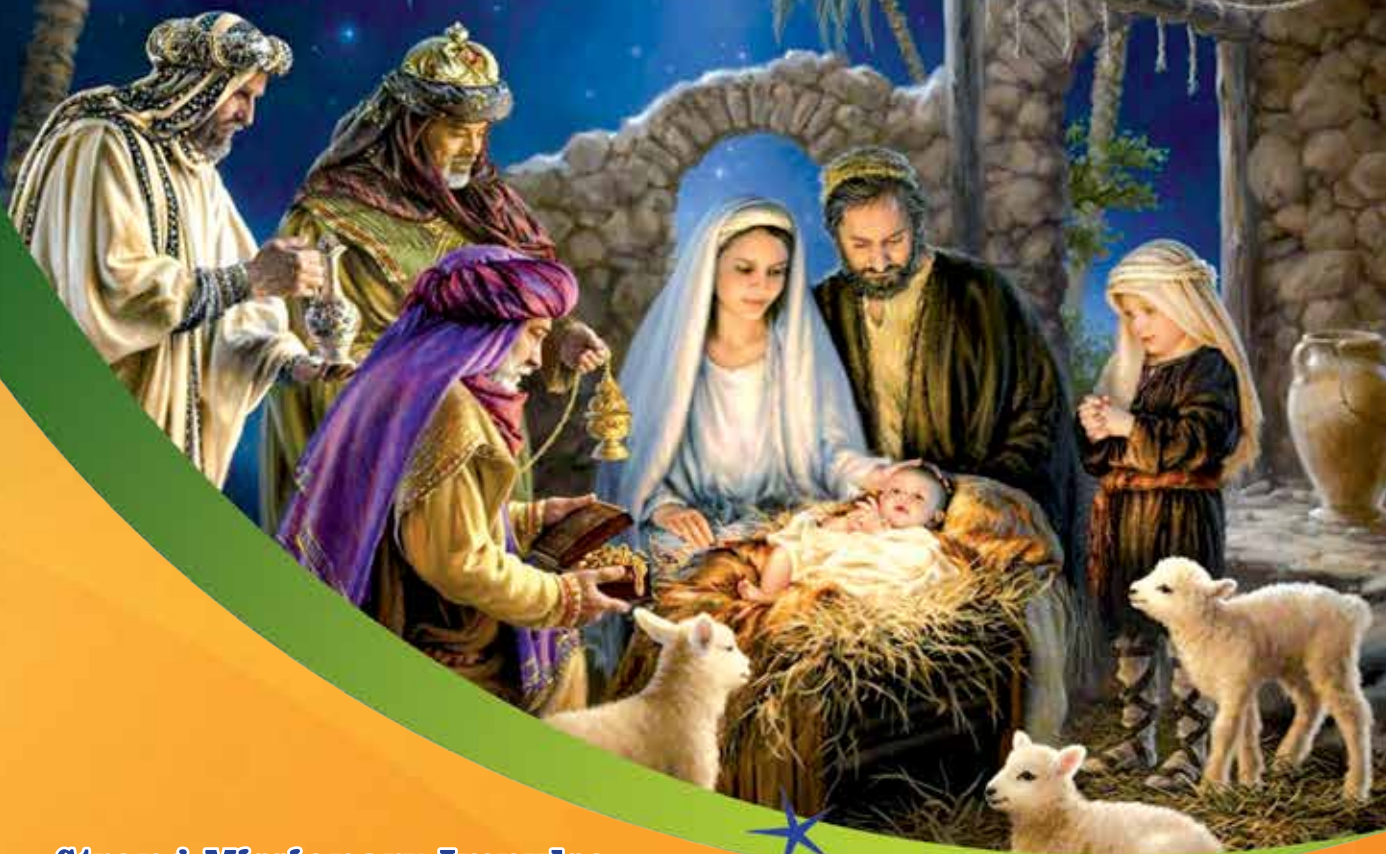


FMA - INS info

Vol. XX No. 4 Newsletter - December 2016 Provincial Office - Shillong 793 014 - Meghalaya

“What do I profit if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world during this Christmas, but is not born in my heart?” - Alexander Pope



**Strong Missionary Impulse
(1877 – 2017)**

140
FIRST FMA MISSIONARY EXPEDITION

Congratulations



Postulants



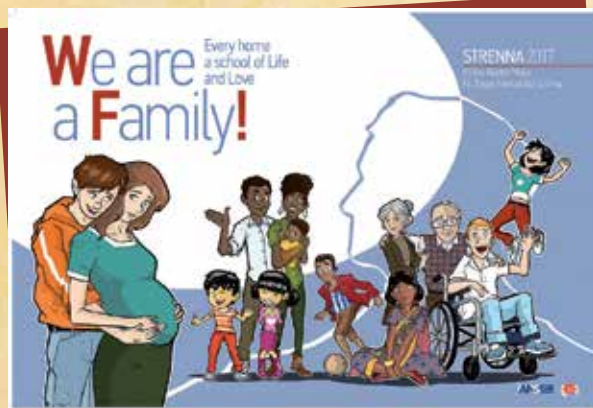
Apsirants



**Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh
as second Bishop of Jowai Diocese**



**Sr. Jacinta Sana received Paviotti Memorial Award
Highest marks in ITLR Studies at
Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong**



Strenna 2017



Editorial

FAMILY SPIRIT OUR FATHER'S LEGACY

As the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to a close, we recount God's merciful love and compassion experienced in tangible ways. The various events attended over the course of the year have certainly a profound impact in our individual and community life. It has given us an impetus to live the Gospel of Life creatively. Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, 'Amoris Laetitia', or 'The Joy of Love' spurs us on to contribute our share in creating synergies towards a common mission of strengthening family life and its values. Furthermore, time and again, we are offered programmes of life to follow and live by. For instance, the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime's Strenna 2017: **"WE ARE A FAMILY! Every home, a school of Life and Love"** is a clarion call to the Salesian Family members to recall, re-live and revive the Family Spirit, a rich legacy of our father and Founder Don Bosco. This would mean rediscovering and ensuring the family as a home and school of Life and Love in keeping with the teachings of the Church.

Don Bosco left us the most precious legacy, the Family Spirit which is typical to the Salesian family. One of the many things that are common to humans across cultures is the need to belong

and be accepted by others. *"I Feel at home"* is a basic and most endearing expression of belonging. We

all dream of and want our Spirit of Origin to live on in creative fidelity. And I believe the good that we do today doesn't go away. It stays. It is absorbed, emulated, and adopted by those who live after we're gone. Anything we do leaves an impact. Every action of ours produces an effect. The example we set inspires hundreds of lives. Let us ask ourselves the following questions: Are our houses and oratories welcoming places for everyone who comes? Do we as individual and community witness to the values proposed and lived by our Founders? And what legacy will we leave for our future family members?

This year marks also the historical milestone in the life of our Institute, the **140th Year of the First Missionary Expedition**. We admire and celebrate their heroic deeds. They dared walk the journey of faith with hope and optimism. Their struggles and toils of yesteryears are the fruits we reap today. We salute them for passing on to us the torch of undaunted spirit to new frontiers of missionary ventures. Their life is an inspiration to never lose heart because of our limitations, challenges and hurdles we encounter. We continue to give our prayerful support to those who have opted for the missions while we implore God for missionary vocations.

Let me conclude this page by wishing all readers of FMAINSinfo a meaningful and blessing-filled Christmas and New Year 2017. May Jesus' coming fill you and your family with love, peace and joy!



Sr. Teresa Kamsuan

IMPORTANCE OF SELF ASSESSMENT FOR TEACHERS

End of the calendar year is the end of the Academic Year for quite many schools in the northeast. At the end of any semester, academic year or a calendar year it is good to spend a few minutes to reflect upon our role as educators or as teachers. Socrates would say, "An unexamined life is not worth living." Self-evaluation is a best means to realize where we stand with regard to our teaching profession. It would help us to enter deep within ourselves and discover the impact we have made in the life of children and young people we were able to educate during this 2016.

Self Assessment is our Progress Report. Evaluating yourself will allow you to make a teacher performance improvement plan. The more you improve, the more students will benefit. Although it is extremely difficult to be a critique of your own strengths and weakness, nevertheless it is highly important.

Teaching profession is one of the noblest professions that help us to touch and mould the lives of children and young people in a meaningful way. Why not spend a few minutes to look into ourselves and see how we have lived this year, what impact our life and teaching has made on the life of children and young people and how can we be more effective in our mission of being educators / teachers in the years to come.

Here are some simple tips for you to examine yourself and see in what areas you have made significant contribution in the life of your students and what commitments can you make for the coming year, so that the children and young people who will come in contact with you be proud of you and that would make an impact in your teaching profession. I think some of these following areas would be of great help to self examine and see how do you fair in your mission of education.

1. Do you know your students by their name?

One of the means to make the students to feel close to you and to your subject is to know their names. How much pain do you take to learn the names of the students in



your class as well as the classes you teach, so that, the students feel that they are someone special to you, and that you know them, care for them? Do you call them by their name or their Roll Numbers? Remember each of you student is a unique and special person with a face and name. Know them and call them by name and they will feel loved by you.

2. Are you the first one to greet your students?

Some teachers think that the students must greet them first. But when a teacher loves her/his students, she/he would be the first one to give a beautiful smile and greet them. The smile and first greeting of a teacher has a magical captivating effect on your students. The first thing when you enter the school campus or in the class room do you greet your students and colleagues or are you so

absorbed with so many things that you simply pass this first important duty? Do you feel a superiority complex and wait for the students to wish you instead of you wishing them? How about changing the tradition and setting an example and they will learn the lesson from you?

3. Do you encourage, appreciate and congratulate your students?

Every person likes to hear words of encouragement or appreciation; much more, children and young people, that too, from their parents and teachers. Are you generous with your words of praise, appreciation and encouragement when your students make an effort, even an insignificant one, like, when they do well in studies, in sports or in any other co-curricular activities or when you see them helping others, showing concern towards their classmates who are slow learners? Catch them doing right and appreciate them and you will see your students soaring high and become high achievers and very good human beings.

4. Do you support your students and encourage their creativity?

Nowadays children and young people have a lot of exposure which we did not have when we were of their age. They are digital children, smart and brilliant, competent and confident, able to handle any type of modern gadgets and face people and

situations confidently. Do you support their creative ideas and inventive skills and help them to try something that you yourself feel incapable of handling or do you feel an inferiority complex, thus curtail their creative ideas, originality and force them to learn only what you teach, thus produce Xerox copies of the notes you give them?

5. Do you counsel and guide your students ?

We live in a world of competition and knowledge explosion. Parents have high expectations from their children and constantly compare them to their classmates and peers or neighbours' children, who may be bringing a few extra marks. Often children and young people feel stressed with lots of parental, school and other pressures, leading them to certain amount of fear and anxiety, stress and tension, helplessness and low self esteem and as a result they often feel miserable and unable to bear the burdens of life. Do you understand the inner struggles of your students? Are you capable of guiding them in the right direction? Can the young people approach you at any time for guidance and counseling? Are you willing to play the role of a mother/father, sister/brother, friend and guide – above and beyond the call of duty?

6. Do I prepare well for my Class and keep the students busy and interested?

If you want to manage them keep them engaged. How do you keep the modern children engaged in the pursuit of learning, much more so in the classroom? In a culture of marks above anything else, are you capable of making learning a fun-loving experience by actively involving the students, through creative teaching, projects and digital teaching? Do your students look forward to your classes with eagerness and enthusiasm? Do you daily go to your class with prepared lessons, a prepared mind and a prepared heart? Do you motivate your students to learn, so that they understand the importance of becoming knowledgeable persons?

7. Do you trust your students and do your students trust you?

Trust between a teacher and a student is like the two sides of a coin. If there is trust, then there will be love, care and concern, making every classroom a sacred space for children to grow and bloom. Unconditional

trust in children is the best way to make the children love their teacher. If the students love their teacher, they will love the subject taught by the teacher. In such an ambience real learning is sure to take place. Do you trust your students? Do your students feel that you trust them? Do your students trust you? What are some of the signs that there is mutual trust between the teacher and the students in your class?

8. Do you really and sincerely love your students?

Education is a matter of the heart. The heart of education is the education of the heart. A teacher who simply does her job for the sake of salary does not truly love the students. Unless and until a teacher loves the students and makes the children feel and experience the love, there can be no real education. Children may be literate, they may obtain better grades but may not acquire real education. Real education means touching the heart. It is doing everything possible to make the children feel that we love them, we care for them, we are interested in their all round growth and development, we identify the strengths and weaknesses of our students, and we guide them along the right path. A teacher who sincerely loves the students is happy with her/his teaching profession and feels a deep sense of joy and satisfaction. Do you feel a deep sense of satisfaction in your teaching profession? Do you feel that your job is your mission, a vocation and profession? Are you growing in your teaching profession?

These are just some guidelines. There are many other areas of self assessment – like, Classroom management, Personal Discipline, Punctuality, Cleanliness, Being Respectful and Responsible, being Professional, Capacity to learn from others, Humility to seek Help and Guidance etc. Becoming a more effective teacher does not mean that a teacher passes more students

or that a teacher raises their class average by some more points. To be more effective simply suggests that a teacher challenges and enlightens his/her students each and every day by challenging herself or himself.

Personal assessment helps us to avoid falling in a rut. If we do not evaluate we have the tendency to do the same thing over and again and make the life of students really boring. Often brilliant students fall into the hands of retarded teachers, who refuse to change and the results are miserable. I request you take some time off, before you say good bye to 2016 and evaluate and take note of the situation. Try this out and you will see the biggest change in your life and in the teaching profession. Self assessment, if done sincerely, will lead you to become an inspiring teacher in the coming year. Be proud of your teaching profession. Remember you are creating a new generation, a new nation of thinking individuals who will transform our world. Yes, A Better Teacher, A Better India and A Better World. All the best for 2017!

Sr. Celine D'Cunha fma

"At no other time during the year
is the spirit of giving and sharing
more alive in people's hearts..
Keep this spirit of Christmas in your
heart all year long."

- Sam Longhorn

"This season, keep your eyes and
heart open for unexpected ways
that God will reveal to you the
hope of Christmas."

- Jack Countryman

73rd Annual General Body Meeting of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)

Four Nurse Sisters of the province participated in the 73rd Annual General Body Meeting and Workshop of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) in Bengaluru from 13-16 September 2016.

The first two days were days of workshop and the Sisters attended different workshops namely 'Sustaining Health Centre' by Sr. Maria Goretti Nongrum, 'Spirituality of Health' by Sr. Mary Concepta Pasi, 'Transformational Leadership in Health Care Ministry' by Sr. Dorathy Kharduit and 'Managing Health Centre' by Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang. While on 15-16 September they all attended the Annual General Body Meeting of CHAI, at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru with the theme ***"Action 2020: Repositioning for the future. Strengthening Our Institutions: Hospitals, Health Centers and Care Centers"***.



The participants were very much enriched and have learnt how to go about to sustain the different health centers. They were encouraged to have alternative medicines, counseling and networking with the nearby hospitals. They have also realized that to transform the health centers and others they need to begin from oneself by acquiring a step-by-step approach in life.

The Annual Meet was celebrated in a magnificent way being the 60th Death Anniversary of Sr. Dr. Mary Glorey JMJ, Servant of God, the founder of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI).

Sr. Dorathy Kharduit



7th Annual Meet of FMA Nurses

On 8-9 October 2016 the Nurses of the province gathered at FMA Outreach for the 7th Annual Meet with the theme "Be merciful just as my heavenly Father is merciful".

The gathering started off with a Prayer moment and the lamp-lighting ceremony. On the occasion, Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial delivered the inaugural address through which she appreciated the wonderful services that the nurses render to the sick and the poor. She also encouraged them and assured them her prayerful support in their ministry.



The highlights of the meeting included the reports of the Annual Meet 2015, evaluation of the Annual Project and presentation of reports from the various Health Care and Support Centres in the province. The Sisters also made a new plan for the year 2017. Besides the evaluation and planning, the sharing of the four sisters who have attended the CHAI Annual Meet and workshops have enriched all the participants for a better administration and service to the poor and needy.

Sr. Marilyn Bahun Wahlang

Tri-monthly Renewal Course for Young Sisters

The Tri-monthly Renewal course was organized for the Young sisters on 9 - 12 October 2016 at FMA Outreach Shillong. The theme of the course was "Sharing in the mystery of Christ, chaste, poor and obedient". 56 young sisters of different communities took part in the programme. Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, the Vice- Provincial cum Vocation coordinator led the young sisters in this experience.

The Renewal Course was preceded with a half day Prayer and Reflection. During which, Fr. VT. Jose SDB, Rector of Sacred Heart Theological Shillong made a reflection on "Consecrated life" highlighting the two precious gifts of God, namely, 'Time and Freedom of choice'. Above all, the Sisters encountered the Lord of Mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and thanked God for the gift of their Salesian vocation through the Eucharistic Adoration.



Sr. Rosina Susngi, Animator of St. Mary Mazzarello Convent Jowai, animated the Sisters on the 'Constitutions'. She began her session by saying that "the constitution is a mirror of our charismatic identity". She reminded them that while adapting with the signs of the time they should not forget or go away from the Spirit of the origin. Sr Euginia Laloo, the Social Communication coordinator of the Province dealt on the topic "the impact of media on Religious Life". Through this session they were made aware of both the positive and negative impacts of media on their life as Religious. The group in profession wise had a discussion on some questions pertaining to media and also made action plans for the respective groups, to which each group presented creative and meaningful responses. Sr. Entilia Nongkynrih, presented on the aspects of the Spiritual Profile of the FMA. This session was indeed practical which gave us impetus to live their religious life with creative fidelity and with greater commitment and to fix their gaze on Jesus who is the source of their call.

The programme concluded with the evaluation of the three-day sessions. It was a beneficial coming together, enriching each other and planning together.

Sr. Kyntiewlyne Kurbah and Sr. Aquila Makri

Annual Provincial Team Meeting

The Annual Provincial Team Meeting was held at Auxilium Convent, Nongthymmai on 5-6 November 2016 for the Evaluation of 2016 and Planning for the New Year 2017. Sr. Agatha Shadap, General Coordinator who convened the meeting saw to the minutest detail of meeting and carried it forth successfully.

AMRAT VIII Annual Meet cum Capacity Building



At the outset, Sr. Agatha welcomed all the team members of the various sectors, which was followed by a Prayer Moment. Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial addressed the gathering and appreciated the contribution of the various sectors towards the growth of the Province. She also reminded the members that they are the close collaborators of the Provincial Council and hence to take the lead in their respective communities towards keeping alive the charism of the Founders. Summing up the year's journey an audio-visual presentation entitled "Highlights of 2016" prepared by Sr. Euginia Laloo was projected. It consists of the major events that happened within the span of October 2015 to October 2016. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the Presentation of Reports by all the sectors. The second day saw the presentation of the Annual Plan for 2017 and the formulation of the Province Calendar 2017. Being the 140th Anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of the FMA, the gathering unanimously agreed to have the 14th of every month as a Missionary Animation Day. Concluding the Meet, Sr. Isabella Suja exhorted the participants to be courageous and enthusiastic messengers of faith, love and joy.

Sr. Euginia Laloo

Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Social Development Coordinator of the Province and Sr. Joplin Suchiang attended the Annual Meet of AMRAT (Asian Movement of Religious Women against Human Trafficking) on 7 - 10 November 2016 at Renewal Centre, Kaloar, in Kerala. They were among the 73 participants from the different women religious congregations of South East Asia.

The event witnessed the reporting of the organization at zonal level, the members also shared their varied experiences in the field of human trafficking and rescuing the victims for the enlightenment of all. They also made an action plan that would guide the activities of the new year 2017. The theme for discussion during the meet was the three kinds of trafficking: ***Obvious, Deceptive and Migration trafficking.*** Shri Sreejith, IPS, Kochi efficiently presented these topics and the participants have been enriched enormously. Another resource person was Liza, a member from AINEHT (All India Network to end human trafficking) who shared on the work of the organization to eradicate all forms of human exploitation. She stressed on the urgent need of building network of good to fight against a well organized crime to humanity.

Sr. Joplin Suchiang



Formation Course organized for Provincial Bursars

Sr. Marcellina Sangma, Provincial Bursar took part in the World Encounter of FMA Provincial Bursars held at the FMA Generalate, Rome from 18-25 November. It was an eight full days of very fruitful work attended by 81 Sisters, two of whom were guests. The objective was to reflect on the Guidelines that the Institute, following the indications from the Church wants to offer to all Provinces and especially to the bursars, so that the management of goods may be inspired by the charism, at the service of life and mission in every situation.

The observations of the 10 working groups on the draft of the *Guidelines* will be integrated into the definitive version of the text, which with the approval of Mother Yvonne and the Council, will become part of the legislation proper to the Institute.

Great appreciation was expressed for the presentation of the *platform for a computerized and synthetic management* of economic and financial data that will allow for up-to-date and shared collaboration between communities, provinces and the centre of the Institute while respecting the normal autonomy and levels

of responsibility. The details of this platform have still to be structured, and it will be applied to our realities gradually. Other interventions from experts and in particular the daily accompaniment and attentive, active participation of Mother Yvonne gave everyone security and confidence in the process.

The high level of participation by the bursars, the atmosphere of deep and passionate searching the hearts, ever attentive to our mission among young people, especially the poorest, the attention to the Holy Spirit, and the guidance of Mother Yvonne, helped everyone to experience a genuine sense of belonging to the Institute in its present reality but also in the richness of its internationality. The attentive, generous and sisterly hospitality of the communities of the Generalate and Sacro Cuore increased the family atmosphere.

The encounter with the Rector Major, Fr. Angel Fernandez on one of the evenings was an invitation to share all our resources and carry the poor in our hearts.

The joyful experience of the 33 Sisters who have completed this encounter with



a pilgrimage to Mornese and the places of our origins was a beautiful expression of our living as bursars in the heart of Salesian spirituality.

The encounter leaves us stronger and happier, determined to advance in communion and solidarity, for the good and growth of the Kingdom.

Our grateful thanks to Sr. Vilma Tallone, the Ecomer General and the team of the Administrative Sector for their meticulous planning and serene accompaniment.

Sr. Marcellina Sangma

13th Annual Meet of FMA-NDF in Shillong

A delegation of 28 members came together from the six FMA Provinces of India under the banner of FMA National Development Forum (NDF) at FMA Outreach, Shillong from 27 - 30 November 2016 and celebrated its Annual Meet. The main focus of the Meet was FMA India 2021 - A National Perspective Plan.

During the days of the meeting the group was enlightened and guided by Fr. Joe Xavier SJ, Consultant to FMA NDF in their five year Planning. Each Province had ample time to meet together, discuss and clarified their

doubts and queries. In the Planning, each Province concentrated on the development of the organization, and programmatically focused on the three target groups namely Women, Youth and Children.



Sr. Isabella Alphonse, the National Coordinator of FMA NDF too was very helpful in every way. She guided the group and encouraged them to work with dedication and passion so as to bring about change for the better for the underprivileged of the society. The gathering was also fortunate to have the representative from VIA Don Bosco, Mr. Joachim Lourduswami who oriented the participants to be efficient in their social ministry. The last day was an Exposure trip to SOS Children's Village at Umiam where the participants had a close interaction with the Director of the Centre and gained some knowledge and information on how they run the home for children. Also a glimpse of the Northeast was availed to the participants through the visit to the Don Bosco Museum.

The participants went back to their respective Provinces more energized, better equipped and oriented in order to achieve the goals of FMA Social Ministry.

Sr. Euginia Laloo



✧ BISHRAMGANJ

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy

On 7 October 2016, feast of the Holy Rosary, the community of Auxilium and Don Bosco Bishramganj went for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy at Don Bosco Church in Nandanagar in celebrating the Jubilee year of Mercy and also to receive forgiveness from God. Both the communities selected only the catholic students for this special pilgrimage.

On reaching the Holy Door Fr. Sunny SDB, the Parish Priest of Don Bosco Parish gave us the introduction at the entrance of the Holy Door. Fr. Laurence Darlong enlightened us from the Word of God, Jer.1:5. He said that our lives began in God's mind and each of us was not born by accident to this world but it was the plan of God. Citing Psalm 139, he repeatedly reminded us that God wonderfully makes us. After the beautiful reflection we had a well-animated Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion during the Holy Mass. It was a wonderful experience with God in those few hours of our encounter with Him especially the boys and girls who had not experienced like this type of prayer. We are grateful to God for the beautiful experience. We returned to our communities with joy in our hearts like the two disciples of Emmaus after meeting the Lord at the breaking of the bread.

Sr. Embok Suchiang



✧ BELLEFONTE

Year of Mercy celebrated with Families

The 16th October 2016 was a remarkable day for the Community of Bellefonte who celebrated the Year of Mercy in a very special way by organizing a one-day programme for the families of sponsored children. Around 80 families with 180 members from different villages were present. On this day, Sr. Agatha Shadap gave a talk to the Parents on the theme "Mercy - in a Biblical perspective". She also stressed on the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. While the Sisters and the Novices entertained the children through various animated games.

The climax of the celebration was the Eucharistic Sacrifice solemnly celebrated by Fr. Blasius Tete SDB who was the main celebrant, Fr. Sebastian Moses, the concelebrant and Deacon Leeborki Dhar SDB. The parents and the children took part actively and devoutly in the Holy Eucharist. Dn. Leeborki delivered the homily. He exhorted the parents to be merciful and to have a compassionate and a forgiving heart towards others. After the Holy Mass there was a fellowship meal followed by a short programme prepared by the Sisters and Novices based on the Year of Mercy. Concluding the day was the message of Sr. Carmelina Sun, the animator followed by the presentation of awards to the students who excelled in the SSLC and HSSLC Examinations 2015.

Sr. Camilia & Sr. Ba-i-thiang
(Novices)

✧ GAROBADHA

Couples Retreat at St. Dominic Savio's Parish, Garobadha

On 6 -8 October 2016 the Parish community organized a three-day retreat for couples under the leadership of Fr. Denis Sangma the Parish Priest. There were 64 couples that turned up for this retreat.

Sr. Lona Sangma and Sr. Amalia Sangma who are directly involved in the mission of the Parish gave their wholehearted service in the organization of the same. On the first day of the Retreat, Sr. Lona gave an introductory talk setting the tone for the retreat. While, Sr. Amalia helped in the animation of the Prayer moments. There were various resource persons who have enlightened the retreatants with apt topics concerning Spiritual Life in the Family and other issues related to the well-being of a family.



Training Programme for Touring Sisters attended



The Diocese of Tura organized a four-day programme for Touring Sisters on 24 - 28 October 2016. Sr. Lona Mary Sangma and Sr. Amalia Sangma took part in it as they are actively engaged in this ministry. There were 48 participants from 28 congregations.

Different resource personnel animated the group. The topics that were dealt with were Catechism in the field of Mission, Communication and Life skills and Health and Sanitation. Bishop Andrew Marak, Fr. Levio Sangma and Fr. Francis K shared their life experiences in the field of touring

ministry, which have enlivened and enriched the participants in their present apostolate. The meeting also gave them an opportunity of an exposure visit to the various mission centers. Apart from this, various competitions were organized for the participants and prizes were distributed for the winners.

Annual Industrial Exhibition of Garo Hills

Being a registered member of the Industrial Office, the Mazzarello Vocational Training Centre participated in the Annual Industrial Exhibition on 10 - 12 November 2016. The exhibition is one of the main highlights of the Wangala Festival at Asanang village.

The products of the Centre consists of well-weaved Garo shawls, tables clothes, small children's dress with different



designs, bags and the different food stuffs, which attracted the customers. The Chief Guests of the three respective days, namely Smt. M. B. Roy Director of Commerce and Industries, the Governor of Meghalaya Shri. V. Shanmuganathan, Shri Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister of the State took notice of the items in our stall and appreciated the Sisters and their team for their quality products. The festival boosted the lives and unity of the people as it went off successfully and peacefully without any interference.

Sr. Catherine Sutnga

★ JOWAI

JOTTINGS FROM JOWAI DIARY

Silver Jubilee of Dedicated Service

On the occasion of the Teachers' Day, which was celebrated on 7 September 2016 in the School Campus, the School felicitated the three teachers who have reached their Silver Years of dedicated service to the young in the teaching profession.

The three jubilarians were Mr. Subhrendu Chakaravarty, Mrs. Candida Nanghuloo and Mrs. Felicita Nanghuloo. They were felicitated with an address, special bouquet



and gift and the other teachers presented a number specially composed to felicitate their colleagues. Mrs. Felicita speaking on behalf of the three jubilarians, voiced out sentiments of gratitude to the students, the school and the Sisters past and present.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage

The Community made its Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage to the diocesan designated Holy Door at the Divine Mercy Retreat Centre on 13 September 2016. All but seven boarders who are either too small to travel or sick, took part in this pilgrimage.



During the pilgrimage the Sisters and Boarders savoured the fountain of mercy through the animation of Fr. K. Anthony VC, the Director of the Centre, Fr. Joel Edathazhe VC and Miss Noria Rynjah. Sacrament of Reconciliation was administered while simultaneously the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament was being animated and was concluded with the Benediction. Before the Holy Eucharist the group gathered at the entrance of the Jubilee Door of Mercy in front of the Church where Fr. Anthony explained the significance of entering through it. This was made very meaningful through the animation and explanation of Fr. Anthony of the chosen Gospel passage from Luke 2: 41 - 51, the child Jesus in the temple. Father highlighted very strongly the need for all the girls to grow in wisdom and knowledge

before God and society. The Pilgrimage closed with the anointing of every one with holy oil and then all left the Church at 1.45 pm and went for a well-deserved lunch.

Mother Teresa International Film Festival (MTIFF) in Jowai



On 14th September 2016 the **Mother Teresa International Film Festival (MTIFF)** was inaugurated by Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil, SDB, DD at the District Library Auditorium, Mynthong, Jowai.

Our girls of Class X gave a beautiful number on Mother Teresa, composed by Mr. Augustine Kharmudai. People from all walks of life attended the festival, which lasted for four days. Almost all our students had an opportunity to take part in this homage to the greatest lady who made herself an Indian. On the evening of 17th September the last day our boarding girls under the guidance of their Assistants, Sr. Madona Lytep and Sr. Dakyrmen Sohkhlet presented a beautiful choreographic on the song entitled: "We are God's children" while dumb enactment of scenes from Mother Teresa's work among the poor was shown in the foreground and Sr. Rosina Susngi delivered a talk on St. Mother Teresa emphasizing her great humility.

Sisters and Brothers Day

The Jowai Diocese celebrated the "Sisters and Brothers Day" on 18th September 2016. Fr. Hilarius Lamare and the PPC together with the different CMC and Associations of the Parish left no stone unturned to ensure that the



14 Sisters working in the two Convents of the Parish and the lone Salesian brother working in Bosco Pnar, were duly honored. The solemn Eucharist was concelebrated by the Parish Priest and Fr. Roland Kharkrang SDB, of Bosco Pnar. All the Sisters, Brother, Catechists and the priests relished a festal lunch prepared by the Catholic Mothers association of the parish. There was even a specially ordered cake in their honour. Sr. Rosina, Sr. Veronica Surin MSMHC, the superior of Mooralong and Bro. Barnabas Khriam SDB of Bosco Pnar was jointly invited to cut it. In the afternoon, the Parish through various items that were very carefully prepared felicitated the Sisters and Brother. Each Sister was gifted with a very fine white shawl made in Korea and brother too received a gift.

World Day of Prayer for Peace

On 20th September 2016, the Community was united with our beloved Pope



Francis and the various religious leaders who gathered at Assisi to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the historic Inter-religious Prayer for Peace initiated by St. John Paul II in 1986. The girls have been motivated and prepared for this day through instruction given to them in the goodnight the previous day. We are grateful to our Apostolic Administrator who had forward to us the prayer service prepared by Sr. Teresa Joseph FMA, Secretary to the CBCI Commission for Interreligious dialogue. At 7 pm the whole community gathered in the well-prepared Chapel and Sr. Lytep Madona together with Sr. Sohkhet Dakyrmen animated the prayer service adapting the text to the understanding of the girls.

Felicitation for the underprivileged and meritorious students

The 'We Care Foundation' felicitated the underprivileged meritorious students on 1st October at the prestigious Pinewood Hotel of Shillong. Lis Syrti of our school who secured the 7th position at the last SSLC Examination was one among them. His Excellency Mr. V. Shanmuganathan, the Governor of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest who gave away the certificates and cash awards. In his message he urged the students to read the biographies of Mother Teresa of Kolkata and of Thomas Edison and advised the students to be bold and courageous in

their approach to life. Our school was also presented with a citation of appreciation, which was received by Sr. Esther Marwein. Mr. David Kharsati the Secretary of the We Care Foundation explained the purpose of this society founded on 15 June 20015 for the betterment of Society especially those of the underprivileged class. He quoted the words of Mother Teresa - "If we cannot feed thousands of people let us feed at least one" - as the foundation principle of their society.



RTI Competitions

Ten students accompanied by Sr. Lytep Madona, Ms. Emicia Sutnga and Mrs. Doreen Nikhla participated in the skit competition on the topic - Right to Information [RTI] organized by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaiñtia Hills in collaboration with the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute [MATI], at the District Library Auditorium Mynthong, Jowai on 17 October 2016.

Our students acted out a skit on "Creating awareness on RTI in rural areas" and bagged the first prize. The second prize was won by Thomas Jones College that acted on "The Power of RTI" while the third prize was won by H. K. Singh School on the topic - "The importance of RTI". Kudos to our students and teachers and to the author of the skit - Mr. Terence Sawian in particular!

Debate Competition:

On 18 October 2016, Ms. Cheerfulness Kharsati of Class X took part in the Inter-School State Level Quiz and Debate Competition on “Holding National Games by Meghalaya in the year 2022 is a boon for sports in the State”. The Directorate of Youth and Sports Affairs, Government of Meghalaya organized the event at the Moreau Institute of Training and Research Society, Dhanketi, Shillong.

It is a matter of great joy and pride for the School when Cheerfulness speaking against the motion was awarded the third prize; more so when we know that she was competing with the elite schools of Shillong city. Mr. Terence Sawian and her mother accompanied her for the event.

Final Basketball match

Our School team faced a strong team from the Police Public School on 24th October the last day of the District Inter School Basketball tournament, 2016. It was a tough fight but our girls managed to clinch the first place with 10 goals against 3. The girls returned home jubilant with the hard earned trophy; while we thank and praise God for this victory we pray that they will be victorious also in the academic field.



4th Betty Alma Ryan Memorial Elocution Contest:



The final round of the 4th Betty Alma Ryan Elocution Contest was held on 31st October. The judges were Sr. Josephine Rynksai, Sr. Theodosia Mawniuh and Ms. Mawniuh Theophila. It was a consolation to note how the girls keep on improving year after year. While the little ones recited a poem, the two bigger groups, the Marian Group and the Salesian Group had a declamation on any passage. The two favorite choices were: lives of great men and women and a good number also took Gospel passages. In the goodnight thought while congratulating the girls but above all their Sister Assistants who have prepared them, Sr. Rosina once again recalled the origin and the purpose of this Yearly Elocution Contest since a good number of girls were new. She urged the girls to follow the generosity and large-heartedness of Mrs. Alma and her children in reaching out to the poor.

“Christmas is more than just presents,
it’s love and harmony.”

- Julie Hebert



Felicitating the Rank Holder of the School

Ms. Lis Syrti, the Mazzarello girl of the year was felicitated on Children's Day in the School with a citation while the Community presented her with a cheque of ₹10, 000/- (Rupees ten thousand) only in appreciation for the hard work put in to gain the 7th position in the last SSLC Examination 2016. Lis gave a heart touching account of her struggle and pain after she lost her mother at a tender age. She brought very many to tears as she recounted her struggles, pain and determination to come up in life. She urged all her friends to work hard, put their trust in God and believe in themselves while avoiding to compare self with others. Her father who was present was also moved.

3-Fold Celebration of Children's Day

The community had a three-fold celebration of Children's Day on 14 November 2016. Morning in the School, evening in the Evening School and night in the Boarding.

The Sisters and teachers made the day very special with their items and gifts such as lunch packet of 'jadoh' [Khasi pullao] and chicken for the day school and gift packets for evening School students. For the evening school it was the first time celebration of Children's Day giving these less fortunate youth a rare chance of some moments of relaxation and entertainment. The Chief Guest Mr. Andrew Shullai, local MDC of Jowai Central, holding also the portfolio of Deputy CEM, encouraged the students to make the best use of this very special opportunity given them to better their status in life while expressing his appreciation for all that the Mazzarello School is doing to reach out to them.



★ KABUGANJ

Blessing of the foundation stone at Dholai

The dawn of 7 October 2016 brought along feelings of joy and gratitude for the day witnessed the laying of the foundation stone of the school building at Auxilium Dholai. Coinciding with the feast of the Holy Rosary, the School looks up to the patronage of Mary under whose name the school stands.

The foundation was laid and blessed by Rt. Rev. Stephen Rotluanga CSC, DD., Bishop of Aizawl diocese. At the outset Sr. Marcellina Sangma, the Provincial Economer introduced to the gathering the significance of the occasion and accorded warm welcome to everyone present. A



bouquet and a *gamosha*- the traditional wear, typical of the State of Assam was presented to Bishop Stephen as a sign of welcome by the student representatives. This was followed by a short prayer service. The document of the foundation stone was then read, followed by the blessing and laying of the foundation stone by Bishop. Bishop Stephen in his speech expressed his joy in the work that is being initiated which in the future would be a channel to reach out to the people around and cater to their spiritual need as well. He also imparted his blessing upon the venture and assured his support. Thanking the local people present for the support they give to the Sisters he requested them to continue to help the Sisters in their

endeavours. Traditional Bengali Sweets were then served for all present to mark the joy of this event. We are grateful to all present and their support: our workers who worked hard to keep things ready, Sisters from nearby communities, leaders of the locality and parents representatives as well as student representatives.

'We saw miracle today' was the phrase that was uttered around as we experienced God's special care. As we were heading from Kabuganj to Dholai we saw sunshine and a dry land. Approaching Dholai we had rain; heavy rain which almost dampened our spirit. Taking it for God's blessing we went ahead determined to complete the program as planned. On reaching the site and having landed in our land we were all surprised to see only our plot was dry while there was rain even outside our compound.

Our gratitude to Sr. Isabella Suja the Provincial for the constant help and support who could not be present for the occasion due to the coincidence of other significant programmes of the Province on the same day and to Sr. Marcellina who worked so hard to make things happen.

Sr. Manoda Sangma

✪ LAMYRSIANG

Wildlife Week Celebration

The Department of Forests and Environment Government of Meghalaya had the Wildlife Week Celebration on 27 September 2016. It was held at the Community Hall of Latyrke Village, Jaiñtia Hills District. On this occasion six students were selected from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Lamyrsiang to take part in the celebration. They had Drawing/Painting and Essay Writing Competition on the theme: *Members Matter: Working Together for Wildlife*. Nehsalan Bareh of Cl. VIII and Krishna Gurung of Cl. V came first in the

Drawing Competition. While, Daniel Kison Bamon, Maria Goretti Lalhruiatluangi of Cl. X, Benjamin Limbo of Cl. VIII and Anita Rai of Cl. V received the Certificate of Merit for participating in the Essay Competition. We congratulate them for bringing honour and glory to the School through the hard work they put in.

"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart" – Helen Keller

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Lad-Rymbai

On 3 October 2016 the community members of Sacred Heart Convent Lamysrang went for a pilgrimage to the Divine Retreat Centre Ladrymbai to receive the plenary indulgence by entering the Holy Door of Mercy. They had a half-day retreat preached by Fr. Anthony Kolencherry V.C. As the Sacrament of Reconciliation was going on the Boarders and Sisters simultaneously had the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. This was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. They all experienced the mercy of God to the fullest. We thank Sr. Sylvestra Khonglah the animator for the opportunity given to us on that day.



School Week: You have it! (Photo 55)

On 17 and 18 October 2016 the students of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Lamysrang had the School Week. The theme that guided the event was "You have it". The sole aim of the event was to encourage the young minds to shine out with the innate qualities God has bestowed on them. The Chief Guest of the day was Mr. Dominic Pala the Headman of the Village. The School Captain and the Captains of the four houses viz. Yellow, Green, Red and Blue led him to the Podium with a slow march.

During his speech the Chief Guest



appreciated and thanked the Sisters and the staffs for their selfless dedication. He also said that the village has developed and lots of improvement is seen on the part of the children from the time the Sisters came to Lamysrang. He exhorted all the students to obey the elders. He said "No Education - No discipline, No Education - No Development" with these words he advised the students not to stop their schooling but to forge ahead and reach their goals. Different events were conducted for the students both for their intellectual and physical well being. The students participated actively in all the events of the days. Many of them won prizes and went home with hearts contented.

Parents' Day Celebration in the School

There is a variety of ways to show one is grateful and so on 21 October 2016 the students of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Lamysrang expressed their gratitude to their parents through a Parents Day Celebration. The theme of the celebration was "Let Love be our Home". The three-hour show was held in the School Hall wherein the Chief Guest of the day was Shri. N. Bhowmik, Deputy Director of School Education and Literacy, Meghalaya along with Sir Atish Ch. Roy the Assistant District Adult Education Officer. While, Shri Victor Suja the Chairman of the Catholic Church of Lamysrang Village was the Guest of Honour.

Bipasha Chettri and Daniel Kison Bamon of Cl. X beautifully compered the entire proceedings. On this day the students showcased their talents in acting, singing, dancing and



other self-expression. The items were theme-based and the students performed them to their best of their ability and to the surprise of the guests and their parents. One notable item presented was a skit on a boy who never says 'thank you' but later realized that being grateful is the best attitude. It was an ecstatic moment for Parents and they felt great and happy to witness the talents of their children.

The Guest of honour, Shri Victor Suja in his speech exhorted the children to work hard as their Parents are slogging day in and day out to educate them. The Chief Guest too reminded both Parents and Students to strengthen the bond of unity at home and into School. On this occasion Sr. Jubil Dkhar, Headmistress gave a brief account on the progress of the School and the accomplishments in the past few years of its existence in Lamysiang. Shri Dominic Pala the village headman and Mrs. Cordial Chyrmang spoke on the theme "Unity" which is a requisite of all successful endeavours. At the close of the programme a sumptuous meal was served for special invitees and teachers of the school. While, snacks were served for the parents in between the items.

Some expressions from the students on the day's event:

"I was so excited to see my parents present on that day. There were smiles on their faces as we were performing our items on the stage. I heard them saying wow! It's amazing." - *Nikita Baro of Cl. VIII*

"Parents are my special friends. From this

celebration I learnt that I should love them not only on this occasion but all through my life. Long live my beloved Mom and Dad!" - *Manisha Pasi of Cl. IX*

"Parents are my best guide in the world. Without them I feel like a desert without an oasis. I pray for the orphans who have no more Parents that they might find good people to care for them like how our beloved Parents care of us" - *Hakimonme Pala of Cl. IX*

Sr. Rina Kharthangmaw

★ MAWKYNDENG

Silver Jubilee of FMA Presence at Mawkyndeng

On 17 September 2016, Silver bells rang so loud and clear heralding the coming of the Salesian Sisters to Mawkyndeng for the past 25 years. This day was solemnized with the thanksgiving Holy Eucharist and Felicitations.

Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil SDB, the then Apostolic Administrator of Jowai diocese was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist. In the homily he highlighted on the need to be grateful to God for the wonders He worked during the past twenty-five years of the presence of the Sisters. After which, Fr. Hilarius Lamare, the Vicar of the Diocese elaborated on the same points in the vernacular language. The melodious choir added devotion to the day's celebration and the liturgy. The symbolic gesture of bringing a bunch of flowers, by Sr. Patricia Nongkhlaw, Animator which depicted the many who have passed through the portal of St. Francis Convent, was an act of offering the past, the present and the future. After the Holy Mass there was a short but colourful felicitation programme in which the pioneers present were specially mentioned and felicitated. The items apt for the occasion were presented by the



boarding girls, the school children and the girls from Saphai, who form part of the community of St. Francis.

Also present for the occasion was Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial who in her message applauded the works of the pioneers and exhorted the younger generations to follow their footsteps. The presence of many Sisters from near and far and especially those who have lived in Mawkyndeng, the Parish community, the priests from Sahnsiang, Salesian Cooperators and other dignitaries added joy and jubilation to the Silver Jubilee celebration.

Pilgrimage to Shillong organized for Oratorians

Twenty-one vehicles lined up early morning at the RCLP School, Mawkyndeng on 22 October 2016. All were set for the pilgrimage to Shillong. The children of the oratories and Sunday School belong to the three Parishes of Mawkyndeng, Barato and Sahnsiang but are run by the Sisters, Salesian Cooperators and teachers. This initiative was undertaken as a commemoration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and also as a reward for the children after the Quiz, Preaching and Choir competitions.

On reaching Shillong, the group first visited the Don Bosco Museum, Northeast in one roof. After this, the spiritual celebration began with the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Philip Barjo who presided over the Holy Eucharist in his homily applauded the sisters for this initiative and exhorted the children to grow in their Catholic faith. The group then proceeded to the Golflinks for a sumptuous lunch and visited Bellefonte community. The next sacred place visited was the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians where the Holy Door was designated. Fr. Julius Kurbah the Assitant Parish Priest of Laitumkhrah gave the introductory talk on the year of Mercy and explained to them about a symbolic entering through the Holy Door and a gesture of touching the Holy



Cross for indulgences. With great devotion and fervour all entered through the Holy Door and on reaching inside the Cathedral, Miss Tiewly Sutnga, one of the Salesian Cooperators organized special prayers and reflection. Finally the group came to the Provincial House where Sr. Elizabeth Thannimootill and the community of Nongthymmai prepared tea for them.

The children were so taken up and happy with the arrangements made for them to live and celebrate the year of Mercy.

Get-together of the students staying in the rented house

On the evening of 24 October 2016, Sr. Aitihun Lawai the YaR team member of the Province organized a get together of all the students of Mawkyndeng who are staying at the rented house with the help of Sr. Melina Kharbani and some women of the village.

The students turned up in an unexpected way numbering 250 boys and girls from Primary to Higher Secondary classes. The purpose was to get to know them and to help them out as their final examinations is fast approaching. The meeting was so successful and the students themselves expressed their desire to have frequent meetings of this kind.



Sr. Aitihun Lawai

★ MAWKYRDEP

Spiritual encounter with the Lord

The Catholic students of King of Kings Higher Secondary School attended a three-day retreat in the school from the evening of 30 September to 2 October 2016. 150 students participated in this retreat, which was animated by Fr. Tomy Anthony, CFC.

During the sessions, Fr. Tomy inculcated in us the importance of prayer, its meaning and the valuable richness that prayer can do in our lives. We really enjoyed our retreat and the three days passed so swiftly. The experience of the retreat was like marching towards our Father's Home in heaven where we will be one day with Him. Our heartfelt thanks go to Fr. Tomy, Sr. Provina Marwein, Headmistress and all the sisters for their prayers and for creating a prayerful ambience throughout.

**Deishisha Suphai and
Rebisha Nongrum (Class - X)**

Time of Grace

On 8 October 2016, the boarders of St. Mary Mazzarello Convent, Mawkyrdep fervently took part in the annual retreat with



great joy and enthusiasm. Fr. Tomy Anthony, CFC animated the 3-day retreat.

It was a special time where the girls spent time with the Lord in silence and in prayer. Fr. Tomy enriched us through his various talks and homilies at the Eucharist. Each of his talk was well explained with lots of experiences, which enabled us grasped and took home the message for our personal growth. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was another means, which brought us closer to God; experiencing his tender love and mercy more profoundly. These days indeed prove to be a time of grace and a chance for renewal and refreshment.

**Baphira Nadon and Mary Antonia
(Boarders)**

Year of Mercy celebrated

As part of the celebration of the Year of Mercy, on the 21 October 2016 the King of Kings Higher Secondary School kept a day for various competitions with the theme "Year of Mercy". The various competitions included drawing, singing and skit competitions for different sections.



In the morning the drawing competition was conducted for classes KG to Cl - X. This was followed by the Singing competition for M.E. Section students in both categories namely individual and in group. In the afternoon, the Secondary and Hr. Secondary sections displayed the acts of Mercy through their creative and meaningful skits, which reminded everyone to be merciful as the Heavenly Father is merciful. The teachers and sisters appreciated the effort made and enjoyed the show. Concluding the programme, the winners of the different events were announced and Sr. Provina Marwein, the headmistress proposed the vote of thanks to all.

Sr. Idearland Lyngkhoi

MAWLAI

Fund Raising Day to help the Needy

On the occasion of the 'Year of Mercy', the School held a Children's Fund Day under the leadership of Sr. Lydia Pala the Principal, on 7 October 2016 at the School Campus.

The Management, the Staff and the Students of the School took active participation to make this day a successful one. The noble intention to raise some fund was in order to extend help to a certain poor household at Nongkohlew to construct one toilet and meet the repair expenses of the house. Parents and friends were invited to the School so that the cause would be a fruitful one. It was seen that everybody was eager to contribute something towards this noble cause. The Fund Day started in the morning at 9 and ended at 3.00 pm. There were fifteen stalls altogether. Sisters, teachers and student volunteers in charge of all these stalls took active part in the work entrusted to them.

Mrs. Leena Rose Lyngdoh (Teacher)



Annual Retreat of the Boarders and Pre Aspirants

The Annual Retreat of the Boarders and the Pre Aspirants was held on 7- 9 October 2016. The theme of the retreat was on “How to be holy.” Fr. C.M Jose SDB, Professor at Sacred Heart Theological College Mawlai Shillong was the preacher of the retreat. The Retreat started with the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the introductory talk.

During the retreat the girls reflected on the topics such as “Sin and repentance”, “Love of God and of neighbour” and lots of time was given for both individual and common prayers. On the last day of the retreat the group with due preparation received the Sacrament of Reconciliation ministered by ten priests. The retreat concluded with the Holy Mass celebrated by the preacher Fr. C.M Jose. After Mass we thanked Father, Sisters and all those who have helped us to make a good and a fruitful retreat. At the end of the retreat all of us were happy and satisfied.

Ibadasuk Syiem (Boarder)

Conclusion of the Year of Mercy

On 4 November 2016, as a mark of the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy a one-hour Opera entitled “Blessed are the Merciful” was staged by the students of Sacred Heart Girls’ Higher Secondary School, Mawlai - Shillong at the Auditorium of



Sacred Heart Theological College. The Chief Guest of the day was Mr. A. L Hek, M.L.A of Pynthorumkhrach Shillong, and the Guest of Honor was Sr. Isabella Suja, our Provincial.

The opera circles around the parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Mt. 18: 21 - 35), which was directed and scripted by Shri Rollingstar Kharumnuid, a teacher of the school. The students in their best attire showcased their God-given talent in acting, singing, dancing and music. Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Isabella Suja, the Guest of Honour quoted the words of Pope Francis “It is Mercy that compensates sin.” She also said that mercy is God’s love and compassion as we ourselves are the manifestation of God’s love. The Chief Guest too gave a beautiful speech on the same topic i.e on the Mercy of God. He reminded us that God’s mercy is always perennial, and hence all ought to celebrate mercy not only for this year but also throughout our lives. He reminded the parents that they are not meant only to produce academician, but rather train God-fearing children. To the students, he reminded them to be obedient to their parents and should organize themselves personally, and in the family so as to be able to achieve their goals as a complete human being - a God fearing person. The programme concluded with the melodious rendition of the School Anthem by everyone.

Sr. Bertina Kurbah

★ MAWTNUM

The community of Mawtnum celebrated the fifty Golden Years of loving service of Sr. Linda Horne as a religious and missionary to our land on 7 October 2016. The day was solemnized with the thanksgiving Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil SDB DD and joined by other concelebrants.



In his homily the Prelate, underlined the meaning of religious life and the joy of belonging to God, which in turn demanded courage from those who respond to His call. He also applauded the heroic deeds of Sr. Linda in bringing up the centre of Mawtnum, which is now well known in the Ri-Bhoi region. Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial in her message on the occasion appreciated the missionary zeal and vibrant spirit of Sr. Linda, who is ever young and ever dynamic (*in her own words, she is always 46*) in bringing up the poorer section of the society.

After the Holy Mass, a colourful felicitation programme was staged in honour of Sr. Linda. The programme was well organized under the leadership of Sr. Mary Lamare and gave a fitting honour to the pioneer of the Auxilium Umpohlieu Jingstad. The presence of some of the past-pupils testified the way Sr. Linda has touched the lives of many who now are able to say, "You have touched me and I have grown". Many Sisters from near and far, friends and well-wishers from Guwahati and other places and more especially the candidates and young people have added joy and colour to the celebration.

Sr. Euginia Laloo

★ NANDAN NAGAR

Student Development Programme

The Student Development Programme was organized on 26 - 28 September 2016 for the students of classes IX to XII. After the hectic examinations, the programme paved the way for the students to refresh their minds and also to learn beyond textbooks.

The sessions were taken by our very own Sisters namely Sr. Celine D' Cunha, Principal, Sr. Rihun Sten Vice Principal, Sr. Mercy Nongsiej and Sr. Margreth Kharmuti. Sr. Celine's session opened with an activity called "Bursting Balloons". From this activity the students were made to understand the need to protect each and everything around them. They were also made to write down on their notebooks the message they gained. Sr. Celine then made the students to reflect and present works of art on "Power of Creation" which was followed by a Quiz, which categorizes the students in various groups of animals according to the marks obtained. Women Empowerment was another topic that was highlighted during the programme.

Sr. Rihun through her session taught us the various aspects of life, and revealed to us ways in which we can be better and more efficient travelers as we walk the path of life. With the end of the session our level of confidence boosted us to face life in an enhanced way, in the days

to come. The activity that was done at the beginning of the session of making something out of a piece of paper revealed to the potentialities and creativity of everyone. Finally the programme concluded with a session on “Cyber Crime Security” by Sr. Mercy and Sr. Margreth. One of the participants said, “I have learnt the lessons of life, to be a better person in the days to come and make this world a better place”.

Romita Roy (Class XC)

School Exhibition: AUXILIUM IGNITE 2016

The 5th School exhibition of Auxilium Agartala 2016 was held on 6 October. On this day a spark was lit in Auxilium not with candle or oil lamp but with the oil of knowledge, ideas, creativity and vision. Shri Abhijit Saptashi, IPS (SP West) was the Chief Guest and Rev. Fr. Robert Mathias CSC Provincial, as the Guest of Honour. We were blessed to have many other guests and invitees, whose presence made the day special.

The rendition of the song “Ignite Auxilians” opened up the day’s festivity of talents and expression by the students. The exhibition showcased the creativity, knowledge and special gifts of the students in various fields, which was thematically presented. Some of the themes highlighted were: “Save us to save you!” - on Nature and creation, Disneyland - an excellent creation by the little ones guided by the teachers, Mother Teresa - The ambassador of Peace, Tripura - My Culture, My Roots, English - Alice in Wonderland, Legal Aids - Our Rights and Duties, Catechism: Fountain of virtues and some other sciences.

Fr. Robert Mathias CSC, in his message encouraged the students to excel higher and he also expressed his appreciation for the wonders that is being accomplished in the state by the School. The Chief Guest Shri Abhijit Saptashi in his message congratulated the students and exhorted the students to take failure in life as a stepping-stone to success and never as a stumbling block. He also expressed his joy for the chance given to him to visit our school, which he said, is one of the best schools of the state.

Some of the remarkable comment by parents and guardians who witnessed the ignited

minds and hearts of our students:

- Ms Jaba Kar “ This exhibition of Auxilium school exhibits excellently the talents of students and it’s an inspiration to the society”
- Mr Prabal Das “I was taken to a real wonderland”
- Ms Saswati Saha “ The projects and models are very innovative and it was an excellent work”
- Ms Debasmita Karmakar “I am proud! You did not forget our heritage”
- Mr A. Noatia “Excellent and innovative idea. Entire Tripura together”

Almost seven to eight thousand people visited the exhibition all through the day, along with many school children. Many who visited the exhibition could not imagine that a single school could organize such a mega exhibition.

Hrittika Hajari (Class IX)



14th Annual Day for Junior Section

On 27 October 2016, students of Nursery-KG II celebrated the Annual Day. Mrs. Gunjan Gupta, Principal, Army Public School and her husband Dr. A.K Gupta PPCF and Chief Wildlife Warden were the Chief Guests and Mr. A. K Reang, District Education Officer was the Guest of honour. The following day was for the students of Classes I-III. Shri Pabitra Kar, Deputy Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly was the Chief Guest and Dr. Mrinmoy Datta, Principal, College of Agriculture, Lembucherra was the Guest of Honour.

The children looked gorgeous in their colourful and gaudy attires. The anchors of the program were especially outstanding. They conducted the entire program beaming with confidence and in an extremely smart way. A variety of beautiful, meaningful and colorful items presented by all the students of the different classes were indeed awesome and excellent. The junior most members of the school, the Nursery Class, in their colourful frilled gowns were the center of attraction.

The Chief Guests and the Guests of Honour in their speeches appreciated the way the students had so marvelously put up such a beautiful program and congratulated the management and staff for the training they give to the students. They were full of appreciation and congratulated the children for their superb



performance. The program on both days was a grand success and was well appreciated by everyone who witnessed it. Further, the school auditorium, which was artistically and beautifully decorated, was filled to its capacity. The little ones excluding no one put up an extremely meaningful and beautiful programme.

Sr. Pdianghun Kharduit

Annual Day: Peace and Unity for a Harmonious Living

Auxilian family celebrated its 14th Annual Day for the students of Classes IV and above on 10 November 2016 with great gaiety, pomp and show. Rt. Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala was the Chief Guest and the Guests of honour were Dr. A Ranghanath, Registrar ICAI University and



Shri S.K Panda, Chairperson, Skill Development Mission, Tripura and a host of others, especially some chosen parents as special invitees and a multitude of parents and guardians, friends and well wishers.

The entire campus wore a festive look, tiny strings of lights and colourful flags were used everywhere to embellish the compound, music and songs filled the air, the main gate was beautifully donned and a group of children dressed in local costumes stood at the entrance welcoming everyone with their folded hands. The welcome song entitled "Peace shall reign forever", the dance of welcoming the homecoming warriors and the words of welcome from Sr. Celine D' Cunha, Principal gave a befitting start to the day's extravaganza. Dances varying from traditional, cultural and modern steps

compelled the audience to sway their waist to the rhythm of the music. Special items such as paying homage to "MOTHER TERESA" through their program "UMEED KI KIRAN", We SALUTE our SOLDIERS - the real Heroes, the dream of our Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi - "SWACHH BHARAT", "MEDIA MANIA" and "MADE IN INDIA" mesmerized the audience and made the evening an enjoyable one for both performers and guests.

The climax of the show was the presentation of the theme "Peace and unity for a Harmonious living", where the students presented a dance drama wherein they showed how peace reigned at the beginning of the world but evil crept in the minds of humankind where jealousy, greed and envy began to reign and brought in death, violence and misery. The dance closed meaningfully with an invitation from the angel of Peace, to become agents of peace to wake up the world and forge ahead as warriors of Peace in life's journey. Crowning it all was the rendition of the School Choir, "Together for a united and peaceful world". The Annual Day concluded with a pledge taking ceremony where everyone took a commitment to be Peace bearers and to give Peace a chance in our world.

Ms. Kritodhee Lahiri (Class - XI B)

★ NONGTHYMMAI

Parents' Day: Family - a hearth of love and life



1 6 October 2016 was a red-letter day in the annals of Auxilium Higher Secondary School, Nongthymmai where Parents Day was celebrated expressing gratitude to them for their untiring and loving dedication. The celebration centered on the theme, "Family- A heart of love and life." The local MLA, Shri Dr. Jemino Mawthoh was the Chief Guest for the event.

On this memorable day, the School had the honour of releasing its first audio album entitled, "Listen, Rise and Unite". It consists of ten songs composed by the teachers and sung by



the teachers and students. Depicting the theme, the students with the help of their teachers came out with meaningful presentation such as “A musical presentation, paying Tribute to Parents”, a Prayer Dance invoking God’s blessing on Parents, a song dedicated to Parents from the School Album and the like. On this occasion, the school felicitated Miss Moureen Larikynti Kharkongor for winning the award of best Guide Captain 2016.

Speaking during the function, the Chief Guest expressed his appreciation of the school for organizing this type of programme and exhorted the parents to collaborate with the school in the better performance of their children. He also exhorted the student community to obey and respect their parents; for what they are today and will be in the future is all because of their parents. Mr. Paulinus Kharmudai, a parent representative expressed his joy and happiness to be part of the celebration and profusely thanked the school for all they do for the integral formation of their children on behalf of the parents.

The programme joyfully concluded with a heart touching scene of the students lining up on the playground and rending the air melodiously with the School anthem sung with much love and devotion.

Niangthianmuang S. Ngaite

140th Anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition Inaugurated

On 14 November 2016, hearkening to the invitation of Sr. Deretti Alaide, councilor for the Missions, The community of Auxilium

Convent, Nongthymmai, officially inaugurated the 140th anniversary of the first Missionary Expedition of the FMAs way back in 1877.

The six Sisters Sr. Anjela Valesse, Sr. Giovanna Borgna, Sr. Anjela Cassulo, Sr. Anjela Denegri, Sr. Teresa Gelda, and Sr. Teresina Mazzarello set sail and left for Paraguay on the God given day 14 November 1877. This day was kept as a day of praise and thanksgiving to God for the great spiritual achievement of the Institute who at its very tender age was able to spread its wings to South America. The well animated Morning Prayer set the tone of the day in which a brief history of the first expedition was read out. At 3.30 Pm the community assembled in the hall for the official inauguration. It began with a prayer dance by the Aspirants, ‘Persue me Lord’, the lighting of the lamp, and a short skit highlighting the first missionary expedition to South America. The letter of Mother Mazzarello No.23 to the missionaries of the house of Las Piedras (Uruguay) was the focus point of reflection and inspiration. Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoottil, the animator in her message emphasized on the message of Sr. Alaide who called upon the whole Institute to live the strong missionary impulse particularly during this year. At Evening Prayer too a short skit on the life of the six missionaries who came to our land, India was recalled also giving special mention to the missionaries who started the mission at Jowai. We happily concluded the day asking the six missionaries to intercede for us that their legacy of love,



commitment and generosity be lived by us and that like them we may strive to live the ordinary in the extraordinary way so as to be missionaries of hope and joy in our work-place and mission.

Sr. Joplin Suchiang

Experiencing the Merciful God at HRRC, Umroi

All the Catholic teaching and non-teaching staff of Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School Shillong under the guidance and leadership of our Principal Sr. Albrida Pyngrope attended a one-day renewal sessions at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre (HRRC) Umroi on the 31 October 2016.

The day commenced with a brief spiritual warm up by Rev. Fr. Jude. He quoted from the book of Psalms and the Holy Gospel and reminded us all of God's greatness and man's nothingness. Fr. Regi took up the second session in which he exhorted that we should all resemble Jesus the perfect teacher and master. Quoting and citing biblical passages and examples of Jesus as the lamb, he reiterated that we should also totally give ourselves and be one with Christ the perfect lamb. With due preparation, we all like wayward son returned to God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation administered by the priests of the Centre. Cleansed and immersed in God's mercy, we proceeded to the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass presided by Fr. Binoy the Rector of the Centre. In his homily, he

gave us the five simple ways to remain in the state of grace, namely: Live the sacramental life, Affinity with the Word of God, Practice mortification, Live in infused grace and to have a spiritual director. Apart from the spiritual exercise the teachers also had a group discussion on the action plan 2017. Spiritually elated, they all returned home renewed and rejuvenated, looking forward for more experiences.

Ms. Josephine Wahlang (Teacher)

★ NONGSTOIN

She won the Race!

Sr. Beltiful Kharsnar a lover of sports has made the 16 September 2016 indeed a memorable day at St. Francis College, Siejlieh - Nongstoin by winning the coveted first prize of all the events she participated during the College Week.

The prizes she won were pushing-car race, flower arrangement, skit competition and Tug of war. Having won so many prizes she was awarded the best girl in the College Week 2016 and the strongest woman in pushing-car race. The community of St. Peter's Pyndengrei rejoiced at her achievement



and feels blessed to share in her joy while the young people admired her lively participation. She witnessed to the young people her liveliness in living the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello in sharing the joy and fun among the young. Thus she made the day a joyous and happiest one both in college and in the community.

Sr. Dristina Sariang

Installation of Sr. Linda Horne at St. Peter's Convent

The community of St. Peter's Convent, Pyndengrei praised and thanked God for the gift of Sr. Linda Horne as the new animator of the community. The installation ceremony took place early in the morning of 13 October 2016, which was presided over by Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoottil, Provincial counselor.

Sr. Dristina Sariang and Sr. Celestina Syngkli meaningfully animated the Morning Prayer for the community on this solemn occasion with the theme "Jesus, the Good Shepherd". During the prayer moment, Sr. Elizabeth handed over the staff, the statue of Mary Help of Christians and the keys of the house to Sr. Linda where she in turn placed them before the altar. These symbolic gestures were done as a sign of her dedication and obedience to



the Divine Will and to follow the example of Mother Mazzarello our Saintly Mother to let Mary be the real Superior of the house and that she is keeping herself under her maternal care and guidance. After the Holy Eucharist, all gathered at the entrance of the house for a short felicitation. The presence of the community sisters and the boarders with the meaningful animation added meaning to the celebration.

Floral Arrangement Competition

The boarders of Class X and XII represented the school to participate in the floral arrangement at the New Nongstoiñ playground on 25 October 2016, which was organized by the Nongstoiñ Agri-Horticultural Society (NAHS) to mark the Autumn Flower Fest. Sr. Linda Horne and Sr. Beltiful Kharsnar accompanied them.

The following day when the result was announced it was a proud moment for the community wherein the boarders



bagged all the prizes in the students' category. Shngaiñhun Rashir secured the first prize, Angelina Pariong and Hunsi Mary Khardewsaw the second prizes and the third prize went to Dorathia Lyngkhoi, Shailin Jyrwa, Wanda Puweiñ and Darisha Khardewsaw. Besides, the Chief Guest Mr. Dioster Jyndiang MLA, Sr. Linda and Sr. Tarsiana too were called upon for the prize distribution to the winners.

Thanksgiving for Bishop Victor Lyngdoh

Sixth of November 2016 was a day of thanksgiving to God for the gift of Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh the out-going Bishop of Nongstoin diocese who dedicated his entire self and energy in serving the diocese for the last ten years and seven months as the first pastor of the diocese. The faithful from across the 20 parishes assembled in our playground for the solemn thanksgiving Eucharistic celebrations.

The Sisters took part fervently in the occasion especially in the preparation for this day. Sr. Meristella Kharthangmaw and Sr. Beltiful Kharsnar joined the choir and melodiously sang in the sacrifice of the Mass. In the afternoon, the different associations from the different parishes presented their items for the cultural programme in honour of his hard work and selfless sacrifices. Many priests, religious, government dignitaries and the faithful participated. We sincerely thanked Bishop and we pledged our love and prayerful support in his new pastoral field in Jowai diocese.

Sr. Beltiful Kharsnar



✪ RANGLANG

A Day with the Lord

15 Sisters gathered together at St. Mary's Ranglang community for the Regional Recollection Day on 10 September 2016. They have come from the four communities of Nongstoin, Rambrai, Umdang and Ranglang, West Khasi Hills District.

Fr. Raphael Tham SDB Parish Priest of Nongstoin animated the day of prayer and reflection. Reflecting on the theme 'The Merciful Father', he exhorted all of us that as we have received the mercy of God the

Father, especially as Religious we are to be signs and reflection of God's love and His merciful face to others in our every day life. The reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation brought us closer to God and strengthened our Religious life. Concluding the day of prayer was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. With joy and renewed hearts the Sisters walked out of the house of the Lord wishing each other Happy New life and proceeded for the family meal. After spending quality and fruitful time with the Lord and with each other the sisters returned to their respective communities.

Sr. Makriana Marwein

Maiden Parents Day at Auxilium School, Madan Sohphoh

1 2 November 2016 brought along great joy and excitement to the Sisters, Teachers and students for it was the first time the school celebrated Parents Day after its initiation on 23 February 2014. The theme of the celebration was 'Every Family is a School of Life and Love'. The Chief Guest for the day was Mr. Kharbani Martin a Salesian Cooperator and a well known person of the place and Sr. Maria Goretti Nongrum, Animator as Guest of Honour.

The programme commenced with a Prayer moment guided by Sr. Nildalin Kharkongor, the Headmistress and "Good morning friends" a prayer dance as an opening item to welcome one and all to the gathering. Other beautiful and meaningful items staged by the students of Nursery to Std II followed one by one. The well set up stage made everyone eager to think what comes next though the students are all just below eight years. The Chief Guest expressed his words of appreciations to the School for their ability to train the children though they are small. He also spoke on the given theme of the day in which he said that 'life and Love' goes hand in hand and Parents should witness love

to the children in the family. In his speech he also exhorted the parents to take keen interest in the education of the children, as there are very few people of the place who are educated. The day's programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Sr. Makriana Marwein and followed by the two songs of the children namely 'On this school your blessing Lord' and 'Mary Mazzarello's name'. The parents present for the occasion applauded the dedication and skills of the Sisters in imbibing true learning to their children.

Sr. Nildalin and Sr. Makriana

★ SAIDEN

Reception of Postulants' Medal at Saiden

Every year 7th October is a special day for our province especially for the community of Auxilium Training Centre, Saiden. This year the Lord has blessed us with many vocations who, generously answered to his invitation. 20 Aspirants courageously came forward to say yes to God on this day and received the Postulant's medal. "Do not be afraid, you are my servant my chosen people whom I love" (Is 44:2) was the theme that would accompany them during their Postulancy.

The programme began with the welcoming speech of Sr. Phyllis Bamon, the animator followed by the prayer service for the reception of the Postulants' medal. The entrance procession was very meaningful, where one of them carried the small tender plant. Sr. Isabella Suja addressed the postulants about the call; comparing our call to that of Jeremiah. When God called him, he was a doubtful candidate but God did not leave him, God provided graces and blessings and prepared him for a mission. She encouraged them saying: Mary our Mother will take each of them by the hand





and present them to her son Jesus. After the reception of the medal the Sisters, Novices and Aspirants broke into loud applause congratulating them and also few items were presented to wish and encourage them to be firm and convinced in their choice. The postulants too expressed their love and gratitude to God for calling and accompanying them through the song "You have called me from my mother's womb".

The day was blessed with the presence of Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial, Sisters from other communities and the Novices. Prior to this day, the Postulants were prepared with an Annual Retreat animated by Fr. Henry P. Warbah SDB, Parish Priest of Umden Parish with the theme: "Come and rest a while".

Sr. Jacinta Sana

"Peace on earth will come to stay,
when we live Christmas every day."

Helen Steiner Rice

October: Mission cum Marian month Animation

The Marian cum mission month was well spent by the community with lots of activities both spiritual and material. One of the good practices done during the month was that the community placed an empty box wherein each one could contribute something for the sake of the mission. Most of these articles were the handmade products, which were put for exhibition at the end of the month. The words, "God loves a cheerful giver" was made a reality because everyone was happy to do whatever was in one's capacity.

Another occasion was the participation in the Church blessing at Umkyrpiang village on Mission Sunday. It is noteworthy to mention that the village has only two Catholic families and the FMA Sisters were the first to visit the village. The village owed much to our sisters who were the source of their inspiration. On this day, nine Postulants presented a dance entitled, "I want to be like Jesus" with a message of encouragement to the two families. On Mission Sunday the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament was specially animated for the intentions of all missionaries. The missionaries who have gone out from our Province were particularly remembered. Finally the day concluded with a stage programme





performed by all the candidates focusing on Mission. One of the items was the skit on the life of Mother Mania the first Provincial of Our Province. Highlighting some of her qualities, the Postulant and Aspirants belonging to the Marian Group enacted in a very creative way the short life sketch of Mother Catherine Mania, especially the joy of being a missionary. In fact, her mother was reluctant to send her being the only child. Her joy was unbounded when she got the permission and gave her life totally for the mission. Last of all without forgetting Our Blessed Mother Mary, the community gathered together in front of the Grotto and concluded the month with the well- animated Holy Rosary with the candlelight around.

Ewarlin Dhar (Aspirant)

Inauguration of the 140th First Missionary Expedition of the FMAs

On 14 November 2016 the community of Saiden officially inaugurated the 140th Year of the First Missionary Expedition to Uruguay, South America as invited by Sr. Deretti Alaide General Councilor for Mission and recommended by Sr. Isabella Suja our Provincial.

Before the commencement of the Holy Mass, Monaliza Kharnaioir, an Aspirant, invited the assembly to relive the scene of the joyous experience of our first missionaries. She read

a short introduction on the announcement of the departure of the First Missionaries to South America by Don Bosco. Therefore, joining the whole Institute in resonating the past events and to be in line with the celebration, the flag, bearing the symbol of the celebration of the Missionary Expedition was solemnly carried by Sr. Phyllis Bamon, the Animator and accompanied by the two Candidates carrying the lighted candle which symbolized the light of Christ that continue to shine in this present world through the toil and hard work of our first missionaries.



In the evening, the animation during adoration was based on: thanksgiving to God for the missionaries, past and present, and also that all of us may have a strong missionary impulse, whether in our land or anywhere in the world. After dinner, the community gathered together to conclude the day in the presence of Mother Mazzarello with the first six missionaries chosen by Don Bosco for the mission at Uruguay, which was enacted by the Aspirants and Postulants, belonging to the Mazzarello group. The stage programme was beautifully performed, and the community was delighted to see the creativity of the candidates in taking all of us once again to Genoa, Italy to live the spirit of the missionary in giving oneself



joyfully for the mission of Christ. During the goodnight talk, Sr. Phyllis encouraged the candidates to inculcate the spirit of sacrifice, to learn language and work hard to be efficient in whatever small tasks given. Above all, to pray for missionary vocation, be generous to respond to it and keep alive the strong missionary impulse left by our founders, Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello.

Sr. Iahunlang Kyrasian

"What is Christmas?

It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present,
hope for the future.

It is a fervent wish that every
cup may overflow with
blessings rich and eternal,
and that every path may
lead to peace."

- Agnes M. Pharo

✧ SUTNGA

Seminar at Lumthari Village

Sr. Ephrina Rympeit conducted a one and half day Seminar at Lumthari village for the women on 20 - 21 October 2016. She was accompanied by Miss. Antiful Pala, a youth from Sutnga. The theme of the Seminar was "A Mother in the Family".

The aim of the programme was to help the women of the village to discover their role and responsibility in their homes. The topics dealt with were; Life is meaningless without a Mother, Tips for Mother when advising their children and the Dignity of a Christian Mother. After each session there was a group discussion based on the talk through the questions given for each group. This was shared in the common assembly and towards the end of the programme Skit and Prayer Competitions were organized in which all the group members took part wholeheartedly. Prizes were given to the winners and Rosary was given to all the participants.

The Programme concluded with an hour of Prayer Service on the theme "Jesus the Healer". Out of 44 families 39 of the women took part in the seminar. The women were very happy and thanked Sr. Ephrina for the initiative taken. This was the first ever seminar conducted for the women of the village and many of them expressed their joy and satisfaction with the talk and the animation especially the prayer moment. They all went home with a renewed enthusiasm to live their daily duties as mothers.

Sr. Ephrina Rympeit



★ TURA

Cultivating the art of Reading



Lot of books, CDs and DVDs were displayed in our Convent hall by the Pauline Sisters from Shillong on 21 - 22 September 2016. What attracted us most were the story books. We were sent to the hall class by class to buy whatever we want. We were happy that our stories have been narrated to us in short by our sisters especially Sr. Liliana N. Marak our *Ambi* (grand mother) as we lovingly we called her. I can see that many of us from classes I to X even myself were running to her to read for us little, and tell us what the stories were all about. The different types of

books captured our eyes and everyone was asking each other what books they bought. I had a wonderful experience during these two days because of the different stories I heard from my friends and classmates. We thanked Sr. Elizabeth V. our Animator who insists into us to inculcate the good habit of reading books to gain more knowledge.

Bambina D. Sangma Class VIII

Celebration of the Year of Mercy

All through the year the students were reminded and also took part in the different events pertaining to the Jubilee Year of Mercy. On 29 October 2016 the school celebrated this day in a very special way.

Under the guidance of Sr. Celibon Maslai our Headmistress and Sir Sengphrang Ch. Marak our teacher, the school captain Mr. Silchang R. Marak and all the house captains visited the sick people at Missionaries of Charity Home, Tura and gave our little help for them. The Cathilic Students of Classes IX and X under the guidance of Mrs. Tachiamia R. Marak bought some school articles like school bag, shoes, uniforms, books etc. for the poor students of our own school. The students had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the school and were well-prepared for the same by Sr. Jomita D. Sangma and Mrs. Tachiamia R. Marak. The climax of the celebration was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Lyndoh T. Sangma from Bishop's House.



Nokrinchi D. Shira & Mikkimchi Ch. Marak (Cl. IX)

Rosary Month being celebrated

On 31 October 2016 the month of the Holy Rosary was concluded in a very special manner. In the evening, the faithful from Allotgre village came to our convent and joined us in praying of the Holy Rosary. We had Procession around our house and the burning of the letters to Mother Mary. The whole month long, on every Sunday different classes with the sisters in charge of the group had beautiful animated Rosary in the Convent. Each Sunday was a wonderful evening around Our Blessed Mother. We felt lucky to be in the boarding for we came to know more about the power of the Holy Rosary and our love for Mother Mary too has increased.

Sasitha R. Sangma (Class IX)

Animation of the Morning Assembly

The school assembly which is animated by the students on every Wednesday was done creatively in the month of October this year. The students were given the chance to give assembly with the acting out of a short skit. The skits that were staged centered around the power of Mary presented by the four houses of our school.



"After all, isn't Christmas the beginning of our hope? It is the celebration of God becoming man and taking on the 'form of a servant' so that he could ultimately give His life for us."

- Dr. David Jeremiah



The skits depicted the following: Don Bosco's Miracles through Mary, the Apparition of Mary to St. Bernadette, the vision of Mother Mazzarello 'I entrust them to you' and the Power of the Holy Rosary. The message was very clear and the whole school benefitted much from it. Even the smaller classes when questions were being asked after the skit, they were able to answer and we were happy to see that everyone was eager to see what will be the next skit in the next assembly. The sisters and the teachers appreciated us for our creativity and they said that it was very difficult for them to judge which house did the best, since all have done well. We thank the sisters who helped us with the scripts.

Norinchi Ch. Sangma Cl. IX

Seminar on Personality Development and Carrier Guidance:

The two day seminar held in our school on 'Personality Development & Carrier Guidance' was organized by the members of the Catholic Board of School Education Tura Diocese on 31 October and 3 November 2016.

The resource persons were Miss Nancy Dora M. Sangma, Miss Sony Ch. Marak and Mr. Jobath A. Sangma. The students of Cl. VIII and IX were the participants of this seminars.

During this seminar the resource persons encouraged us to build self-confidence. Some heart-steering questions placed before us were: Do we have confidence in ourselves? Do we know what are our talents? Do we recognize our own talent or let it die without using it? These question have made us reflect on how we could come out of ourselves and build our self-confidence with all the innate qualities God has blessed us with. While speaking on chosing one's career, the resource personnel exhorted us to discover our talents and the things that one is interested in. They also emphasized on the need to have a planning mentality and a clear vision of our goals.

Lucy Patiasa S. Marak & Laura Vicuna M. Sangma Cl. IX



We celebrate her youthful spirit

The community of Auxilium Tura, joined Sr. Liliana K. Marak in thanksgiving to God for the gift of her life on 1 November 2016.

This day began with the solemn Morning Prayer creatively animated by Sr. Anita Dhar and Sr. Aquila Makri followed by the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Albert Thyrniang SDB. At the entrance procession Sr. Liliana carried a lighted candle to the altar, which symbolized her youthful life, which gives lights to all of us in the community. After the Holy Mass every one gathered at the entrance to sing Happy Birthday. Her simplicity, generosity, humility, smiling face and spiritual guidance brought us together in the community, to live in the youthful spirit and keep genuine relationship with all. She is the source of our joy, happiness, laughter, smile etc... she is a blessing to us one who intercedes to the Lord for all our needs and intentions. To live is to move with the Lord by His side in His presence, hand in hand, step by step, breath by breath. This phrase is a fitting expression for our loving sister *Ambi* (grandmother) because she fulfills it in her daily living. Long live *Ambi*.



Sr. Deihok Mukhim & Sr. Sinjak R. Marak

✧ UMDANG

Year of Mercy celebrated

On 15 September 2016, Auxilium Convent Umdang organized special animation for the boarders to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy. On this day the boarders beautifully performed their different items like skit, dance and songs based on the theme “Blessed are the Merciful”.

After the stage programme, the boarders were given the opportunity to showcase their talents through drawing competitions of different groups based on the theme “My expression of mercy”. The drawing came out beautifully with inspiring messages, as the children were trying to express their mercy through their drawings.

Prior to this, a week ago the community celebrated a day of spiritual renewal where everyone experienced God’s blessings and mercy. On this day we had the privilege of being animated by Fr. Joby MSFS, for the whole day. The day was spent in prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation simultaneously. The whole community took part fervently and concluded the day with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. During his homily Fr. Joby spoke on the year of mercy, he explained to us about the great



love and mercy of God and exhorted us in turn to be merciful to each other as God has been merciful to us.

Sr. Angeline Thongni

Awareness Programme

On 8 November 2016, Sr. Marilyn Wahlang together with the women volunteer of Umdang organized a one-day awareness programme at the Market place on a market day. The theme of the programme was “Women’s Life in the Society”.

The speakers of the day included Shri. Godang Rashir, Mrs. A. K Syntiew Secretary Women Association, Nongstoiñ Area, Sr. Marilyn Wahlang, Mrs P. Byrsat President Women Association, Nongstoiñ Area. Mr. B Kurbah from the District Child Protection Unit and Shri R Mawsor. The topic dealt with were Law and Order, Women Empowerment, Social awareness, Unity of women and Child Protection. All the speakers emphasized on the need to eradicate selling and drinking of liquor in the place and keep the place safe to live. Prior to this programme, the women of Umdang have already started volunteering work to stop this evil act in the village. The Sisters of Auxilium played a vital role in making the awareness programme a success.

Sr. Risuk Dkhar





MEDIA matters...

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ITS USES

PRANATH FERNANDO

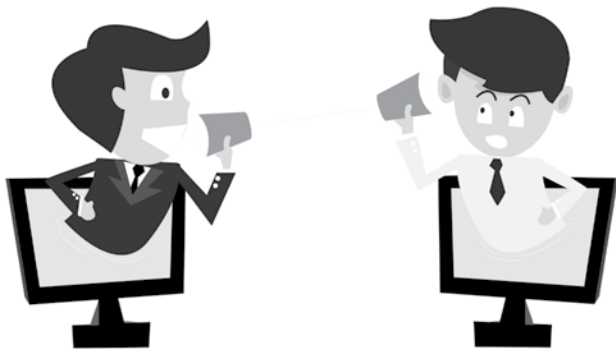
Social Media - a buzz word that is all the rage at the moment. But what is it exactly ? is it mostly about Facebook and Twitter ? or is there more going on ? how does it effect me or my organisation ? In this article we will have a look at the many diverse and sometimes surprising areas that social media could be said to touch upon.

So what is Social Media ?

Ironically, you could probably find a thousand definitions of social media within the many forms

of social media that exist ! In part, this is because there is not an agreed definition of exactly what it is, but it is also due to the fact that technologies are continuing to evolve at a fast pace so what might be classed as social media will inevitably continue to develop. Perhaps a good general definition might be: 'Social media are primarily Internet-based tools for sharing and discussing information...' This broad definition covers a wide range of tools available today, and perhaps captures the essence of what social media is about. The key thing here is the 'interacting' - a normal website that simply allows comments as an 'add on' to site content would probably not count as social media - yet a site where the commenting and interaction was key to the purpose and design of the website would probably be more so (e.g. a blog). Looking at it this way, we can highlight different 'areas' of Social Media. These rich, diverse, and often overlapping areas are described below with some notable examples to give a flavour of each.





Communication

Communication tools are some of the most well known social media tools. They include Blogs such as [WordPress](#) and [Blogger](#), websites where you can create articles (typically of news article style length) which visitors can comment on. They also include Social Networks such as [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#) where people can share comments, personal details, media such as photos and video, or establish relationships with other users (e.g. 'Friends' on Facebook, or 'Followers' on Twitter). We can also include crowdfunding sites such as [Kickstarter](#) or [Zopa](#) which facilitate funding for a business or individual. These sites list the details of various projects/investment options and facilitate typically small payments from many individuals which collectively aim to fulfill the total amount required.

Collaboration

There are tools that many of us use on a daily basis that have a 'social' aspect to them. For example [Wikipedia](#) is a collaborative tool which enables many people to simultaneously update and view an online encyclopedia. [Google docs](#) allows people to share and edit documents online such



as text documents or spreadsheets, and [Dropbox](#) allows people to upload or download files (often of large sizes) from a central 'folder' which multiple people can access from a range of devices (from your desktop pc, phone, tablet, etc).

Entertainment

Gaming is certainly not something that started off social, with its origins in self-contained console games and handheld devices. Yet with the advent of the internet, and other social media - the entertainment and gaming industry has now enthusiastically adopted the 'social' aspect to the extent that some games now heavily rely on this in order to retain and monetise players. [Zynga](#) for example is famous for its hugely successful games [Farmville](#) and [Mafia Wars](#) which utilised Facebook for exposure, as well as being designed having player interaction as integral to the game. For Virtual worlds such as [World of Warcraft](#) and [Second Life](#), again player interaction is again essential to its purpose.



Media Sharing

Some of the most well known video sharing sites include [Youtube](#) and [Vimeo](#), where users can upload and view videos, while being able to add comments, create channels, and connect with different users. Examples of music sharing tools include [Spotify](#), and [LastFm](#) which are adding increasing features to allow people to share playlists and musical tastes. As well as Youtube, [Soundcloud](#) is particularly popular among music professionals, allowing them to listen to, upload and download music tracks for

"We can participate in every festivity of the Christmas season, but until we receive the gift of Jesus Christ, we will never truly experience Christmas."

- Mary Southerland



★ SALESIAN COOPERATORS

Salesian Cooperators Pledge to engage in Family Ministry and Ministry for Migrant Youth

The 7th Northern Zonal Conference of the Salesian Cooperators comprising of the five Provinces of Guwahati, Dimapur, Kolkata, Shillong and Dimapur was held at Lurshai FMA Outreach, Bellefonte – Shillong on 29th and 30th October 2016. The theme of the conference was "Formation: A path to Fullness".

Sr. Christina Kharkongor, FMA Delegate for Salesian Cooperators welcomed the delegates to the event. A melodious welcome song by the newly professed FMA Sisters made the ambient more homely and joyous. Invoking the presence of God, a symbolic ceremony of lamp lighting was done by Rev. Fr. George



And so to wrap up...

Social media touches on many diverse areas, from Blogs and Crowdfunding sites, to collaboration, brand monitoring and media sharing sites. As new tools continue to be developed across an increasing number of sectors, we can expect to see more use of social media features and capabilities.

However Social Media develops, its important to stay informed, upto date and active within the areas relevant to you - to be able to take advantage of the potential benefits to you're business or organisation.

Source: <https://www.liquidlight.co.uk/blog/article/social-media-and-its-uses/>



Maliekal SDB Provincial, Rev. Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB, National Delegate of Salesian Family, Rev. Fr. Philip Barjo SDB, Provincial Delegate of SDB, Mr. Marius Kharkongor, Coordinator Northern Zone and Sr. Gemima Pohrmen FMA, Animator of FMA Outreach. On the occasion, Rev. Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, invited all present to reinforce the Salesian heritage which has been implanted by the pioneering missionaries and challenged them to hand down to the future younger generation the charismatic spirit of Don Bosco. The Chief Guest, Fr. Goerge Maliekal, Provincial lauded the works of the Salesians in the North East through Shillong which was the centre for the earliest missionary ventures. He encouraged the participants to strive towards growth and maturity and to carry forward the work of the saintly founder to carry on caring for the poor abandoned youth.

The sessions of animation were centred around the theme of the conference namely Orientations and Guidelines for the formation of Salesian Cooperator. The Five Chapters of Formation and its various aspects were studied and deepened during the two-day programme. Different resource personnel including Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, Fr. Philip Barjo, Fr. A. L Jose, Fr. Michael Makri and Mr. D. S.



Antuvan, World Councillor for South Asia have made the study and reflection interesting and beneficial.

Apart from the serious study and sessions, the gathering was fortunate to have witnessed the Cultural Programme where young people from Bosco Youth Group, Trinity Voices and Shlem ki Sur (hearth of music) who enthralled the participants and made them feel younger with their melodious voices and talents in music.

On the second day, the assembly was glad to have had the presence of Sr. Isabella Suja FMA, Provincial Shillong Province. She was accorded a warm welcome and she in turn gave her message to the participants. She reminded them that their call to become a Salesian Cooperator is God's call and urged them to be committed in their apostolic work among the youth.

The climax of the conference was identification of priorities as program of action for the future. Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, presented the Salesian Family Mission statement and the priorities charted by the Salesian Family conference of Major Superiors (SFCMS) to facilitate this session. The Assembly identified the following priorities as program for way forward:

- Creating Data Base of the Salesian Cooperators for efficient communication and animation.
- The dissemination of formation guidelines of the Salesian Cooperators.
- Focus on the Family Ministry – Study reflection on the apostolic exhortation of “The joy of Love”.
- Partner with Salesian Family in the Ministry for Migrant youth.

Three new members of the association namely Ms. Cordelia Mawkhlieng and Smt. Natalis Mary Jyrwa from Bellefonte Centre, and Smt. Helen Kharbudnah from Upper Shillong Centre made their first Promise during concluding Eucharist. The next venue for the Northern Zonal Conference the following year will be held in Dimapur Province.

Mrs. Mildred Iawphniaw
(Salesian Cooperator)

Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

Sr. Sohkhet Dakyrmen helped by three Salesian Cooperators namely Ms. Therina Pohtam, Mrs. Christina Lamare, Mrs. Thrída Dkhar and Mrs. Trelis Ryngkhlem a member of the Catholic Women's Association, took 110 Catholic Children to the Divine Mercy Retreat Centre, Ladrymbai for the Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage on Sunday 30th October.

These are the children who used to attend the Children's Mass in the Parish every Sunday. Sr. Dakyrmen and her helpers had taken pain to prepare and motivate the children for this important devotion. The Vincentians who are in charge of the Centre were very happy with this initiative and the children and their parents were no less. They left Jowai at 7.30 am and returned home after a whole day of communion with the Lord, starting with the Morning's preparation for Confession, approaching the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in the Holy Mass in the Morning session. After lunch break, they had a very devout and well animated adoration service, preceded by a solemn procession through the Holy door and ending with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We praise and thank God and Sr. Dakyrmen for this wonderful initiative.

✧ Jowai Diary

PAST PUPILS

Diamond Jubilee Celebration: Reach the Unreached

2⁴ September 2016 marked the closing ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the FMA Past Pupils Federation. It was a day where the past pupils looked forward to and on this day nostalgia took them for a walk down memory lane. It was a time to meet old friends, to rejoice and sing songs of praises to God for the journey made during the 60 years of the Association. FMA Past pupils from Jowai, Mawlai, Nongthymmai and Rambrai came together to be partakers in the grand celebration as one big Salesian family.

The celebration started off rightfully with the Eucharistic Celebration. The Federation Vice President Candida Kharpdah gave the introduction to the Mass. Before Mass a procession led by the Federation President Cathleen Pyngrope carrying the Federation flag followed by Mother Provincial Sr. Isabella Suja with the candle bearers symbolizing the past pupils as the light for those in need. The main celebrant was Fr. Barnes Mawrie, President of Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai and concelebrated by other Priests from the nearby Institutions.

The Choral Evangelist Choir with their musical talent and expertise made the





singing melodious and prayerful. Soon after Mass, there was the releasing of the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir by Fr. Barnes Mawrie and the presentation of the same to the dignitaries. The Salesian family lunch followed shortly thereafter.

The cultural programme started at one in the afternoon. The Chief Guest of the programme was Shri Embhahlang Syiemlieh, MLA Mawlai constituency and the Guest of Honour was Mother Provincial Sr. Isabella Suja. The Federation President Cathleen Pyngrope gave the welcome address. Past and present pupils of different units performed adding colour to the programme. The Chief Guest's message was to work hard for one's dream and as past pupils we should be agents of love and peace for those in need while the Guest of Honour's message was as past pupils we should learn

"Christmas brings many pleasures; from tree trimming, to special music, exchanging gifts, good food to name only a few. Take time in this busy season to remember the reason for the season - the birth of Jesus"
- Catherine Pulsifer

to live, live to grow and grow to change. The Federation Secretary Elena Kharkongor proposed the vote of thanks. The programme came to a fitting end with the past pupils' song sung by the Federation Council members. This day will forever remain close to our hearts because on this day we witnessed the greatness of the Family tree of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello and we experienced the reward of our hardwork and sacrifice in the beautiful conclusion of the celebration and so we are more convinced of how much Don Bosco and Mary Domenica Mazarello loves us!

**Ms. Elena Kharkongor and Ms. Candida Kharpdah
(Past-pupils)**



26th Past Pupils Meet held for Jowai Unit

The 26th Annual Meet of the Past Pupils of Jowai Unit was held on 29 October 2016 at St. Mary Mazzarello School, Jowai. There were 73 past pupils who were present for the day's programme which kicked off with registration at 9.45 am, followed by the inaugural prayer service led by Sr. Esther Marwein the local delegate.

The boarding girls under the guidance of Sr. Madona Lytep sang a beautiful welcome song to the whole group. Mrs. Ditty Mukhim a member of the Executive Body gave the official words of welcome in the absence of the President Mrs. Valiant Rose Hadem. This was followed by felicitation to Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial who immediately gave her message to the group thanking them and encouraging them to continue their mission of living the principles learnt in the school. Sr. Isabella left soon after the talk and Mrs. Hilda Pasi, the Secretary read the annual report of the Association. This was followed by a talk from Sr. Rosina Susngi explaining the special place that the past pupils have in the Constitutions and life of the FMA. This made the past pupils feel very important and proud of their educators. Sr. Rosina then introduced the topic of the Centenary of the foundation of the house, which would be in 2026. The past pupils were very enthusiastic about

it and a core team of 16 members was formed to finalize the programme in preparation for this great event. The boarders gave another number and the young past pupils too presented a cultural dance. The meet ended with a vote of thanks from Ms. Eva Challam a member of the executive council. A festal lunch prepared by the past pupils gave the final touch to this beautiful and nostalgic day.



✪ Inspirational Stories

The Missing Five Pound Note

Chippenham George worked for the Post Office and his job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day just before Christmas, a letter landed on his desk simply addressed in shaky handwriting: 'To God'. With no other clue on the envelope, George opened the letter and read:

Dear God,

I am an 93 year old widow living on the State pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had £100 in it, which was all the money I had in the world and no pension due until after Christmas. Next week is Christmas and I had invited two of my friends over for Christmas lunch. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. God; can you please help me?

Chippenham George was really touched, and being kind hearted, he put a copy of the letter up on the staff notice board at the main Fareham sorting office where he worked. The letter touched the other postmen and they all dug into their pockets and had a whip round. Between them they raised £95. [\$170 USD] Using an officially franked Post Office envelope, they sent the cash on to the old lady, and for the rest



of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done.

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter simply addressed to 'God' landed in the Sorting Office. Many of the postmen gathered around while George opened the letter. It read,

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your generosity, I was able to provide a lovely luncheon for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of your wonderful gift - in fact we haven't gotten over it and even Father John, our parish priest, is beside himself with joy. By the way, there was £5 [\$10 USD] missing. I think it must have been those thieving fellows at the Post Office.

George could not help musing on Oscar Wilde's quote: 'A good deed never goes unpunished'

What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has No L (Noel).

What is black and white and noisy?

A zebra with a drum kit.

What do you get if you cross a hen with a bedside clock?

An alarm cluck.

CHRISTMAS STORY

Once there was a young and talented guy who wandered in a strange land seeking for true peace. Almost at the brink of getting lost, puzzled where to go and what would happen to him. Fear and trembling overwhelmed him; he did not know what exactly awaited him. In spite of his discouragement he kept on searching for the right direction to reach his destination. As he moved on, suddenly he saw a postcard which wrote, "If you want to find peace go the right, in this way as you travel you need to do good deeds, share whatever you have for the poor those who are most in need". The young guy with a spark of hope, with strong determination, travelled on. After walking a few kilometers he found another postcard that wrote, "Turn to the left, and in this direction, you need to turn away from your sinful ways, refuse what the pleasures of the world offer you". Oh! The guy was quite impatient as surrounded by hunger and tiredness, but still his desire to find peace did not deter his spirit; he moved on. Longing for true peace he walked on and on, still he did not manage to reach the place yet he found another indication, which indicated, "Courage, walk straight for about four kilometers you would reached your destination and in this direction you have to intensify your prayer life". Joyful and happy the guy pressed on his journey. As he was approaching, from a stone's throw distance he saw a sparkling light shining brightly. Reached the spot he was overwhelmed with indescribable joy as he saw Baby Jesus lying there and in which the indication wrote, "The King of Peace is Born Here" The young guy knelt down in front of the King of Kings and peace reigned in his heart again. Wow! With heart contented he planned to return and as he stood up to begin his journey he read another instruction, "Remember you have to go to the new road, and this spot would



always be your compass to guide and direct you" JESUS OUR KING OF PEACE SHOULD BE OUR GUIDE AND LEADER ALWAYS

Concocted by Sr. Catherine Sutnga

★ JOKES

Out of the Mouths... Christmas Story

Daniel aged 4, returned from Sunday school with a new perspective on the Christmas story. He had learned all about the wise men from the east who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Daniel was so excited he just had to tell his parents, 'I learned in Sunday School today all about the very first Christmas. There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three blokes on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet, so they had to have this big light in the sky to find their way around'.

Diamond Jubilee

of the Federation of FMA Past-Pupils



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at FMA Outreach

**Northern Zonal Conference of Salesian Cooperators
29 - 30 October 2016**



**FMA NDF 13th Annual Meet
27 - 30 November 2016**

