS spent 1,45,68,175/- (One Crore forty-five lakhs sixty-eight thousand one hundred seventy-five only) with the contributions of foreign donor agencies and local contributions to support the needy families who had been badly affected by the flood disaster 2022. GGSS sincerely acknowledges the generous contributions of both foreign and local donors and thank them all. May God blessed their generosity.

NERYC

Red Letter Day in the history of NERYC

The new North Eastern Regional Youth Commission (NERYC) office at Inspiration, Secretariate of North East India Regional Bishops' Council (NEIRBC), Kharghuli, Guwahati was blessed and inaugurated on 3rd August 2022.

At 9:30 AM the Inauguration Ceremony of the new NERYC office took place with welcoming and reading of the short history of NERYC by Fr. John Barman. Over Seventy (70) priests, religious and young people gathered for the program. Rev. Fr. Jose Thekkel MSFS, the Superior of MSFS Provincial house inaugurated and was Blessed by Most. Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati. Mr. Alan Lalrinawma, Regional Youth Secretary moderated the ceremony and two messages: one from Former Chairman of NERYC, Most Rev. John Thomas and another from Present Chairman of NERYC Most. Rev. George Pallippambil SDB were read out in the ceremony. Fr. John Barman, the Regional Youth Director in his welcome address, acknowledged and thanked all the former Chairmen and Regional Youth Directors for their service towards the growth of the Youth Commission over the years. He expressed his gratitude to the Archdiocese of Guwahati on behalf of NERYC team for rendering the accommodation to NERYC in Peace Centre building for many years.



YOUTH CORNER

Zonal Summer Youth Meet-2022: Resurrection Parish, Sonaighuli

Journeying Together and to bring awareness in the mind of the young people that they are an integral part of the Church and Society and the young people need to move towards a participatory and co-responsible



Church, the Resurrection Parish, Sonaighuli had organized three days of Zonal Summer Youth Meet from 15th to 17th July 2022 at Kalapani village on the theme: Young People for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. The program was animated by Sr. Esabella D. Sangma, the Diocesan Youth Director. Youth from the neighbouring villages namely Adinggre and Boropani participated in the program. This program aimed at to create in the young people as a Catholic, to have a deep sense of belonging to the Church and to take an active part in its life and mission of the Church.

2nd Zonal Summer Youth Meet-2022 cum 2nd World Grandparents' Day Celebration



The Resurrection Parish, Sonaighuli had organized three days of Zonal Summer Youth Meet from 22nd to 24th July 2022 at Saru Tandu village on the theme: Young People for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission and the program was animated by Sr. Esabella D. Sangma, the Diocesan Youth Director. And the youth from Saru

Tandu, Boro Tandu, Konakulee, Jorabat and 8th Mile participated in the program. All through the program, Fr. Nicholas D. Sangma, the Assistant Parish Priest of Sonaighuli accompanied the young people, helping them to pray by organizing Adoration, hearing their confessions and celebrating the Holy Mass every day. Around 58 young people actively participated in the program.

2nd World Day Celebration for Grandparents and the Elderly

"In old age they will still Bear Fruit" (Ps. 92:15)

On 24th July, 2022, the Zonal Summer Youth Meet concluded with the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration and the Archdiocese of Guwahati Youth Commission celebrated the 2nd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The solemn Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Nicholas D. Sangma, the Assistant Parish Priest of Resurrection Church, Sonaighuli and offered for the grandparents and the elderly. During the homily, he stressed on the need to live a holy life beginning from senior most member to the youngest member of the family; if one member of our family is good, God will bless that family. He also reminded the young people to love, respect and care for the elderly people because they have done so much for us. Respecting parents and the elderly is the Fourth Commandment of God.

After Holy Mass, the youth had organized cultural programs in honour of the Grandparents. The grandparents those who were present welcomed with their own grandchildren and grandchildren brought them before the Altar, Fr. Nicholas D. Sangma presented them a portrait of Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary each. The Grandparents those present for the Holy Mass and program were moved with tears for these gestures of respect and honour. After the program, lunch was served for all and concluded the program.

My experience in ACT-2022: Bangalore

It is with great privilege and gratitude that I take this opportunity to share my experience of participating in the 4th Animators and Chaplains Training program organized by the Indian Catholic Youth Commission, CCBI at NBCLC Bangalore from 1st to 12th June 2022. I, along with Sr. Esabella D. Sangma, Diocesan Youth Director (DYD) participated in this program. I want to thank our Youth Director for giving me this great privilege to attend this training program.



Participating in this training program, I became aware of my responsibilities to participate in all the Church activities and help other youth to do the same because Church is our Mother and Teacher. She relates God to us through the Sacraments. As a young leader, I was ineffective, but this program empowered me to organize various programs courageously and creatively by using different techniques and methods. It has also helped to live as a disciple of Jesus and to draw other young people to engage responsibly in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic community.

The ACT Program was very helpful and interesting as the sessions were animated by experts, through audio visuals and other lively methods. Some of the interesting topics were: Youth and Spirituality; Media Awareness/Social Media Handling, Practical Counseling Skills; Career/Vocation, Youth and Psychology, Youth at Risk, etc. We were engaged all through the day with sessions, animations, games and activities as well as the recreations. The activities and games on team building were really creative and interesting.

Participating in this program, I have learned to live and mingle with others, and I learned many things from other participants especially from priests, religious sisters, brothers and lay animators and my young friends. All were very active, smart, dynamic and lively in all the sessions and everyone participated in the program seriously. Activities were very interesting and everything with a lesson to learn. I congratulate Fr. Chetan Machado, the Executive Secretary, CCBI for successfully organizing this program along with his team members. I appreciate and thank NEXCO team for all your help, support and guidance.

Pro-Life Training Program

The first North East Jesus Youth Pro-Life with the theme "PRECIOUS" was organized by National Jesus Youth Pro-Life Ministry in collaboration with Archdiocese of Guwahati Youth Commission at North East Social Forum, Kharghuli, Guwahati from 12th - 14th August, 2022. It was attended by 220 Youths from different parts of North East.

The training programme was inaugurated with the Holy Mass presided over by Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Sony Antony, the

National Chaplain of Jesus Youth, Rev. Fr. John Barman, NERYC Director, Rev. G.P Amalraj, Deputy Secretary, NEIRBC, Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil, Director, NEDSSS and other Priests.

During the two days training the resource persons mostly from the Jesus Youth Pro-Life Ministry Team animated the youth on different topics such as preciousness of life, love and relationship, sacrament of marriage, sexual morality, abortion, Natural Family Planning, population explosion, addiction, transgender and homosexuality, euthanasia, leading a

holy life, correct life-partner and waiting etc. The participants got chance to clarify their doubts on the related issues during the question-answer session.



On 14th August, the celebration of the National Youth Sunday added colour to the programme and Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil SDB, Emeritus Archbishop of Guwahati, celebrated the Holy Mass. He encouraged the youth to stand firm for life and work for justice. After Holy Mass the trainees were sent to Cathedral and St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral for pro-life outreach. They had a chance to share their learning and experiences with many people. In the afternoon, Rev. Fr.

John Barman MSFS, NERYC Director gave talk to the youth on the occasion of National Youth Sunday celebration. The program concluded in the afternoon.

Youth Program at Sukunjali Parish:

In order realize the dream of lifting up the youth to be more responsible, vibrant, sacrificing, resourceful, lively and passionate youngsters in the Church, two days (30th To 31st July) of program was conducted for the youths of St. James Parish, Sukunjali, by Sr. Esabella D. Sangma, the Diocesan Youth Director and Mr. Arnab Bhaishya from Guwahati. The program aimed at faith formation, knowing Jesus and becoming his witnesses.



YCS/ YSM Orientation Cum Commitment Day Program: Don Bosco School, Sonaighuli

YCS/YSM orientation and follow up program was conducted by Archdiocese of Guwahati in collaboration with NERYC on 18th - 19th August, 2022 at Don Bosco School, Sonaiguli. On 18th August, Rev. Sr. Alutti Rabha, YCS/YSM Chaplain for North East and ICYM North East President, Miss Magdaline, animated the sessions. On 19th August, the session began with the inter-religious prayer service organized by the animators, followed by session by Sr. Esabella D. Sangma, DYD, Archdiocese of Guwahati. She dealt on the topics: leadership skills and qualities, developing life skills and career guidance, followed by a lively and interesting session by Rev. John Barman MSFS, NERYC Director on the theme 'leadership'. After the session, the oath taking ceremony was conducted in the presence of Rev. Fr. John Barman MSFS, NERYC Director. The two days program concluded with the cultural programme organized by the YCS/YSM Students.



Forthcoming Events in the Guwahati Archdiocese

1. Annual Eucharistic Procession at Sonaighuli Parish, on 20th November 2022.
2. Birthday of Archbishop cum Pre-Christmas Celebration at Priest Home, Sonaighuli on 15th December 2022.
3. 13th Faith Exposure Program at St. James Parish, Sukanjuli from 8th to 13th January 2023.



Confirmation at Lumding Parish



New Village Chapel under Amsoi Parish



Archbishop John at Sinai Spirituality Centre



Students Felicitated by Archbishop at Dispur Parish



Father's Day Celebration at Nagrijuli Parish



First Holy Communion at Tilapara Parish



Scholarship Distribution by the Archdiocese



Scholarship Distribution by the Archdiocese



New Village Chapel at Jorabat



New Village Chapel at Kamalpara



Nuncio's Visit to St. Clement



4th Convocation at St. Clement



Mariam Niwas (Sisters's Hostel) at Nagaon



Catechists' Program at Rangia



Vianney Feast Celebration at St. Clement College



Pastoral Conference at Panbazar



Inauguration of HS at Sonaighuli



Free medical camp by St. John



Flood Relief by GGSS



Flood Relief by GGSS



Flood Relief by CMSF Brothers



Flood Relief by CMSF Brothers