



Cochabamba, Bolivia

Feast of Gratitude 2015

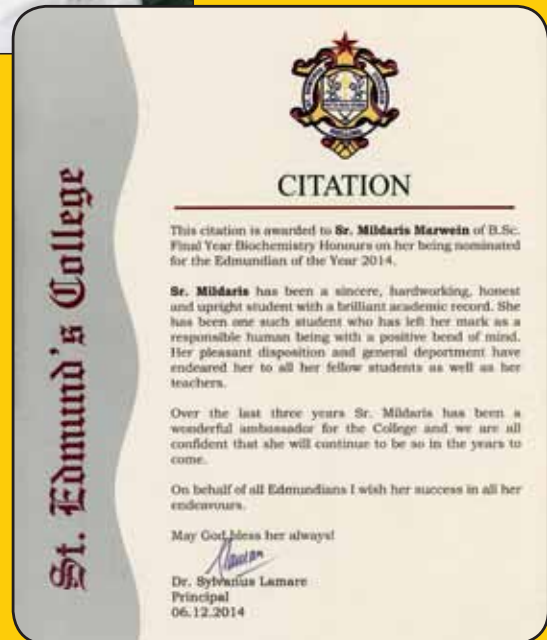
"Grow and flourish
with the young
where God
wants us"

50
years
of Religious Profession



Congratulations
MOTHER YVONNE

Congratulations!!



Sr. Teilanda Syngkon received the
PAVIOTTI MEMORIAL AWARD
for excelling in **ITLR Examination 2014**
with **98%**



EDITORIAL

We are in the bicentennial year of the birth of our Father and Founder St. John Bosco, a year of celebration and jubilation. Right at the beginning of this year together with the other members of the Salesian Family, we have been busy with one activity to the other within our regions. Amidst the varied events, which consisted of games and competitions in Essay writing, Poem composition, Choir rendition, Quiz etc. we could ask ourselves: *How much of the spirit of Don Bosco have I imbibed during this year? Have I increased in the knowledge and love of Don Bosco? What should I do to be another Don Bosco to the young who look up to us for help and guidance?* As we look forward to the Mega Event of the Youth Expo 2015 to be held at the Don Bosco Mini Stadium-Shillong, from April 23-26, let all what we do, not only be of pomp and show but an occasion of genuine spiritual and pastoral renewal in the Salesian family as envisaged by our Rector Major Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime. He further said that it is an opportunity to bring the charism to life and make Don Bosco truly as relevant as he always has been for the young. Therefore it is a reminder for all of us his daughters to carry out the mission entrusted to us with renewed conviction and vigour on behalf of the young people especially the most vulnerable ones.



Another occasion in our Institute that gives us the impetus to live our life meaningfully is the preparation and celebration of the World Gratitude Day to be celebrated at Cochabamba, Bolivia. With the theme, *“Grow and flourish with the young where God wants us”* the Sisters of the province of Our Lady of Peace, Bolivia invite us to deepen the dimension of obedience. This year our gratitude to Mother Yvonne has a special significance as she celebrates her Golden Jubilee of religious profession. We thank God for her gift to us as our bond of unity and communion and for her life totally given to Him and the Institute in joy and service.

May we take these opportune moments as occasion of strengthening our vocational passion and renew our commitment to reach out to young people and accompany them in their challenges at our respective mission places.

Sr. Euginia Laloo





Preparation for a

TOTAL

COMMITMENT



Seventeen young Sisters; twelve from Shillong and five from Guwahati Provinces made their first phase of the second novitiate at Mazzarello Study Home, Dimapur from December 27, 2014 – January 27, 2015. Sr. Sania Josephine, coordinator for Social Communication of Guwahati Province coordinated the course. Other resource personnel included Sr. Elizabeth George FMA Provincial of Guwahati, Sr. Mabel Gothorp, Sr. Teresa Kurian, Sr. AlphonsaKurisinkal, Fr. Peter Salew and Fr. C.T. Varghese. Different topics that were dealt with were laden with rich ingredients for intellectual as well as spiritual growth. It was indeed a momentous journey where each one expressed their personal relationship with the Lord as well as with one another.

One-month course in Mazzarello Home

The second novitiate sisters have run the show
Together with the help of the different resource persons
They have achieved knowledge and ready to glow.

Starting from the very first hour of the day
We never fail to meditate and pray
From homilies to good nights
Jesus and Mary always by our side.

The path of Salesian spirituality we need to trod
To warm our hearts and strive for our growth
In the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello
We endeavour each moment to follow.

Religious life we have deepened each day
With no doubt we live everyday
Yet for more enlightenment
We go for Vita Consecrata document.

How can we forget the Social Communication?
Which is one of the effective means of evangelization
Dynamic, contextual and purposeful, the three important elements
Are the key words we all need to learn.

As a 'Living Monument' of Don Bosco's gratitude to Mary
We have reflected much on Mariology.
From Genesis to Revelation the role of Mary we have seen
Through the help and able guidance of Sr. Sania Josephine.

By our very identity as FMA
We are called to live like Mary in every way
Trusting in her daily Fiat and protection
We strive to follow her virtues with determination

Consecrated life without Evangelical Counsels
Is like a noise from an empty vessel
Enriched with creative and profound fidelity
We are called to bind ourselves and live our Vows daily.

Discernment in personal life as well as in community
Is seeking God's will in love and fidelity.
Building our Home of joy is our responsibility
Taking Relationship as Spirituality

Beautiful and enriching moments we have really spent
Together with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament
Through our daily prayers, sharing and events
Our love for God, vocation and mission has been strengthened.

To you our dear Rev. Sr. Elizabeth George
With immense gratitude we owe to you.
In spite of your heavy responsibility
You reach out to us with generosity.

And you dear Rev. Sr. Isabella Suja our Provincial
The twelve of us cannot but feel ourselves so special
The golden opportunity that you have offered us this time
Have inspired us to be more sublime.

How can we forget you sisters in our different communities?
Who support us with your love, sacrifices and prayers daily.
A million thanks we say to you
May God continue blessing and rewarding you.

A special thanks to you dear Sr. Teresa Kunnapalli
You went out of yourself not to make us feel uneasy.
Your sisterly love, care and concern
Are but the qualities for us to learn.

Woe to us if we forget you dear Sr. Sania Josephine

An outstanding leader, sister and guide we have seen.

In this one month of our spiritual and renewal course

We have witness God's blessings and so, we say Kudos

Once again we sincerely thank all our resource persons

For having shown their love and affection
In helping, moulding and guiding us
Through their valuable and enriching classes.

May God bless and reward you in everything that you do.

Thank you all

The Second Novitiate Sisters 2015



Retreat cum Pilgrimage

On this auspicious year of the bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth, the two groups of retreatants consisting of 55 (January 4 -11) and 44 (January 13-24) sisters each were blest with rich Salesian food and a pilgrimage to the shrine of Don Bosco at Sohra. The retreat preacher, Fr. Mathew Coutinho SDB, from Mumbai Province has helped us to introspect our life and mission with the young. We were set on fire with his zeal and fervor and we have felt the touch of the Lord through his instrumentality.

A week long God experience was crowned with a Pilgrimage to Don Bosco Shrine, Sohra in honour of the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth. Fr. Roy Anthony SDB, Parish Priest celebrated the Holy Mass for us. He took us back to Don Bosco and to the roots of our consecrations through three solid points, the basis of Don Bosco's spirituality.

1. Centering our life on Jesus (referring to the Year of Consecrated Life)
2. Don Bosco's constant dream of doing something new
3. A focused person

The meaningful liturgical celebration added to the richness of the moment.

We then proceeded to Lum Shynna to enjoy the scenic



beauty of the landscape and to explore the wonders of the caves. It was indeed an exciting and thrilling adventure. Our sincere thanks go to Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial for the initiative. Everyone felt re-energized in body, mind and spirit through the outing, which was typically Salesian.

This was followed by a two-day of rich sharing of GC XXIII by Sr. Isabella Suja and Sr. Rosina Susngi, the Delegates who took part in the General Chapter. It gave us an opportunity to have a closer look at the theme of the Chapter: "Being with the young people today a home that evangelizes"

Sr. Teresa Kamsuan

Provincial Team Meeting held at Bellefonte

On January 24, 2015 the Provincial Team had its first meeting of the year at Mary Our Help Training Centre Bellefonte. At the outset of the meeting, Sr. Carmelina Sun the outgoing General Coordinator welcomed the new General Coordinator of the Province Sr. Agatha Shadap and presented her with the statue of Our Lady. This gesture symbolizes the entrustment of the new





mission to Sr. Agatha with the guidance of Mary our Mother. She was then felicitated with a bouquet of flowers and all the members present wished her well in this service to the province. Following this was the keynote address by Sr. Isabella Suja Provincial who oriented the team members to work for the growth of the charism in our mission.

During the meeting, the coordinators of the different sectors presented the action plan of the year and agreed upon the Specific objective, which would be the guiding principle of our work and mission for the young.

Ins info correspondent



➔ BELLEFONTE

Family Day cum Human Rights Day

Another red-letter day has been added into the chronicle of Bellefonte Community College (BCC) through an event of the 'Family Day cum Human Rights Day', which was celebrated on December 10, 2014. Shri A.L. Hek, Minister of Health & Family Welfare Department and Information Technology & Public Relations Department, Government of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

The students performed various items beautifully prepared with the help of their respective teachers based on human rights. Present for the occasion were also the parents of the students who have witnessed the talents and gifts of their children. The Chief Guest in his speech appreciated and acknowledged the service rendered by the institute in this



part of our society and underlined the duties and responsibilities of parents in the good upbringing and education of their children. The Guest of Honour, Sr. Sun Carmelina, emphasized on the importance of parents spending time and accompanying their children at all life's situations. It was also a memorable day for the students of BCC as many of them were awarded with medals, mementos and certificates for the winners of Home Science Exhibition, for excellence in attendance and of course for 21 students who successfully completed the training course on Data Entry Operation. At the same time, it was a farewell day for the 2nd batch of Cl. XII students, a result day for the whole school, pre-Christmas gathering and a closing of the academic year 2014. It was indeed a day of celebration and jubilation at the marvels the Lord has done in the life of our students and the institute at large.



Seminar on Counseling for Teachers

On February 5-6, 2015 Bellefonte Community College (BCC) organized a two day training on Counseling for the teachers of BCC and St. Anne's School, Mawtawar totaling 20 teachers in all. Ms. Isabella Shadap, Clinical Psychologist, M. Phil. (NIMHANS) was the resource person.



The programme began with a short prayer that included the video clip on the 'The Lost Sheep' which carried a message that we as educators and teachers are to be shepherds to look after all sorts of children who today are attracted and tempted by the outside world. The topics dealt included: 'A Teacher and his/her worth as a teacher; Methods and techniques used by the teacher; Classroom management and problem solving skills or soft skills; how to deal with children with ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other problems like Disruptive Behaviour Disorders (DBD); Depression; Suicide; Special



Learning Disability (SLD) and of course the Basic Counseling Skills: empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regards as core conditions in dealing with the children and student at different age level.

Thanks to Ms. Isabella, the resource person who excellently enlightened and helped the teachers with her creative, lively and interactive ways, giving her own experiences and examples throughout the sessions which included group discussions and open sessions. The workshop was a benefit and indeed an eye-opening occasion for every teacher as they came to be more aware of as to why the students misbehave from time to time in the classroom. She salutes the teachers and appreciates them for what they are and asked them to be proud of their profession as teachers. Right from the beginning, she left a strong message that a teacher represents 'knowledge' which is 'power' and that the foundation of the person is built to a great extent on knowledge one gets from ones teachers. A 'Teacher' is not someone who teaches something but someone who inspires the students to give her/his best

in order to discover what she/he already acquired. She quoted as 'Teach student, not subject'. Before concluding, Sr. Carmelina Sun spoke in gist about Don Bosco's Educative System: the Preventive System and also spoke on love as the guiding force in our mission as teachers. She said that life is like an echo: what you give, you get. The one-minute video clip on 'The Good Shepherd' left the message that each teacher in the Salesian institute is called to be a good shepherd to seek out the lost, the least and the last after the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd, a model given to us by Don Bosco.

Inauguration of the Scholastic Year 2015

Every occasion seems to be an unrepeatable one for Bellefonte Community College, the five-year old FMA-INS Non-Governmental Organization. On February 26, 2015, BCC saw its new page of history in the event of the inauguration of its Scholastic Year 2015, which is in fact the first time in the last five years.

The inauguration ceremony was simple yet a meaningful and inspiring one. The day

began with the Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am, which was solemnized by Rev. Fr. James Thyrniang SDB, the Principal of Don Bosco Technical School, Laitumkrah, Shillong. He said that it is always good to ask God for the blessing before we begin the scholastic year, so that God will



help us to understand and to grasp better whatever we are learning in the school. Sr. Sun Carmelina, the animator and some Sisters joined the teachers and students of BCC for the Holy Eucharist.

The inaugural function began with the March pass displayed by the four houses, led by the School Captain and Vice-Captain and followed by the other Captains leading the members of their respective houses. Sir Ignasius K. Lamin addressed words of welcome and acknowledgment to the Chief Guest, the Sisters, teachers and to all the students present for the function. Immediately, five representatives symbolically lighted an oil-lamp and the Chief Guest officially declared the Scholastic Year 2015 open.

The day also saw the Pledge-taking ceremony by the School Captain, and four others House Captains. Each of them pronounced the pledge to abide by the rules and regulations

of the School; to live the respective mottos; to take the responsibility of helping their fellow students and to give their best in carrying out the duties entrusted to them. With God's help and the guidance of the head of the Institute and the teachers, the students pledge their confidence in promoting unity and radiating peace, joy, love and friendship in the school, in the families and in the society. The Chief Guest Sr. Carmelina Sun took the pledge of the School captain, while Damanbha Nixon Syiem, the School Captain, took those of House Captains. Soon after the speech of the Chief Guest, the National Anthem was sung and then concluded with the universal prayer, the 'Our Father'. Thanks to the hard work of the sisters and teachers who in collaboration with the School and house captains made the day a part of its history.

Sr. Celina Maslai

Sharing of our **APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCE 2015**

**by the Second Year Novices
(January 03 – February 11)**

➔ **RAMBRAI**

God touches His creatures and revealed His love to them through times and events. I tangibly felt the love of God during my apostolic experience in Rambrai.

It was a time of encounter, a time of taste and see and to experience the reality of life in the mission. I had witnessed the enthusiastic, hard work, self-sacrifices and exemplary life of our sisters. What strikes me most is their passion for the mission, the poor and the young. In the course of my stay in the community, I had the Joy to relate with the boarders, associate with the young in many occasions especially during the feast of St. John Bosco, touring the villages and visiting families. I visited more than 30 families of the different localities and villages. The simplicity, humility and the respectful attitude of the villagers towards the religious is something remarkable. I thanked Sr. Gemma

Phyllei, the animator, and the Sisters of the community for many chances given me to grow in maturity. This practical experience has helped me to be more aware of the challenges of Life and the demands of embracing the Religious Life fervently.

Sr. Roda Mary Rongrin

➤ UMSWAI

During our stay over there, we have been enriched and enlarged with the knowledge of the mission life. One month and two weeks of experience have made us to understand the need to be zealous and ardent missionaries. We had many chances to grow spiritually through our encounter with the young, and the good and kind hearted people of the area. The visit to the families, especially the sick and the aged, teaching and instructing the children for first Holy Communion and the participation in the Sobha held in the villages of Pantalu and Pundurimakha have made us to understand the urgent need to reach out to the people and to go to the periphery to experience the real life of the people.

We have seen and experienced the hard work, life of sacrifice and love for the poor by the Sisters. Today we are aware of the demands of our mission and cost of the discipleship.

**Sr. Idearland Lyngkhoh
and Sr. Monica Kharkongor**

➤ NONGSTOIN

It was a learning ground for me where I could explore my gifts and talents through different activities. Along with the sisters of the community I visited houses and sick people, I saw

and experienced their life, their problems, difficulties and struggles they face daily in order to gain their daily bread. I also had the joy of conducting two retreats for the children in different places. I am very much impressed by the prayerful attitudes of the small kids. Being with the children and the young people has been the source of joy and inspiration for my journey. The passion for the poor from the part of the Sisters is very inspiring; a tangible witness of this fact is the mission at Mawroh where many poor boys and girls are being cared for and sheltered in by our Sisters.

I was really impressed to see the Sisters doing so much apostolate in the missions and their exemplary life helped me to take up challenges cheerfully. I experienced the family spirit, togetherness and above all the Spirit of Mornese. May this experience of the reality of life make my vision more real as I follow the footsteps of our Father and Founder Don Bosco

Sr. Liza Kharkongor

➤ GAROBADHA

We were indeed privileged to be in the community of Garobadha where we have learnt about community life and the mission of our Institute. We appreciate Sr. Victoria Saioo, the animator, and all the sisters for guiding us and for being so free and frank in correcting us. One of the events that was memorable during our stay there was the celebration of the Golden Jubilee cum Annual Sobha held at Jamangre village from January 26 – February 2. During these days the faithful had come from different villages to attend the various programmes that were proposed by the Parish Council. We have witnessed the growth of the Church and the faith of the simple people, which has inspired us to live our life authentically. The reception of the different Sacraments like Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Matrimony were tangible witnessing of Christ in their Catholic faith and the importance of spiritual growth. We also got the opportunity for family visits in the different villages of the Parish, which has helped us to learn for the simple lifestyle of the village people.

Sr. Alphonsa Latam and Sr. Jurilin Lyngkhoh

The good life is inspired by love and guided by knowledge. -Bertrand Russell

We thank our dear Mother Provincial for giving us this opportunity to have a foretaste of the mission and to enrich ourselves as we continue our journey with fervour and enthusiasm preparing ourselves to say “yes to God”. We express our sincere thank you to the Animators and Sisters of Rambrai, Nongstoin, Umswai and Garobadha communities for accompanying us in our mission journey. We are indeed grateful to Sr. Carmelina our Animator, Mother Mistress and all the sisters and Novices of Bellefonte community who have supported us with their prayers.

Salesian Spirituality Month observed at the Novitiate

Joining the rest of the Salesian world in the preparation and celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco, a Salesian Spirituality month was observed in the month of February 2015 by the Novices of the Immaculate Heart Novitiate, Bellefonte - Shillong.



The spirituality month was marked with the triduum in preparation for the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Don Bosco in Sohra that took place on February 14. It was a happy coincidence that the Novices of Sunnyside too arranged for the pilgrimage on the same day. Like brothers

and sisters we joined together for the celebration. Before entering the shrine, a short but meaningful prayer service on “The Pilgrims Prayer” was conducted by the novices of Bellefonte, followed by an hour of adoration to the Blessed Sacrament animated by the novices of Sunnyside. Then comes the Solemn Eucharistic celebration concelebrated by four Salesian fathers from Sunnyside with Fr. Vadakumpadan Paul SDB, as the main celebrant. The day came to a close with sentiments of gratitude to God for the gift of our Salesian vocation. The deepening on the life of Don Bosco continues with more fervour after the pilgrimage. Under the guidance of Mother Mistress we made a research and a profound study at personal and group level on the life story of Don Bosco from his birth, his childhood, his formation, his spiritual and priestly life till he reached sanctity.

The research and the studies came out successfully. Towards the end of our research work, the life of Don Bosco was presented to the community in the form of an act-out and power point presentation. We then concluded our spirituality days with Don Bosco by displaying out creatively what we have discovered about him through an exhibition. Rev. Fr. Barnes Mawrie, SDB, who came to present to us in detail the Strenna of the Rector Major 2015 on February 28, the commemoration of Don Bosco, inaugurated the exhibition. On this occasion he gives us a message saying that it is not enough to do the research, what we need is to acquire the spirit of Don Bosco and live it.



On March 7, after supper we also had the joy of presenting our study to the Sisters who have come to Bellefonte for the trimonthly recollection from the East Khasi Hills region.

Knowing Don Bosco is, knowing his spirit. Yes through this research work, we had learnt and come to know more about Don Bosco, our father. We sincerely thank Mother Mistress who had taken this initiative, which has immensely helped us to grow deeper in the knowledge of our father and founder.

**Novices of Bellefonte
Don Bosco Group**

➤ FMA OUTREACH

Spreading the message – “STOP CHILD ABUSE!”

As part of the nationwide campaign against Child Abuse organized by FMA NDF, campaigns were conducted in the three schools of Shillong Province on November 11, and 12, 2014. Spearheading the campaign is the Heritage Club, of Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School, Nongthymmai - Shillong under the leadership of Miss Paula Pakynteñ.



The first day of the campaign was conducted at St. Mary Mazzarello Girls' Higher Secondary School Jowai, West Jaiñtia Hills district which is 64 kilometers away from Shillong. Miss Paula along with two students of 10th standard Miss Daphisha R. Wanniang and Lapdianghun Nongkhaw addressed the issue of Child Abuse to the 1173

(one thousand one hundred and seventy three) students. The main topics dealt were: What is Child Abuse?, types of Child Abuse, Child Rights with emphasis to Right to Education, Safety measures and stressed mainly on Child Sexual Abuse which is predominant in the state as a whole. Through well-prepared charts the speakers brought home the message of being aware of the abuses meted on children and at the same time to take precaution from inviting such danger. They were also exhorted to share the message with their peers who have not heard about such sensitive issues. The campaign provided platform to children in clarifying the understanding of abuses. There was a lively interaction between the students and the speakers. Queries of students were tackled with much precision to the satisfaction of the hearers and benefit of all. Miss Paula proposed to have Martial art and life skills programs as regular co-curricular activities. The gathering remembered and prayed for victims of child abuse using the prayer card printed



for the occasion.

On November 12, 2014 the campaign was conducted in two other higher secondary schools of Shillong with 920 (nine hundred and twenty) students in Auxilium Nongthymmai and 1126 (one thousand one hundred and twenty six) students at Sacred Heart, Mawlai. In all 3219 students and 45 teachers have participated in the campaign.



On November 14, 2014 campaign against Child Abuse was done through the distribution of prayer cards spreading the message of stopping child abuse by Sr. Gemima Pohrmen SDC and Sr. Euginia Laloo.

This was done in the different public places where people frequent like the Meghalaya Urban Development Agency Parking Lot at Police Bazar, Shillong Studio Digital Colour Lab and RB Store, a famous Departmental store. Five hundred prayer cards were distributed on that day. Coinciding with the celebration of children's Day the public feel concerned and showed great interest to share the message to everyone around. It was a wonderful experience in which we witnessed many people of goodwill who are eager to promote life and save the unhappy plight of innocent children.

Sr. Euginia Laloo

➔ JOWAI

Christmas celebration at the District Jail

The Community under the leadership of Sr. Catherine Sutnga arranged a Christmas Celebration for all the prisoners of Jowai District Jail on December 19, 2014. Mr. James Marbaniang the Chief Jailor and his Assistant Mr. Batskhem Nongbri welcomed the idea of the Sisters and gave their whole hearted support. As soon as he heard about the programme, His Grace, Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil SDB, DD, Apostolic Administrator of Jowai Diocese expressed his desire to join the Sisters in the celebration.

On the appointed day the team of Sr. Catherine met the 170 inmates along with all the staff members. Joining them was also Sr. Catherine Phawa from Mawkyndeng community as she could speak Garo fluently and there were a good number of convicts from Garo Hills. It was beautiful to witness the Christmas story being enacted with so much simplicity and originality by the

inmates. In his talk delivered in simple Khasi and also in Hindi, His Grace urged the prisoners not to lose hope. Sr. Rosina Susngi too gave a very encouraging message in Khasi to the prisoners stressing on the need to look forward to a better future, to remain in God's love and believe in his promise of salvation, to use the present time as a gift of God for introspection and reformation. She made a solid statement saying that no one in this world is free from guilt and that is why we have Christmas. Sr. Catherine Phawa likewise spoke in Garo telling all, of the great love that God has for each one irrespective of caste, creed, sins and imperfections. Miss Amicia Sutnga spoke on behalf of the group wishing the prisoners the peace and joy of Christmas. One of the prisoners Mr. Rapius Sangma, spoke in Garo thanking everyone and exhorting his fellow prisoners to take the Christmas messages seriously. Mr. James the Chief Jailor thanked His Grace, the Sisters and the group for all that was done and is being done expressing the hope that we continue in our prison ministry in the coming year. After the prayer of blessing by His Grace, the Christmas packets were distributed to all; these were received with much joy, which was evident in their countenances. The small group interaction between His Grace, the Sisters and the prisoners was something unique in which they were able to air their heart out to someone with confidence.

Sr. Dakyrmeh Sohkhlet

Refresher Course cum First Staff Meeting for 2015

February 9, 2015 was a new dawn to the staff and teachers of St. Mary Mazzarello Girls' Higher Secondary School, Jowai. We were lit up, imbibed, infused and armed with renewed spirit and elements to dare and to meet the multiple challenges entailing the year through, as Salesian Educators.

The day was opened with a prayer led by the Principal of the School, Sr. Esther Marwein invoking for heavenly blessings to enlighten our mind and be receptive to the inputs during the day's session for the good of our students, society, country and the world at large.

There followed the morning's session with Sr. Rosina Susngi, our Superior who ignited our motives and set our hearts ablaze for a new start of the year. Sr. Rosina was indeed an inimitable raconteur par excellence. She has given





us the right anecdote along with judiciously chosen examples and illustrations, which always seem to be available at her fingertips. She encouraged us to forge forward and be orientated as Salesian Educators to meet the needs of the youth of this era. As Salesian educators we are to visualize and to materialize the cherished dreams of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello for the young people. We are to be visionaries in order to bring the youngsters of today from doom to life, to the light and love of God.

Sr. Rosina also highlighted the aim, purpose and the objectives of the 23rd General Chapter held in Rome. It was a lively and thought provoking eye opener. The following are some of the intellectual snacks viewed and missioned globally by the Salesian family of the Sisters.

The Salesian mission and charisma is being with the young people to give them a home, to educate them with kindness combined with firmness. Every Salesian Educator is expected to be a messenger of the Good News to the students, to accompany them, to smile at them, to welcome them, to listen to them and to practice the Preventive System using reason, religion and loving kindness, to

appeal to each student with hope. It is necessary for Salesian educators to take up courageous choices and live radically the present rather than living in the nostalgia of the past. Great stress was given to love what the young people love in order to give them practical values. There is great need for educators today to enliven the sense of commitment and dedication that seem to have lost its significance and visibility.

As Salesian educators we must be ready to change our mentality and be consumed with passion for God and for the education of the students because only a true encounter with God can transform us, so that our own change becomes a transforming force. There is a need to enter into the viewpoint of those we accompany and educate by making continuous discernment of our style of life so that we overcome self-interest and the logic of domination. The presence of God must be deeply felt at all times so that our classrooms be transformed into places of joy, overcoming formal and functional rapport in the educating community by cultivating an enterprising planning mentality, networking with others and utilizing all resources for new educative processes.

As educators we should have a great hunger and thirst for God and for spirituality. There is need to assume responsibility of our own spiritual maturation as a condition for our journey in the education of the young people. There is also a need of forming ourselves and our students into competent leaders of the time by optimistic reading of the reality, learning to orient with clarity the renewed significance of our educative action. We are to live coordination for communion concretely at all levels of responsibility. Students must be taught to imbibe the spirit to be volunteers and have a sense of correct convictions.

Sr. Rosina winded up the session with two poignant questions: Why are our students not as we want them to be after all the help and the formation we give them? What are we to do so that our students reach the goal? The Session was indeed the best track changing for the year 2015.

Sir Terrence Sawian who added spice to the contents of Sr. Rosina's sessions took up the afternoon session. Terrence laid stress on cooperation by letting go our selfish ego in our teaching career, on quality education leading to quality generation. Educators should aim at winning the hearts of the taught rather than mere imparting of knowledge in the learning-teaching process. To evaluate the students as a whole not only on their performance so that they can achieve and become more valuable than the marks they obtained. A co-operative learning teaching is the need of the time. A gist on National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 was also touched to let our teachers know the plan, policy and approach of education in the 21st century as per

the aim and objective of government norms and policies.

The day concluded with teachers being divided into four groups for the planning allotted to each for the smooth functioning of the new scholastic year 2015. Thank you Sr. Rosina, Sr. Esther and Sir Terence.

Mrs. Rosta Kurbah (Teacher)

➔ MAWKYRDEP

Getting to know Don Bosco better

Being the bicentenary year of the birth of our Father and founder Don Bosco, we were very happy that the young people of Raid Madan sub-district came to our community on January 31 for one day seminar on the strenna of the Rector Major “Like Don Bosco with the Young and for the young” organized by the sub district.



The resource persons of the day were Sr. Provina Marwein and Prof. Cosmos Rynshon. Welcoming the group, the President of the youth Mr. Shanbor Mukhim exhorted everyone present to benefit from the day's program. During the talks the resource persons spoke on the zeal and the enthusiasm of Don Bosco in saving the life and soul of young people. Making the phrase “seeing is believing” relevant, the life of Don Bosco was screened for two hours in the afternoon. The climax of the day was the celebration of the Holy Eucharistic celebration solemnized by Rev. Fr. Cyrus Syiemlieh the Assistant Parish Priest of Mawbri Parish. In his homily he summarized the life of Don Bosco as a Father and friend of the young. Our young people were enlightened

and were very happy having come to know more about their patron saint. On the next day the faithful of the village joined us in the celebration of the feast of Don Bosco through a prayer meeting (Jingiaseng) animated by the faithful themselves. We thanked them for their availability, their sense of belonging to our community and for sharing our joy in this special year.

Sr. Maria Wanpyntngen Sariang

➔ MAWKYNDENG

Bi-centenary Celebration

Our joy knew no bounds as we celebrated the Bicentenary of the birth of our Father and Founder, Don Bosco on January 31, 2015 at Parish level with about a thousand children and young people of the oratories coming from all the villages of the Parish. Sr. Aitihun Mary Lawai, President of the Oratory, organized the memorable event along with Sr. Melina Kharbani the sister in-charge of the Salesian Cooperators of Mawkyndeng Unit with the joint venture of the Executive members of the Oratory and the Salesian Cooperators.

It was January 31, by 8.30 in the morning vehicles arrived one after the other bringing children and young people from all over the villages of the Parish. They have come with lots of joy, hope and aspiration; they got themselves registered and scarves were distributed to them. Opening the day's celebration was the solemn entry to





the venue through a plate dance by the oratorians from Mulieh village wherein they escorted the Fathers, Sisters and Salesian

Cooperators in procession with their dance. Fr. Benedict Kharlyngdoh SDB, Parish Priest welcomed everyone to the gathering and wished the assembly on the feast of Don Bosco. Marking the event was the hoisting of the Oratory Flag by Most Rev. Thomas Memanparampil SDB, Apostolic Administrator of Jowai Diocese and followed by a grand Eucharistic celebration. During his homily the Archbishop broke the Word of God and made us to reflect on "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of God?" he then spoke briefly on Don Bosco who associated himself with the little ones and the poor youth and invited us to follow his love for the poor and the marginalized. Another speciality of the day was the reception of the First Holy Communion by hundred and eighty-five children who dressed beautifully in white. The choir under the leadership of Sr. Aitihun sang melodiously and devoutly, which made the celebration a very prayerful one. Many were dressed in traditional attire, which added colour and cadence to the celebration.

Again in the afternoon during the presentation of items like song, dance and skit Archbishop Thomas gave a short message about how Don Bosco worked tirelessly for the young people and invited all of us to imitate him and to make a promise to him to work hard restlessly to the best of our ability for the children, young people, the Church and for the glory of God. On this day, mementoes were distributed to



the three best oratorians of each center as well as for the executive members of the oratory, the priests and the sisters. Concluding the day was the lowering of the Oratory Flag by Fr. Benedict Kharlyngdoh, and then the Captain of the Oratory Mr. Wermiki Dkhar handed the flag to Sr. Aitihun Mary Lawai. The Salesian Cooperators sponsored firecrackers and two big indigenous fire-balloons, which were made to fly as sign of joy and jubilation. All the Sisters joined hands for the celebration along with the children, young people, Salesian Cooperators, Government officers and Church leaders and made the day remarkable and memorable.

Prior to this day, there was a two-month long preparation. Creative fund-raising activities in the form of lottery express, drama, family collection and many other ways were taken in order to meet the expenses for the feast. The triduum for the solemnity was animated by the Salesian Cooperators, the Youth and on vigil night with Taize Prayer animated by Sr. Aitihun along with the oratorians in which Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil SDB, Apostolic Administrator of Jowai Diocese was also present. May Don Bosco our Father and Founder smile on us and bless us!

Sr. Aitihun Mary Lawai

➔ MAWLAI

Boscoree "Heal the World"

I would like to share something about my experience of the 12th Boscoree, which was held at Thanjavur Tamil Nadu. We left





Shillong on the December 26, 2014 by bus and boarded the train in Guwahati at 3.00 pm. For most of us the journey by train was a first experience and we enjoyed it a lot. The camp took off with a grand inauguration at Don Bosco playground on the evening of December 30. We were almost 4000 students both boys and girls. The programme has enriched me personally and as a group we learnt many good things. We have also come to know students from other parts of the country. Though it was taxing with many activities and events, yet it was a learning experience for all of us. The campfire and the cultural march were wonderful events. Another significant thing that we achieved was the world record in making Don Bosco caps, which numbered

4000, and more. The camping came to an end on January 3, 2015 by 4 .00 pm and immediately we left for Kanyakumari and other places in Kerala. We were around 70 students from four Schools. Sr. Lydia Pala Principal, Sr. Mildred Kharsyiemlieh and Mrs. Regina Lyngdoh came along with us. We thank them for accompanying us and taking us to different places. We reached safely home on January 9, 2015. We thank God for his protection over all of us. We congratulate the Fathers and Sisters of Chennai Province for the excellent program and events.

Badaplin Riangshiang

Inauguration of the New Scholastic Year 2015

After a long vacation, the students were back to School with joy to again meet the Sisters, teachers and friends on February 10, 2015. The first day of the New Scholastic Year commenced with a Prayer Service imploring God's enlightenment as we begin our school year. The prayer moment invoked God's presence through the lighting of the lamp at the School playground. Rev. Fr. Richard Majaw, the Secretary (education commission) of the Shillong archdiocese, as the Chief Guest for the day. Those present for the inaugural function were Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem, the animator, Sr. Lydia Pala, Principal, Sisters, Staff, Students and Parents. In his message Fr. Richard stressed on the phrase "Be prepared" he also spoke about the importance of learning and that there is no limit to learning; we need to keep on learning day by day so as to reach the goal we desire. He also stressed on hard work, which would render our work fruitful. He wished the whole assembly the very best and that each one reaches one's goal for this year.



The following day there was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr. Roland Kharkrang SDB, the Parish Priest of Mawlai Parish for the school community. It was an awe-inspiring experience for all to begin the year seeking God's blessing and guidance.

Sr. BertinaKurbah

➤ FROM THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS' CORNER

Social Work

The Salesian Cooperators of Mawlai Unit organized a Social Work to mark the Bicentenary Year of Don Bosco with the altar boys and First Communicants in St. Dominic Savio's Parish campus, Mawlai on January 30, 2015. The cleaning drive was crowned with a sumptuous meal served for all. Thanks to Fr. Roland Kharkrang SDB, Parish

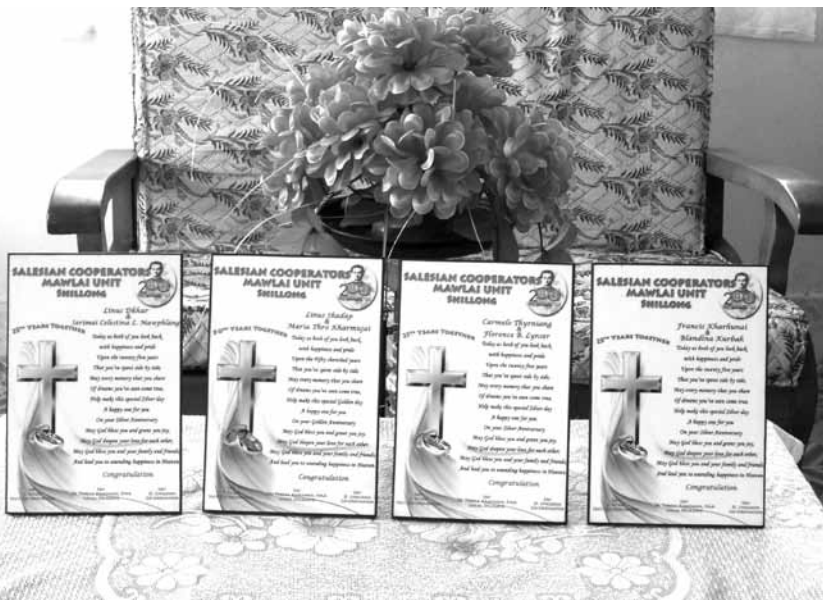
Priest and all those who had contributed in cash and kind to make the day a memorable one.

Liturgy animated

On January 31, the liturgy of the feast of Don Bosco was celebrated meaningfully at Parish level. The Salesian Cooperators animated the Holy Mass. It was a fitting occasion to let Don Bosco and the Association known to the faithful. The entire celebration centered on our sentiments of praise for the gift of such a great father.

Felicitation to the Jubilarians

To further commemorate the historic year of the 200th anniversary of Don Bosco's birth, on January 25, the Salesian Cooperators of Mawlai Unit conducted a Prayer Service (Jingiaseng) in Mrs. Milsha Kharjana's house. On this occasion four couples who are Salesian Cooperators and who have completed their golden and silver jubilee of wedding anniversary were felicitated. The mementos were blessed by Fr. Alistair Marweñ SDB, Asst. Parish Priest and were given out by Sr. Teresa Kamsuan FMA, Local Delegate to the jubilarians, namely: Mr. Linus Shadap and Smt. Maria Thro Kharmujai (50), Mr. Linus Dkhar and Smt. Serimai M. Lyngdoh Mawphlang (25), Mr. Carmello Thyrniang and Smt. Florence B. Lynser (25) and Mr. Francis Kharhunai and Smt. Blandina Kurbah (25).



Fr. Alistair Marweñ talked on the life and mission of Don Bosco. He also said that the first Salesian Cooperator was Mama Margaret, the mother of Don Bosco. Mr. Anthony Kharsati, one of the old members spoke on the vocation of a Salesian Cooperators as envisaged by Don Bosco. Sr. Teresa proposed a vote of thanks and also invited all present to the association. Mrs. Damianty Lyngdoh, Local Coordinator and Mrs. Sylvia Syiem, Secretary led the proceeding of the day.

Sr. Teresa Kamsuan

12th Annual Day celebrated at AGS

Auxilium Girls' School celebrated their 12th Annual Day on November 12, 2014. The theme of the celebration was 'LOVE makes a house A HOME'. The chief Guest of the day was the Hon'ble Judge of Tripura High Court, Shri Subhasis Talapatra and Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Bishop of Agartala was the Guest of honour. There were a host of other special invitees; among them were, Shri Manik Lal Das and Shri Sumit Lodh, SDM

of Agartala and Jirania respectively. Smt Nabonita Roy, special Secretary to the Governor of Tripura, also graced the occasion with her august presence.

The curtain opened with a prayer and welcome dance, and was formally inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp invoking the

blessing of the Almighty God. Sr. Celine D' Cunha, Principal of the school welcomed the guests and invitees, and the students felicitated them with the school scarf and a bouquet of flowers. Having welcomed the huge gathering of almost 6000 parents, guardians and all other invitees she highlighted the theme of the day, and urged everyone to make a commitment to make their families real Homes of Love. The theme was depicted through dances and dance drama by the students in a colourful, realistic and convincing way, highlighting the dangers faced by families today such as selfishness and lack of communication, domestic violence and abuse, separation and divorce, discrimination between gender, dowry debts, neglect of children and elderly – as well as how to build a happy, loving and caring family. Based on Prime Minister's call for Swachh Bharat campaign, the mission taken up seriously by the school, the students beautifully illustrated through a small skit and dance, inviting everyone to take a pledge and collaborate and contribute one's share to make our Motherland clean and green. Being the bicentenary year of the birth of Don Bosco another highlight of the programme was, 'A Homage to Don Bosco' which revealed Don Bosco's life as a great educator and passionate lover of young people.

Students marvelously presented his love and commitment towards the young people, making them to be the centre of his love and affection.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Subhasis Talapatra, in his message praised the management and the staff for the quality education they render and commended on the marvellous and spectacular presentation by the students and said, "I haven't seen such a fantastic performance in my life. I have no words to express my feelings. Tonight we see the stars on the stage with fire ignited." He encouraged the parents to cooperate with the school authority for the quality education they impart. The Guest of Honour, Rt. Rev. Lumen Monteiro, in his message profusely thanked and congratulated both staff and students for their stunning and breath-taking performance. Seeing the students on the stage in such a great number and every item with a message to carry home with highlighted quality education the school imparts to the students. He congratulated the school for being a quality school in the state. Almost all the students presented different dances and skits all highlighting the theme as well as other cultural aspects. Some of the items were on 'Dowry Devil, Girl Child: nurture

h e r ,
celebrate
h e r ,
Chinese
Chuckle,
classic
Rhythm,
E a s t
W e s t



Encounter, Modern dance etc. The tiny tots of nursery looked gorgeous in their Barbie costumes. The Tribal Group looked colourful and marvellous in their dance item -Tapestry of Tribal Culture. They presented 12 different dance forms. Class III through their dance drama presented the scenario of Kashmir – the devastating flood, which brought havoc in the Paradise of India and how they overcame the calamity.



The entire programme was minutely planned and marvelously executed with 12 good and smart anchors, with their elegant, colourful formal costumes hosting it in a very efficient way. The entire programme came to a glorious conclusion with parents and children together taking a pledge to make all our families Loving Homes of Love. The newly built spacious permanent stage which was colourfully and artistically decorated; good light and sound system and each of the item giving an underlying message made the entire programme meaningful, memorable, enchanting and mesmerizing. Hats off to the entire Auxilium Family for such a Fabulous Programme!

Tatum Ghosh (Teacher)

With our Father and Founder

It was a great joy and privilege to have the chance to honour our Father and Founder Don Bosco in our Home on the last day of the Triduum January 30, 2015. We solemnly honoured our Father through a meaningful prayer service, music and hymns.

Sr. Celine D' Cunha through the Power-point presentation explicitly explained the Strenna 2015 – “Like Don Bosco with the young and for the young” to all those who came for the spiritual feast. The moment together was so overwhelming; surrounded with the aura of holiness where we truly felt that our beloved Father Don Bosco was present with us physically. The faithful and the young people went home loaded with beautiful Salesian thoughts.

On this special occasion of the Bicentenary of the Birth of our Father, we his daughters made him known not only to our close collaborators but also to others who do not know or heard about him. On this day our Community placed five big flexes of Don Bosco with meaningful thoughts in the different busy roads of the city of Agartala. We felt proud to share the life and mission of our Father and Founder, a great lover of the young. We ask him to bless the young people of this lovely land of Tripura. Long Live Don Bosco We Love You!

Sr. Rihun Sten

Homage to Don Bosco

Students dressed up in colorful attire make minds airy and blissful. Auxilium Girls' School organized a fancy dress competition on January 31, 2015 on the Solemnity of Don Bosco in the school premise. Our beloved Principal Sr. Celine D' Cunha was the driving spirit behind the entire event. The program drew a lot of excitement, joy and cheer in every nook and corner, the playground was decorated not with flags and flowers but with the rich colourful traditional dresses and smiles of the cuties of



Auxilium, it was such a feast for the eyes. The competition brought an amiable ambience and the judges rejoined with their applause. Different themes were allotted and it was amazing to see kids dressing up according to the themes. Parents have chosen very apt dresses for the themes and that added more gloss to the whole programme. It was indeed a mesmerizing event, which would be etched in our memory for a very long time.

On this grand occasion after the Fancy dress, the students with cheerful slogan ‘LONG LIVE DON BOSCO, WE LOVE YOU DON BOSCO’ went in procession to greet and pay homage to Don Bosco at the statue and adorned him with fresh bouquet. This was not yet enough for them, they still want to show in deed that they truly love him by bringing valuable school articles like books, copy, pen, pencil, eraser etc. to share with the poorer students who are less privileged than them.



Mrigakshi Saha Class VIII

New members to the Church

They came, stayed, experienced and so they chose to believe in Him. February 15, 2015 is a memorable day for us at Auxilium Nandan Nagar where four of our boarders namely Roselyn Cecilia Hrangkhawl, Jemmy Lucia Debbarma, Lipika Vicunia Reang, Kherengbar Felisita Debbarma embraced new life in Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism and Jailemi Julia Molsom received the first Holy Communion. This long awaited Sunday was



crowned with beautiful roses of joy and love, these courageous recipients of the day were thrilled; with faith in the heart, lighted candle in their hands and with angelic white garment they step into the altar to adorn the Lord God and say ‘Yes, I

believe in you and you are my God’. Their godmother and parents accompanied them along to the holy place. Fr. Chris Saldanha SDB, a consultant in the Salesian Formation Team who was on a visit to Agartala was the main celebrant. In the homily he said ‘God is like a mother who bend down to the level of the child and even pick us up to the level of holiness through Sacraments’. The joyous celebration was resounded by beautiful holy thoughts through prayers, music, songs, wishes and cheer. Thereafter we had solemn luscious breakfast with the family of the newly baptized. We thanked Sr. Marylang Suchiang who took great interest in preparing them. We also thanked their parents for allowing

their children to be the followers of Jesus in Catholic faith.

As part of the celebration, in the afternoon the boarders went to the Mother Teresa’s Orphanage and gifted them delicious snacks. This generosity and spirit of sharing brought a lot of joy to many. Besides eatable, they also animated games and shared some joyous moments with those children.

Sr. Rihun Sten

Achievement Day celebrated at AGS

February 21, 2015 was an auspicious day for the Auxilium Girls School, Nandan Nagar where the fruits of the hardwork of the students were awarded in a ceremony called the Achievement Day. The chief guest on the occasion was Shri Pabitra Kar, Deputy Speaker of Tripura Legislative Assembly and the guest of honour was Bro. Gabriel Colney SDB, Vice-Principal Don Bosco School, Nandan Nagar. Several





other dignitaries were also invited to the event.

The program started with the formal welcome of the guests and invitees by the students of National Cadet Corpse (NCC) and Guides. The

students of Auxilium waited for this day with extreme eagerness throughout the year. It is an appreciative gesture by the school for the innumerable skills and potentials, which the students displayed during the academic year. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp followed by the beautiful welcome dance by the students of the dance club. Our Principal Sr. Celine D' Cunha gave a short message highlighting on the significance of the Achievement Day. Being the bicentennial year of the birth of Don Bosco, the choir paid their homage to him through their song 'Little Dream'. Following this song was a program on girl child where the pupils stressed on the need of nurturing, supporting and protecting our heart's precious jewels (girls) from the evil clutches of this pervert society. The Music Club then presented their patriotic song, which was followed by a short dance drama on the recent havoc created by the flood in Kashmir. Another item that showcased the rich culture of the region was presented, the Tribal Treasure, an assortment of many tribal dances with beautiful synchronization of balance, rhythm and style. Then came the shows' topper, a short skit by the students of Karate Club on empowering the Girl Child and teaching them the art of self-protection by learning Karate. Both the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour gave short and inspiring messages that encouraged the students to forge ahead in bringing out the best in them. At the close of the function Sr. Rihun Sten proposed the Vote of thanks to all present.

The students were jubilant at the end of the program to receive the prizes- medals, trophies and certificates, most of them grabbing one or the other. The prizes for different classes were given

after each cultural event. Their joys knew no boundaries when the awards for the best class, house, assembly and captain were declared. The program was indeed very well organized and ended on a happy note.

Tatum Ghosh (Teacher)

➔ **NONGTHYMMAI**

Celebrate God's Gift of Life

February 15, 2015 was the most happiest and memorable day for Sr. Hilda Barragan as she celebrated her 83rd birthday.

At the very outset of the morning hours, prayers were offered for her intentions. The most exciting moments for Sr. Hilda were the prayers offered



for her, the wishes of the creative doll prepared by the sisters and the cutting of the birthday cake.

Sr. Hilda exclaimed: "I am so happy and delightful to see the love of the community sisters expressed to me in different ways. I have come to understand better the guiding hands of God in me day by day. My gift of life is so unique that I love to be in this community and much more in the province" She further added "I still recall the first days of my life in the Province when Sr. Rina Colussi of holy memory asked me in the refectory 'Sr. Hilda do you have these banana in Mexico?' I proudly answered that we have better ones there and asked me many more things in comparison with what we have in Mexico, but I.... I never forget the scene when Sr. Rina took me to the primary playground where I saw a large group of children running towards Sr. Rina on seeing her, hanged on around Sr. Rina



say because I realized I do not have that in Mexico and that was the moment of my turning point when I fell in love with this Mission".

and the latter was never conscious of her white habit but was just enjoying with the children, she exclaimed 'Sr. Hilda do you have this in Mexico?' I was so stung and had no words to

It is so beautiful to have a vibrant missionary like Sr. Hilda in our Province more so in our community. Even till date Sr. Hilda is so updated with her Internet and many other responsibilities, which are all oriented towards the good of the mission. She is a person in action always. Dear Sr. Hilda we are proud to have you in our community and in the Province. We are grateful to you for what you do and more so for what you are. May God continue to shower upon you His manifold blessings that you may enjoy good health and that you may continue to inspire us all. Thank you Dear Sr. Hilda.

Inaugural Mass

Auxilium Higher Secondary School embarked the new scholastic year 2015 in a praiseworthy and fitting manner with an inaugural Holy Mass organized on February 12, for the Staff and Students of the School at Divine Saviour Church, Nongthymmai Parish.



The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rev. Fr. Edmund Gomes SDB, Parish Priest.

The occasion helped us thank God together as a family for the

copious blessings received in the past year and to continue asking for His perennial blessings on the sisters, teachers, parents and students and His assistance and leadership in all our school activities. In his homily Fr. Gomes spoke on 'true wisdom and knowledge' God is the giver of true wisdom and knowledge; a person who fears the Lord can acquire these gifts and he further said that all the good and beautiful things can come only from the Lord and He gives generously to the ones who love and revere Him. He exhorted everyone present to love and revere the Lord with their heart, soul and strength and to do one's best in making the best use of the gifts and talents as teachers and students for God's glory and to remain always his loving and grateful children.

Everyone took part in the Holy Mass with greater fervour and devotion. Auxilium School is ever grateful to Fr. Edmund Gomes for sparing his precious time to celebrate the meaningful Holy Eucharist and for his thought-provoking sermon. Following the Holy Mass the leaders of the different houses and classes pledged their dedication as responsible leaders of the school

Sr. Joplin Suchiang

Annual Sports 2015

The Annual Sports 2015 of Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School, Nongthymmai Shillong was held from the February 18-20 at the Divine Saviour Parish Ground. It was the most awaited event in the school calendar. The glittering inaugural ceremony commenced with the arrival of the chief guest, Sr. Gemima Pohrmen. What followed was a spellbinding march past, a solemn ceremonial lighting of torch by Sakawanki Pyngrope and Wandarisha Warjri, a befitting oath ceremony, an inspiring message by the chief guest and the school anthem.

The bevy of events for the two days included athletics, jumps and throws. The athletes with grit and determination raced to achieve victory for





their respective houses and so too in the other events.

The chief guest of the concluding ceremony of our annual sports 2015 Dr.

Jemino Mawthoh, MLA of Nongthymmai constituency who is known for being punctual at any event arrived at 1.00 pm sharp and was accorded a warm welcome with a thunderous applause and a bouquet of flowers. The School Choir then resonated their melodious welcome song. Soon after the rest of the programme took off smoothly. The pulsating musical synchronization, which enthused everyone and the speech of the chief guest, kept the students in pin drop silence.

In his thought provoking message on time management, he reiterated the students to learn this skill for greater success. The afternoon's event ended with the declaration of the results and the prize winners. The yellow House remained the runner-up in the march past while the blue house were declared worthy winners and were delighted to win the runner – up trophy in the overall position of the houses. The day's ultimate joy came to the yellow house that seized the much-coveted "Champion House trophy." Thereafter the Principal, Sr. Albrida Pyngrope proposed words of thanks. She complimented the students, teachers, sisters and the ancillary staff without whose efforts the event could not have been successful. At the end, it was exciting when Auxilians' voices cut through the drizzling afternoon air as they proudly sang the school anthem. All gathered, dispersed with the expectations of yet another magnificent, closely-contested sports Meet the following year; though the saga of celebrations continued amidst showers of rains sprinkling from heavens- the moment was a fitting end to the three day sports extravaganza. Thus it is in these moments that the

school and her family tree keep up for a Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body.

Ms. Kakoli Dasgupta

➔ **RAMBRAI**

On December 21, 2014 Sr. Gemma Phyllei, the nurse in-charge of Mazzarello Health Centre Rambrai conducted a health Camp at Mawlangsan village within the territory of Rambrai PHC. We were fortunate that Dr. Lyngdon ChristianTham too came along for the medical camp. His presence has helped us much in our health ministry.



At the outset of the health camp, Dr. Tham gave a health talk on the importance of cleanliness for healthy living. All the members from every family took this golden chance of being examined and sought relief for their aches and pains from the doctor. Relevant treatment was given to every patient and free medicines were distributed. Mawlangsan village is situated in the interior part of West Khasi Hills where there is no road accessibility. The group walked up to the place and made the necessary arrangements for the health camp. The people who inhabit the village too are poor and have no medical aid. In times of sickness they have to make a journey of five hours in order to reach our health centre for medical relief and moreover the medicines are almost given free or with whatever little sum of money they offer. Seeing the situation and need of the village people, Sr. Gemma left no stone unturned to render medical help to this village. The people were grateful to Sr. Gemma for this opportunity given to them and also expressed



their gratitude to Dr. Tham for his help.

Sr. Gemma Phyllei

➔ TURA

Hail to you Don Bosco!

The inauguration of the Scholastic year 2015 which took place on February 13 highlighted the unique year of the bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth. A well-decorated picture of Don Bosco was placed at the centre flanked by the school flag and the flags of the four houses of the school. The ceremony began with a Prayer Service through the intercession of Don Bosco. Different school articles like the exercise books, books, balls and school uniform were offered seeking God's blessing through the intercession of the father and friend of youth. The Principal of the School, Sr. Monica T. Sangma in her speech brought to light the significance of the bicentennial year. She further explained on the life and mission of Don Bosco, which was later enacted by the students of classes IX and X. The short skit reveals the relationship of Don Bosco and his boys wherein they acted the meeting of Don Bosco with Michael Fassio, Bartholomew Garelli and Charles.

The senior most teacher of the School, Shri Chotru R. Sangma hoisted the bicentenary flag to which the whole assembly responded with a song "We

thank you O Lord for Don Bosco" marking the great event in the life and history of our Salesian charism.

Nurturing of talents in the Young

Auxilium Secondary School conducted Talent Show for kids of Nursery to Class I on March 30, 2015. In this event the children showcased their talents and learning which they have accomplished in one month's time of the school year. It included rhymes and action songs, which they have learned in the class.

On the following day Singing Competition was organized for the students of Class V to VII. In the competition the students were made to sing the songs, which are in the School Calendar. It was very amusing to see each one of them taking to heart the activities being conducted. It is noteworthy to mention that these competitions were compulsory for every student so as to give them the opportunity to exhibit and discover their own talents and gifts. The community endeavoured to have such kind of event as an evaluation of the impact of their teaching and more especially to bring out the best in the children, making them smart and that they would come out of their own shell.

Auxilium VTC inaugurated

In collaboration with the Social Welfare department of

the Government of Meghalaya, West Garo Hills the community witnessed the inauguration of Auxilium Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Tura on April 1, 2015.

It was the great desire of Sr. Phyllis Bamon, Animator to have such initiative in the Centre; this was realized with the collaboration and hardwork of Sr. Monica T. Sangma, the Principal. The inauguration took place in the presence of four officials from Social Welfare Department consisting of Ms. Eva Mary G. Momin, Ms. Cleo Patra B. Marak, Madam Madhu Chanda M. Sangma and Shri Freddy Ch. Marak. The first group of trainees consisting of the ten women from the neighbourhood who would begin the course on tailoring were also present. Welcoming the guests to the event, the students of Classes VIII to X presented them a bouquet each, a welcome song and a prayer dance. Speaking on the occasion Eva Mary said, "I am happy to collaborate with the Auxilium Sisters for I am confident that whatever work they do, they would do it with perfection". On behalf of the community, Sr. Phyllis thanked the Social Welfare Department and Sr. Monica explained to the women the importance of the initiative and that the given skill would enable them to earn their livelihood and bring up their family.

Sr. Sabina Mawrie

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➤ UMDANG

Health Camp conducted at Nongrengna Village

The dawn of November 29, 2014 brought joy and brightness on our faces because we were to go and help and to heal in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ the healer. The people of Nongrengna village came and fetched the Sisters.

On reaching the village, necessary arrangements were made and the health camp commenced. Sr. Marilyn Wahlang the nurse gave an awareness programme on Malaria, as it is one of the diseases that the people get affected easily. Two other Sisters, Sr. Maristella Jyrwa and Sr. Risuk Dkhar along with three volunteers from District Vector Borne Disease Control Society (DVBDCS) Nongstoiñ accompanied Sr. Marilyn. Eighty-six people attended the health camp and free medicines and tests were given

to them. Out of them seventeen were diagnosed of malaria. The village people were very happy because they rarely get this opportunity. Towards evening everyone went back home happy and with great hope in their hearts of getting cured of their ailments. The three volunteers too returned to Nongstoiñ while the Sisters remained for the Jingiaseng on the next day.

On the following day after much preparation, we witnessed the Baptism of twenty infants. The parents were trained and catechized by Sr. Maristella the previous day. Fr. Charles Syiemlieh Assistant parish priest of Umdang celebrated the Holy Mass and conferred the Sacrament. The memorable day ended with the blessing of the cemetery of Nongrengna village. After such fulfilling days with contentment and happiness in everyone's hearts we went back home. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to give our service in both physical and spiritual ways.

Sr. Risuk Dkhar



DON BOSCO: The Man with a Dream

Sr. Celine D'Cunha fma

*"We know not of the future, and cannot plan for it much.
But we can hold our spirits and our bodies so pure and high,
we may cherish such thoughts and such ideals,
and dream such dreams of lofty purpose,
that we can determine and know what manner of people we will be
whenever and wherever the hour strikes that calls to noble action...
No one becomes suddenly different from his habit and cherished thought."*

Joshua L. Chamberlain

It all began with a dream. God searches for the right person to whom he can entrust the greatest gift he can give a human being – a dream! The entire life of Don Bosco was minutely shaped by a rather mysterious private episode in his boyhood: A DREAM. God chose this little boy to become a leader, a friend, a guide, a shepherd and a father

to thousands of young people. God himself enters into the life of Don Bosco, giving him a mission among the young people of his time, a task seemingly beyond his strength. But that dream, becomes his inspiration, his guiding force. Its full implications he understood only after long 64 years, in 1887, a few months before his death, that he shed uncontrollable tears of joy while celebrating the Holy Eucharist at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Rome. Here is the gist of that dream.



Don Bosco the dreamer

When he was a young boy of 9 years, Don Bosco had a dream. He seemed to be in the midst of a crowd of boys at play, some of whom were cursing and the others fighting. Suddenly young John threw himself at these, shouting and hitting and kicking them to make them quiet. But a man of majestic bearing appeared before him and said: “Not with blows, but with kindness and love you must win over these your friends. Set to work at once, tell them about the ugliness of sin and the beauty of virtue.” When young John expressed his inability to do such a mighty work, the majestic person said: “Precisely because these things seem impossible to you, you must make them possible by obedience and acquisition of learning, and I shall give you a Teacher, under whose guidance you will become wise.” Then, there appeared a Lady of majestic bearing. She took little John by the hand and said: “This is your field of work. Make yourself humble, strong and steadfast...”. Next morning at breakfast the family members interpreted the dream in different ways. His saintly mother, Margaret said, “Who knows, perhaps God is calling you to be a priest!” His grandmother put the lid on it: “Don’t pay too much attention to dreams.” Though Don Bosco inclined to agree with his grandmother, he could never get that dream out of his mind. He knew that the dream indicated a way for his future course of action, which he should prepare himself for a great venture on behalf of poor and abandoned young people. And so he accepted the dream with respect, embraced it with passion, and made it his own. He was ready to live for it and die for it. It is indeed true that the divine dream is delegated to a dedicated doer!

The dream that chalked out the future

That dream became a guiding force throughout Don Bosco’s life. The dream and his focus on his future

mission helped him to overcome all obstacles and barriers with courage and determination. As a young boy he became a friend among his friends and he taught them through stories and instructions the beauty of a good life. From travelling jugglers, acrobats, and magicians he learned tricks and entertained the crowd. The price of admission was to join some instructions and prayer moments. All his life he remained an enthralling storyteller and even in his later years he could still perform some magic trick, juggle or beat his boys in a race. All this he did with a clear focus and singleness of purpose to realize his dream. He knew that only by becoming a priest he could dedicate his entire life in the service of poor and abandoned young people. He worked day and night, struggled and rose above all hurdles, made all the sacrifices to be able to reach his goal – the first step in the realization of his dream – to become a priest. And so, on June 5, 1841 he was ordained a priest – a priest for and of the young people.

A dream shared

To reach out to such young people, Don Bosco needed the help of others. He worked, consulted, discerned, decided, planned and reached out creatively to understand the real situation of young people. The first chance came with a surprise encounter that brought him face to face with a frightened street urchin on 8 December 1841. The one-boy encounter of 8 December gradually began to multiply. That was the humble beginning of a future glorious venture. In those days there was no dearth of poor young people in Turin. They were orphans, or from

broken families, or abandoned, or looking for work and were exposed to many dangers of both body and soul. To them Don Bosco gave food and shelter, above all the young people found a father in Don Bosco and mother in Mamma Margaret (Mother of Don Bosco). There the boys studied a trade and learned to live a dignified life. When asked about the secret of his success, he would reply, “With kindness and love I try to win over these friends of mine...”

Slowly and steadily he formed them, trained them and transformed them. Some of them decided to do what Don Bosco was doing, that is, to spend their lives in the service of abandoned young people and later on they became his immediate helpers and collaborators and with them he shared his dream and his vision.

The dream becomes a system of Education

Don Bosco was more than a dreamer. He knew that education was the key to moulding and forming the young people. In spite of many problems of reaching out to them, he never lost hope and confidence in them. He believed in the power of good, present in every young person, no matter how poor. He took a preventive stance in front of evil, convinced that every young person, when placed in the right atmosphere,

would grow and develop. He built his system of education on the three pillars of – REASON, RELIGION and LOVING KINDNESS loving them and inviting their response of love. For their sake, Don Bosco started technical schools to educate the young people in skilled jobs like printing, book binding, mechanics etc. In those days, these were the skills that would guarantee better condition of earning and a better future for them. He published numerous works and he continued his work on his system of education. A system which was immediately recognized as an ideal system to improve educational standards and to get the best from the young.

Working hard to make his dream a reality

Seeing the miserable situation of the young people, Don Bosco became completely focused on his dream. Once when he visited the prisons, he was horrified to see so many young people. He wrote: “To see so many young people from 12 to 18 years of age, all healthy, strong, intelligent lacking spiritual and material food was something that horrified me.” In the face of such a situation he made his decision: “I must, by any available means, prevent them ending up here.” He knew that a new approach was needed to meet them; a new method was required to deal with them, a new way of understanding their situation, a new form of youth ministry to reach out to those young people who were pushed to the margins of society. He wanted to show to them better and healthy, youthful and happy ways of living their lives meaningfully.

Don Bosco was a dreamer and a doer!

He was an achiever! He was a planner and a producer!

He dreamt big! He thought big! He talked big! He delivered big!

He was a leader and he knew where he wanted to go and what he wanted to do!

That is why today we have this great DON BOSCO FAMILY!



Don Bosco's dream - Today our Dream!

Being children of Don Bosco, we are all called to make his dream our dream. How can we do that? Like Don Bosco, we are called to

- Be persons with a great dream and vision.
- Commit ourselves to pursue that dream cost what it may.
- Courageously overcome all hurdles and problems to reach our goal.
- Live with enthusiasm and commitment our mission of education and let the young people see that we are passionate about what we do.
- Use creative and innovative methods to reach out to the young people.
- Go beyond our mere duties and responsibilities.
- Go the extra mile to reach out to the young people who are in need of us.

Live your dream

There is a saying, which goes like this: "If you can dream it, you can do it!" If we don't nurture a dream, we achieve nothing in life. Do you have a dream? Are you courageous enough to dream and pay the price to realize it? Remember- **ANYBODY** can dream and **ANYBODY** can plan! You can be a dreamer and doer just like Don Bosco. Being children of Don Bosco – the great dreamer, we ought to -



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CELEBRATING THE BICENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH

- Have a dream – we should dream big, think big, talk big and deliver big!
- Make it happen - we should be passionately committed in realizing our dream!
- Communicate - the same passion and enthusiasm to our friends, colleagues, family members and everyone.

As we celebrate the Salesian Holy Year in this Bicentenary year of the birth of Don Bosco, the great dreamer, may we be numbered among the great dreamers who will leave behind the footprints of love for the generations of young people,

whose lives we are called to touch in a significant way in all our educational ventures. May our mission of education bring about the desired change in our own life and in the life of children and young people entrusted to our care. May they look upon us as role models and be inspired by the way we live our educative mission with dedication, commitment, love and joy in whatever setting we are called to live.

Yes, live your dream, share your passion and dare to dream the impossible dream with God and give God a chance to make this dream come true.

- **Once you choose hope, anything's possible.**
– Christopher Reeve

Media matters

Sr. Teresa Kamsuan FMA

Social Media and Youth

We live in a marvelously advanced age. We get to know the events happening thousands of miles away – in the United States, South Africa, China, or any part of the world in a moment's time on our screen. We chat and connect with a multiple number of people whom, perhaps we have never seen, simultaneously, no matter what part of the world they live. We send text messages to thousands of names at just one click on our cell phone. We send e-mail messages to any number of people in just one click. Tony Schwartz, the guru of electronic age rightly titled one of his books "Media the second god". He understood the power of the media. However, for millions of people today, media is not only the second god, but it is the god! Media is what defines their lives, their activities, their career and their relationships.

Our day-to-day life is

influenced and affected by the media to such an extent. It is much more so by the Social Media. But what is Social Media and what are their impacts on the youth?

According to Wikipedia, "Social Media is the use of electronic and Internet tools for the purpose of sharing and discussing information and experiences with others". Social media has become almost an indispensable part of our everyday life. It helps us stay connected with our friends and family members. Through it we are able to communicate information, share photographs, exchange ideas, discuss issues, undertake campaigns, promote products, etc. Some people are so obsessed with social networking that they even tell what they had for lunch, who is the person they met with, what they did during the weekend and such private and personal information.

Youth are the ones mostly influenced by Social Media because they grow up with it; it has become part of their daily life. Social media, including sites like Twitter and Facebook are widely used by everyone, especially the youth who are today called the internet generation. Being able to communicate instantly with anyone from any part of the world is something, which is unbelievable. They can chat in real time with their friends who are a thousand miles away. No matter what time of the day it is, there is always going to be someone, with whom you can communicate with, exchange ideas and opinions with. Not only does it kill time, but also through it one gets to learn a lot from the views and opinions of other people.

Social Media has also become a huge platform for youth to showcase their talents to the rest of the world. Whether one is a musician, a painter, a writer, a photographer or even a makeup artist, one can impress thousands of people by just loading up a photo or by sharing links to one's work. There is a huge list of what social media can help youth achieve and accomplish.



The impact of Social media on youth has no doubt, been tremendous, but like any other media there is also a flipside to this phenomenon. When social media gives us so many facilities and advantages, like higher speed, better quality of life, easier connectivity, faster information, advanced entertainment, etc., it also takes away some very fundamental human, social, moral qualities.

According to researchers, heavy users of electronic media in all age groups spend less time interacting with real friends and family members. In other words, the virtual interaction by youth on Social Media is slowly and gradually taking the place of real interactions between people. Most people today, especially the younger lot, prefer to virtually connect with someone, rather than making an effort to go outside and meet new people. The main reason for this is that when one is talking with someone online, one can pretend to be anyone. While one may be really shy, but virtually may as well be the confident, laidback leader of a group. People find it easier to express themselves virtually than in reality.

Researchers also fear that excessive exposure to media among very young children and youth may lead to problems of attention control, aggressive behaviour and poor cognitive development. It can also cause problems of obesity and diabetes. A study reveals that the more time a student spends on-line, the lower his or her school/college grades. Many teachers notice a decline in the aptitude of High School

students, whose writings increasingly include incorrect grammar and abbreviations.

Imprudent use of Social Media also can land you in real danger. One of the most shocking cases involved a teenager from Michigan (USA) who ended up in Amman, (Jordan) with a man she met through MySpace.com. The girl told her parents that she wanted to go on vacation with her friend's family. She instead flew to Middle East with a stranger! She called home three times, but did not reveal that she was half way around the world, the Middle East! According to her mother, the girl had never given the family any trouble. But her heavy involvement with the internet seriously impaired her judgment.

According to Ottawa-based Vanier Institute of Family, 'Social media is a good servant, but a bad master'. An explosion in media technology means both parents and society need to be more alert to the dangers children and youth face. When it is used the wrong way, it can backfire and jeopardize one's entire life and career. Remember, online social media is not a 'personal' diary. Millions of people can get access to what is being posted. It's important to be careful and consider what one shouldn't and should do when using social media. Here are some tips to help one use social media safely:

- Don't publish info that identifies you
- Don't post your address online
- Choose sensible, strong, hard-to-guess password
- Don't upload inappropriate pictures
- Know the privacy settings
- Don't give Apps permission before verifying
- Be selective when adding friends
- Don't use inappropriate language





- Stop and think before you click
- Know what you've posted about yourself
- Don't trust that a message is really from who it says it's from
- Don't identify your friends' names to others on a social networking site
- Do not allow social networking services to scan your email address book in order to avoid giving away email addresses of your friends
- Adding fuzz or smear might help you in preventing misuse of your profile picture
- Don't mix wall posts and personal messages
- Always log out
- Use fully protected computers

No doubt that Social Media has a great impact on youth. It has thrown open a lot of challenges and many questions. It is important to focus on its ethical use so that it serves the society in a right way. The youth can play an important role because social media is a great blessing from God and a boon to society. On the one hand it provides a medium to connect with our dear ones; on the other hand it gives a platform that can cause danger to our heritage and culture. Thus, social media can be the gift of science and technology intended for productive work, if used with great care.

COMMUNICATION

A network not of wires but of people

Communication is defined as the science of sharing information. There are different means of communication like reading, writing, chatting, smiling, lip- syncing and even eye- contact. It usually refers to literal human communication, but in this new generation where technology is developing at maximum speed, speed communication is usually interpreted as being active in the world of science and technology.

In this millennium we, young people have witnessed

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several growth of information industries or rather technology centres. Internet is always the newest and latest gossip of our age. It helps people in socialising, language improvement, it keeps people updated and freshens our brains with all the latest information around the globe. With only a single 'click' even a child knows

what is the newest trend, newest singers, hit songs, movies, etc. In some 'not-so-rare' cases, we can see that even children have to wear glasses or lenses



due to the amount of time spent in front of such electrical appliances. Internet has its pros and cons. It distracts the minds of youngsters away from studies, duties and natural responsibilities. It also promotes anti-social behaviour among users. Also a radioactive wave generated due to the maximum contact with gadgets has a bad and fatal effect on the human health.

So, in spite of certain good uses, internet is not all good. We are better off with human communication. Human communication is the best way of communicating. It is also free of charge. It helps in avoiding mutual misunderstandings unlike certain internet pages like facebook, twitter, instagram, etc. It

helps in improving our accent as well. Human communication helps us in being happier and healthier. It helps us in expressing better. Spending quality time, leisure moments with our family members will help us in improving our relations with our friends and acquaintances as well.

So, in short human communication helps us avoid loopholes in our relations with others. Internet is good but it is usually abused and used for bad purposes. Thus, communication is truly a network of people not of wires.

Niang Than Muang
Auxilium Nongthymmai Cl. IX

INSPIRATIONAL

Listen...

There once was a farmer who discovered that he had lost his watch in the barn. It was no ordinary watch because it had sentimental value for him. After searching high and low among the hay he gave up and ask the help of children playing outside the barn. He promised to reward the finder. Hearing this, the children hurried inside the barn, went through and around the entire stack of hay but still could not find the watch. Just then when the farmer was about to give up, a little boy went up to him and asked to be given another chance. The farmer thought, "Why not? After all, this kid looks sincere enough." So the farmer sent the little boy back in the barn. After a while the little one came out with the watch in his hand! The farmer was both happy and surprised and so he asked the boy how he succeeds where the rest failed. The boy replied, "I did nothing but sit on the ground and listen. In the silence, I heard the ticking of the watch and just looked for it in that direction.

Not breaking the Bruised Reeds

Some of us tend to do away with things that are slightly damaged. Instead of repairing them we say: 'Well, I don't have time to fix it, I might as well throw it in the garbage can and buy a new one.'

Often we also treat people this way, we say; 'Well, he has a problem with drinking; she is quite depressed; well, they have mismanaged their business...we'd better not take the risk of working with them.'

When we dismiss people out of hand because of their apparent woundedness, we stunt their lives by ignoring their gifts, which are often buried in their wounds.

We are all bruised reeds, whether our bruises are visible or not. The compassionate life is the life, which we believe, and strength is hidden in weakness and that true community is a fellowship of the weak.

Henry J.M. Nouwen

Citizen of the DIGITAL WORLD

We, the citizen of the digital world,
Are responsible for the confusing swirl
We are lost in website,
And are tangled in the web of bytes,
We already have poor human relation...
And lack 'love' an important emotion
We are no longer be amazed or dazed
All we have is pride
And are further going away from the light
Both the young and aged,
Are affected by this terrible wretch
It has taken most of our brains...
And will steal what remains,
We know not family nor friends,
And are slowly knocking at our ends
We are already half-dead
Why do we have such an eerie fate?



- **Enjoy your own life without comparing it with that of another.**
- Marquise de Condorcet

- **'The hardest Arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings**

—Eric Hoffer

We, the citizens of our digital world,
Are responsible for the customs we've hurl'd
But, we can eventually transform
Into a new being, a new form
We can live like human beings
And no longer like forest kings
We can learn to sing a 'heartful' song-
Without straining our head's gong
We can relate to one another,
And learn to be together
But, still it won't be a wonder
For we were all made for each other
We are all one big family,
And can always live happily;
All we need is love, and friends
And giving some time to shake hands
All we can now do is pray
That will have a bright future, unlike yesterday.

Niang Than Muang
Auxilium Nongthymmai Cl. IX

Welcome dear Sr. Lucy Rose



Thank You for visiting
our Province



THE DISTRICT SCHOOL EDUCATION
WEST ANTIA HILL DISTRICT



Teachers of St. Mary
Mazzarello, Jowai
Mrs. Mislin Shullai and
Mrs. Modistalin Marbaniang
were awarded at the
District Level Celebration
of Teacher's Day 2014. The
former as the **Best Teacher**
in the Secondary Section
and the latter for being the
Best Guide Captain in the
District.

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CONGRATULATIONS!



*Congratulations
to New Provincials Elect*
Sr. Rose Ezarath INC



Sr. Ritha Dora INB

Happy Easter

"He has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

1Peter 1:3

