

FMA-INS info

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May the light of love shine upon you,
The blessings of peace encircle you,
The beauty of hope encourage you,
and the comfort of faith strengthen you.
Wishing you a Joyous Christmas!



Salesian Family Congress: One Family, One Mission

25 — 28 September 2015, Kolkata





EDITORIAL

The last month of the year brings us the tidings of Christmas; as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the feast of the Nativity of Jesus, FMAinsinfo wishes its readers a Joyous Christmas filled with love, peace, hope, faith and joy. May Christ be the reason of our celebration and that all may experience His merciful embrace every time we turn to Him.



The eventful year 2015 is retreating and our minds and hearts are filled with thanksgiving. Countless indeed are the marvelous works the Lord has done in our personal lives, in the life of our communities, in the Institute, the Church and the world at large. The year being the bicentennial birth of our Father and Founder Don Bosco and the Year for Consecrated Life has awoken in us to be God's witnesses of Joy in our Salesian style. Hence we carry forth this joy as we enter into the Extraordinary

Jubilee of Mercy proclaimed by our Holy Father Pope Francis (8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016). The Holy Father invites us to be generous in mercy and touched by God's compassion, we can become compassionate towards others particularly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Let us also remind ourselves of the Strenna 2016 given by Rector Major Fr. Àngel Fernández Artime "*With JESUS we journey together in an adventure on the SPIRIT*". Confident of the accompaniment of our Lord who became flesh among us, we journey ahead living our Salesian Family Spirit in its true sense from one day to the other.



As we fathom with gratitude, all the good things we enjoy this year, I am reminded of a short story from Christopher Notes which goes this way: A man watched his 80-year-old neighbor planting a small peach tree. "You don't expect to eat peaches from that tree, do you?" he asked. The old man rested on his spade. "No" he said, "at my age I know I won't. But all my life I've enjoyed peaches – never from a tree I had planted myself. I wouldn't have had peaches if other people hadn't done what I'm doing now. I'm just trying to pay the other fellows who planted the trees for me". Taking hint from this story, which is laden with a big moral for us, let us end this year with a note of gratitude and looking forward to the New year 2016 where in turn we can become blessings for others.

Sr. Euginia Laloo

The Missionary Charism of FMA in Northeast India with special reference to Shillong Province

Sr. Manoda T. Sangma

Continuation

Community Development Programme

Community development programme is another venture taken by the FMAs. In connection to this, a registered body of the province was constituted which is called as FMA Outreach for Underprivileged Women and Children (OUWC) bearing registration No. E.16 (RS) 30/2001/446 under Meghalaya Societies Registration. It is a private non-government and non-political organization of the Salesian Sisters of Northern India, which though affiliated to the International Non-governmental developmental organization promoted by the Institute of the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco Rome, is an autonomous organization with its own statutes and regulations, legally constituted and works on an international level of co-operation for development.

The activities carried out under the banner of FMA-Outreach for Underprivileged Women and Children comprises of Vocational Training and community development activities. FMA Outreach offers various courses to prepare personnel in order to reach out to the rural areas and implement various developmental programmes in different fields. They also conduct programmes for the recipients themselves to empower and equip them with skills and confidence and make them self-sustainable. The Sisters also make effort to bring about change in the society through the agent of small catalyst - Children's Parliament. This is a pretty new venture of the province, which we hope would flourish and imbibe in young minds the urgency of having strong governance in order to curb corruption and bring about development and prosperity to the society at large.

Vocational Training Centres: The Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) run by the Sisters are spread in the nine centres namely FMA Outreach Lumshyiap – Shillong, Garobadha, Mawtnum, Mawkyndeng, Nongstoin, Nongthymmai, Rambrai, Rangblang and Tura. Some of the VTCs are registered under the District Commerce and Industries Centre (DCIC) Office in their respective districts. The various courses offered are tailoring, stitching, embroidery, weaving and knitting. These courses prepare and empower them to be self-sufficient and raise the standard of living and certificates are given at the end of the course through DCIC. A stipend is also given through the centres to legible candidates every year. Some of the trainees who have passed out from these centres are now running their own tailoring school; some have in turn become instructors in the VTC itself and have been able to generate income for the livelihood of their respective families. Besides the above-mentioned skills, Short Term Computer Courses are being offered in the centres of Mawtnum, Nongstoin, Tura, Bellefonte Community College and FMA Outreach, Shillong.

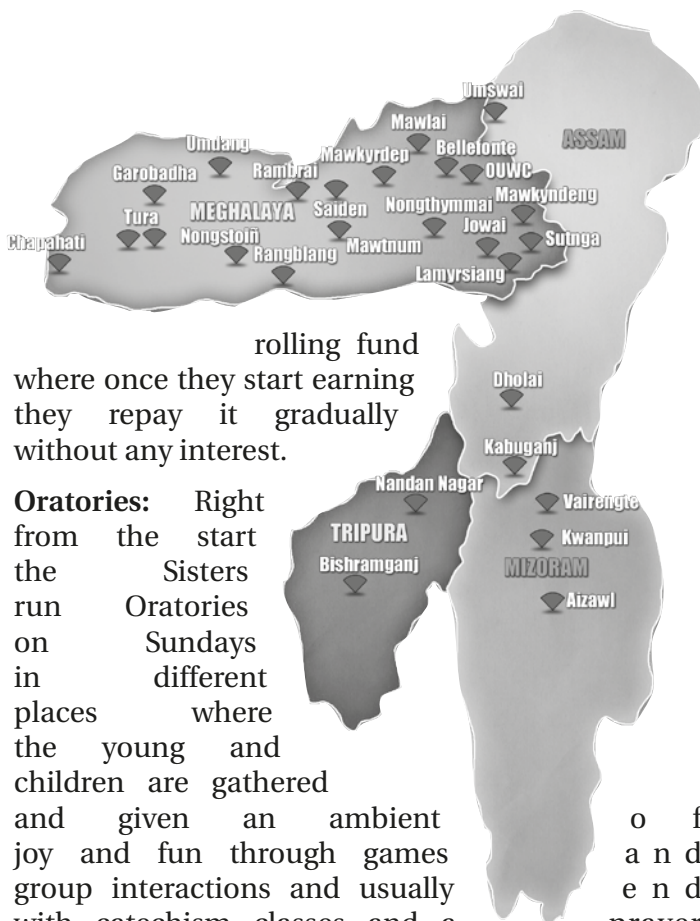
Prison ministry: We began our Apostolate in the juvenile home from the year 2003 under the leadership of Sr. Magdalene Synnah and the past pupils. At present the juvenile home

is in Cleve Colony Shillong. It is a place where the boys were kept for on observation, accommodating around 40-50 boys. The Sisters visit them every Sunday and interacts with them, plays and teaches them games, conducts competitions. In a way they offer them counseling and also caters to their spiritual needs even by making the sacraments available to them by calling a priest. During Christmas and Easter we do share our joy with them through a sumptuous meal prepared from our convent.

Short Stay Home: Short Stay Home centre at Mawtnum started in 2011 for the purpose of preventing women and children from exploitation and to provide temporary accommodation to women and girls who are at risk.

Creche: The centre at Mawtnum and Mawkyndeng also run Crèche. The number of children registered in the crèche since 2010 at Mawtnum centre is 380.

Job placement: Sisters at Mawtnum community identify young girls and arrange and sponsors for their training in various skills and help them find job. The various courses for which the service is made are: General Nurse Mid-wifery (GNM), Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wifery (ANM), Diploma in Lab Technician (DMLT), Pharmacy training and Home guard. For the nurses sponsors are being done through the nurses'



rolling fund where once they start earning they repay it gradually without any interest.

Oratories: Right from the start the Sisters run Oratories on Sundays in different places where the young and children are gathered and given an ambient joy and fun through games and group interactions and usually with catechism classes and a moment. At Bellefonte, Shillong Sisters run a daily oratory wherein the children come there for free tuition, to experience the atmosphere of Salesianity and prayer the whole of the afternoon time and go back home in the evening after a meal.

Youth Ministry: In the real essence all our work and apostolate is geared towards the development and empowerment of the young people. Aware of the fact that youth is the essence of existence as Salesians the Sisters are involved in various ways in working among the youth. Besides the work they do through institutions occasionally events are created where the young gather for youth camps where values are taught to them. Salesian Sisters of India have started Auxilium Youth movement where young people of ages 14 above can be enrolled. It is a movement under which various clubs are functioning. It is an occasion to bring the youth together and help them develop their potentials and a way of preparing them to be a good and honest citizen. The Sisters also collaborate with the Diocese and other religious congregations

in their youth ministry. In the past some Sisters had worked in DBYES as the lady animator and conducted various programmes in collaboration with the others.

Media Education: Media and technology is the lifeline of the young today. Feeling the pulse of these wavelengths of the young with whom we work and attuned to the influence of media in the life of

the young people, a Media syllabus is introduced in our schools with prepared textbook for the students and the teachers by the FMA INDIA Social Communication team. Besides that we have introduced media clubs in the schools where various programmes on media awareness and prudent use of it is sensitized in the young. Media coordinator of the Province goes around different schools and our centres conducting programmes on media awareness and also disseminates useful information regularly on media tips through FMA INSinfo, the newsletter of the province.

Mission Ad gentes:

The formation of the missionaries was one of the areas of attention of the Institute as it launched its mission into more and more lands in the different parts of the world. Our Province has grown up to this stage because of our missionaries. Harkening to the call of our Mother General the Province sends Sisters to the Mission and the status as of today who have gone to the Missions are :

Missionaries From The Province Of Shillong

Sl. No.	Name of the Sisters	Year of Departure	Place of Mission
1	Sr. Celestina Phawa	1982	South Sudan
2	Sr. Igina Kharjana	1992	Ethiopia
3	Sr. Christina Laloo	2008	South Africa
4	Sr. Magdaline Synnah	2010	Tunisia
5	Sr. Rona Kharkongor	2013	Mongolia

Our institute being an international one and where the bond of family spirit is strong works in the area wherever our help is needed and as such we also have Sisters from Shillong Province working in other Provinces as shown below:

Sl. No.	Names	Place of work
1	(L) Sr. Bernadette Sangma	Nairobi-Kenya (upto 2014)
2	Sr. Joycy Mary Dhar	Rome
3	Sr. Teresa Gnallathuvayalil	Rome
4	Sr. Ronjilla Sangma	Pietmontese, Italy
5	Sr. Linda Horne	Turin

Other than those centres or Institutions run by us we also collaborate in our mission with other religious Congregation and Clergy in seven dioceses and gives our participatory contribution in different fields wherever possible.

Conclusion:

The missionary dimension of the Charism of the Salesian Sisters present in this part of North-East India presented in this article thus reveal that the missionary unction of their Founder Don Bosco and Maria Domenica Mazzarello is kept alive and that the followers have not lost track of the spirit. The spark kindled by the pioneers in this part streaks down the years with embers being renewed now and then with the type of apostolate as we see is being launched according to the signs of the time and to meet the need of the people to whom they serve. The contribution in the area is immense and widespread rippling gradually from soul to soul.

In & Around Our Province

37th Annual Provincial Congress of the Salesian Cooperators

The 37th Annual Provincial Congress cum Bicentenary Celebration of the Association of Salesian Cooperators Shillong Province commenced on 5th September 2015 at Divine Saviour Parish Hall, Nongthymmai. The Nongthymmai Centre hosted the annual event of the association. The participants numbering 255 have come from the 16 centres of the Province.

At the outset the participants gathered outside the hall for

the flag hoisting ceremony in which Fr. Festus Shadap SDB, former Salesian Delegate for Salesian Family, Silchar Province was the Chief Guest. The Pre-Aspirants of Auxilium Nongthymmai with their welcome song and choreography and the Novices from Bellefonte with their prayer dance made the inaugural function very meaningful and solemn. The lighting of the lamp invoked God's presence and enlightenment as they embarked on the two days of sharing and celebration.

Fr. Edmund Gomes SDB, Parish Priest of Divine Saviour Parish, Nongthymmai exhorted the Cooperators to be a leaven in the world and to give Gospel witness to the society in which they live. On this auspicious occasion, the following day 6 September saw nine new members to the Association through the promise-taking at Divine Saviour Parish Church, Nongthymmai – Shillong. The solemn and meaningful act took place at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Paul Lyngkot, Salesian Vice Provincial of Silchar Province.

The Flag bearer Mr. Marius Kharkongor, Local Delegate of Nongthymmai Centre, and Mr. Anthony Laloo, Provincial Coordinator led the new members to the altar accompanied by the Celebrants. The symbolic gesture of the lighted candle held in their hands signifies the joy of living and sharing the Salesian Spirit in their different life's situation. At the homily, Fr. Paul exhorted the Salesian Cooperators to live the Spirit of Don Bosco in the world. He also



reminded the gathering on the words of Pope Francis which have been resonated to the Salesian Family by the Rector Major Don Angel Fernandez Artime on being cheerful despite the monotony and struggles of life. The assembly witnessed the readiness of the new members to live the spirit of Don Bosco through the pronouncement of the formula of the promise. After the promise taking the certificates were signed on the altar and were distributed to all the newly promised members.

The Association of Salesian Cooperators Shillong Province was started in 1977 with



Auxilium Nongthymmai as its office. It was through Sr. Catherine Susngi that the association was initiated in the province. Presently there are sixteen centres, one sub-centre and three aspiring centres. Out of which eleven of them are directly under the care of the FMAs.

FMAinsinfo correspondent

Workshop on FMA India Child Protection Policy held in Shillong

A two-day workshop was conducted for the Animators, School Sisters and members of the Provincial Team on Understanding, Implementing and Institutionalizing of FMA India Child Protection Policy. It was held from 5-6 October 2015 at Auxilium Provincial House. The resource persons were Fr. Joe Xavier SJ Executive Director, Indian Social Institute, Delhi and Sr. Isabella Alphonse FMA from Chennai Province who is also the National Development Forum Coordinator. 52 participants took part in it.

The significant event commenced with a prayerful moment based on the Gospel of St. Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me". Immediately after the prayer moments, Sr. Isabella Suja the Provincial gave a welcome address to the resource persons and all the participants.

The first day was divided into four sessions. Sr. Isabella Alphonse took the first session: context, Processes and Final Document of FMA-CPP during which she presented the journey towards the FMA-INDIA Child Protection Policy. Various important points such as global context, abuses and consequences, stages in the creation of CPP, its application and advantages were dealt with. Sr. Isabella has enriched the sisters not just with her presentation but her experiences and competence.

Fr. Joe Xavier who gave an explanation on the document-FMA Child Protection Policy took the second session. The entire session was a complete overview of the same. The structure of the document was presented and discussed in brief. Each topic was then explained briefly and among those, the role and functions of the designated officers were delved



in detail. Fr. Joe made sure that every participant got a clear understanding of the document making it a very interactive and interesting session. Many questions were put before him and his response was prompt and to the point.

During the afternoon session Fr. Joe Xavier broke the participants into four groups after a brief instruction on the group activity. The groups then dispersed to discuss and prepare mock cases and presented the same in the evening. After every presentation a detailed evaluation was done whereupon various queries were answered to and doubts clarified.

The second day saw the sharing of two of our Sisters Sr. Happyline Shadap a member of CWC (Child Welfare Committee) in Ri Bhoi District and Sr. Cecilia Ksoo

a member of the JJB (Juvenile Justice Board) West Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya. The groups then engaged themselves in the planning matrix for the province. A compilation group was also set up who compiled all the reports of the group and presented the consolidated work.

The programme concluded with a solemn valedictory function in which Sr. Isabella Suja the Provincial gave the concluding message. The Social Development Coordinator of the Province Sr. Gemima Pohrmen invited every one to rise up in which a prayer for Victims of Child Abuse was prayed together and followed by the Institute Anthem. Thus, the workshop that began with a prayer ended well with a prayer.

FMAinsinfo correspondent

6th Annual Meet of FMA Nurses

The Nurses of the Province gathered for a two day Annual Meet at Auxilium Provincial House from 10-11 October 2015. The theme for the Meet was "Consecrated to bless and heal". Twelve Nurse Sisters have come together for a moment of sharing, evaluation and planning.



The Annual meet was inaugurated with a short and well planned function in the presence of Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial and all the Councillor of the Province. In her message, the Provincial appreciated and recognized the role and services of the Nurses. She said, "They are the first to work and the last to leave". She defines a nurse as a unique soul who passes through someone's life for a minute and impact it for an eternity. Further she also said that nursing is not a career but a call by God to share in God's healing ministry. Soon after the



inaugural function the group was enlightened by Sr. Mabel Dhar VSDB, President of Catholic Health Association of Shillong (CHAS). She initiated her talk with an introduction on Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) and its strategic planning. She clarified that CHAI is a service and not a project. She continued the presentation on the topic "Promoting Healing Mission in Today's context". She expounded on its background, its problem and its context.

The second resource person was Dr. Martina Marwein MBBS. The session was carried out in a homely atmosphere where a round table sharing, clarification of doubts and discussion regarding

prevention and promotion of health and community setting took place. This was followed by the evaluation of the annual report of each centre in the presence of the Provincial and two Councillors.

The final day saw the Planning of the Annual Programme 2016 which took a big share of the schedule. Just to break the monotony the Nurses had a lunch out wherein they continued their discussion and feedback of the whole event. The Annual Meet came to fitting end thorough a well-animated Evening Prayer laden with gratitude to all who have made the event a succesful one.

Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang



Provincial Team Meeting

On 22-24 October 2015 the Provincial Team members met together at Auxilium Convent for the Evaluation and Planning for the new year 2016. Sr. Agatha Shadap, General Coordinator of the Province meticulously planned the logistics of the meet and organized it systematically.

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The meeting opened with a prayer moment in which the lamp lighting ceremony took the central stage and this same light was passed on to all the participants of the meeting. In her speech, Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial quoted Pope Francis' popular saying: 'Wake up the World' to remind us of our responsibility as religious to live a witnessing life. Summing up the year's journey an audio-visual presentation entitled "Highlights of 2015" prepared by Sr. Euginia Laloo was projected.

The first day was dedicated to the presentation of the annual reports by the following sectors of the province Formation, Youth Pastoral, Education,

Vocation Pastoral, Young at Risk, Women Promotion, Mission ad gentes, Health Ministry, Social Communication, Salesian Family and Social Development. The second day saw the framing of the General Objectives for the Province Project and presentation of the Annual Plan by the sectors. The team

members also prepared the Province Calendar for the new year 2016.

The last day of the meet was spent in Business Session and Concluding session. All through the days of the meeting the members were given ample time for discussion, clarification, suggestions and appreciation of the various sectors which give life to the Province.

FMAinsinfo correspondent

Diamond Jubilee of Past Pupils Federation Inaugurated

14th November 2015 was a red-letter day in the annals of the Federation of the FMA Past-Pupils Shillong Province as it marked the opening of the Diamond Jubilee of its existence. The short but meaningful programme was held at Auxilium Convent Nongthymmai – Shillong. The Chief Guest of the function was Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial and the Guest of Honour was Sr. Catherine Susngi who is also one of the first FMA Past-pupils from Mawlai Unit. “Reach the Unreached” is a theme that would guide them in all their endeavours during this one year of thanksgiving and celebration.

The function started by invoking God’s blessings and thanking Him for the 60 years journey. During the prayer moment the flag of the federation and the flags of the respective units were brought forward in procession led by the President of the Federation, Mrs. Cathleen Pyngrope; a sign of



offering each unit to God and in thanksgiving for all the past-pupils who have passed out from the portals of the FMA institutions. Mother Provincial gave us a beautiful message. She said to us to “grow not just in number but in quality”. Her concluding words quoted from Helen Keller “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much” was a strong message for us. We should not work alone but we should join hands so that we can achieve what we have set for. In her talk she also traced a brief history of the Federation at Institute level and how it is being passed on to us. At the end of her talk Mother Provincial did the honours of releasing Titbits – a quarterly publication of the light moments of the Past Pupils. Each unit presented an item which added colour to the function. The Mawlai Unit presented the welcome song, the Jowai Unit presented a choreography entitled “I want to follow Jesus” and the Nongthymmai Unit presented a cultural dance of the Jaiñtia tribe called the “Chad

Sukra". The Guest of Honour, Sr. Catherine Susngi, too gave a heart-warming message. She gave her message based on the Papal Bull of indiction, "The Face of Mercy". Her talk coincided with the theme and was very impressed with the theme. She implored the Past pupils to 'reach the unreached' by looking for the sick and needy near us and not necessarily far away. All

of us can 'reach the unreached' in our different fields of work, she said. The vote of thanks was proposed by Saramai Tariang a Past Pupil of Jowai Unit. The function concluded with the group photo followed by the distribution of Titbits and a family meal.

It is noteworthy to mention that Late Sr. Josephine Gaod FMA, a missionary who worked in our land introduced the Past-pupils Federation in the Province way back in 1966. Initiating this year-long celebration she was fondly remembered at the prayer moment.

Ms. Elena Kharkongor & Candida Kharpdah



BELLEFONTE

Teachers' Day cum Closing of Bicentenary Celebration

Bellefonte Community College anticipated the Teachers' Day Celebrations on 4 September, which coincided with the conclusion of the Bicentenary year of Don Bosco's birth (DB 200: 1815-2015) at Bellefonte Hall. The students revered Sr. Carmelina Sun, the head of the institution, Sr. Helen Puwein, the Principal, the sisters and all the teachers (both the teaching and non-teaching staff) through a felicitation programme.

The function began with welcoming the teachers with boutonniere and ushering them to the well-decorated hall for the festivity. The students both the day and afternoon sections

ECHOES FROM THE HOUSES

under the leadership and coordination of the classes X & XII students put up various items of songs and dances, recitation of poems on teacher's day and on Don Bosco, the PowerPoint presentations on the life and mission of Don Bosco and simultaneously with instant quiz on Don Bosco open to all in the assembly. A series of hymns to Don Bosco were sung by groups of students in order to honour him on the occasion of his 200th birthday which was on 16th August, 2015.

On 5th September, the other group of Saturday students celebrated the Teachers' Day in a very simple yet in a very meaningful and beautiful manner. The students with their short programme honoured the teachers who teach on Saturday. They presented gifts to them and greeted them with words of gratitude, speeches, songs and surprise recreational animations for the teachers.

Sr. Celina Maslai



FMA OUTREACH

1st VTC Co-Ordinators Meet held at FMA Outreach

The 1st Annual Meet of the VTC Co-coordinators of the Province took place from 24-25 October 2015 at FMA Outreach. The meeting brought together 7 Sisters working in the VTCs of the Province barring the ones of Mawkyndeng and Mawtnum who could not be present due to unavoidable situations. During the inaugural talk on the evening of Oct. 24, Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial, recalled the still celebrated words of our Co-foundress, St. Mary Mazzarello, "Let every stitch be an act of love for God" reminding our Sisters that the work they do was the very first work of the Institute which must remain very dear to the heart of every FMA. Apart from organizers, Sr. Agatha Shadap, the General Coordinator of the Province and Sr. Wismary Kharbihkhiew, the Provincial Secretary were also present for the inaugural event.

The 2nd day was devoted to sharing the good practices, success stories, difficulties encountered, syllabus followed and the statistics of the different VTCs which was coordinated by Sr. Marcellina Sangma, the Provincial Economer and Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, the Social Development Coordinator (SDC) of the Province who were also instrumental in organizing the whole event. It was an enrichment for the whole group and a learning process as everyone felt free and happy to share about their VTCs. The group felt the need to have Regional coordinators for better coordination in the Region. Thus, Sr. Albina Pangchopi of Garobadha VTC and Sr. Lida Kharkongor of Nongthymmai VTC were chosen as Regional Co-coordinators.



The group then discussed the ways to make our VTCs more attractive, productive and job-oriented. Sr. Marcellina Sangma then introduced to us about the Micro-credit programme specifically meant for girls who pass out of our VTCs which will help them to begin their own productions in a small scale. The work will be coordinated by the Social Development Coordinator of the Province.

The afternoon saw all the participants glued to the Computer with enormous interest. Sr. Jenny Iawphniaw devoted her time to teach us basics of computer and most importantly guided us to use technology to make us more efficient. We were enabled to have a glimpse of best designs of modern fashion and fabulous dresses. Then a short outing to Mattilang Park was arranged in which we shared moments of relaxation together.

During the Goodnight, Sr. Marcellina Sangma encouraged us to go back with greater zeal to make our VTCs more vibrant and innovative without allowing the waves of difficulties to pull down our enthusiasm. We parted thanking the organizers and the community of FMA Outreach for this wonderful opportunity.

*Srs. Albina Phangchopi &
Lida Kharkongor*

GAROBADHA

A memorial for Sr. Rital Tyngkan



In memory of Late Sr. Rital Tyngkan FMA; a zealous touring sister, a monument was blessed and inaugurated at Monabari 'A' village of Garobadha Parish in Garo Hills of Meghalaya state on 15th November 2015. The day also coincides with the Silver Jubilee of the existence of the Catholic faith in the village. The day was made solemn with the Jubilee celebrations of the village. The monument was blessed by Fr. Januarius

Touring Sisters' Orientation Course -Tura Diocese

An orientation programme was organized for the touring Sisters working in Tura Diocese at Pastoral Centre Bishop's House, Tura from 26 -31 October 2015. The theme of the programme

Sangma SDB, Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province and inaugurated by Sr. Marcellina Sangma FMA, Provincial Economer of Shillong Province.

Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Jomita Sangma FMA the survivor companion of Sr. Rital on that fateful day of 15th September 2007 relived the experience with much pain, which moved many hearts. Along with them there was also a girl who is now grown and was present for the function. Sr. Jomita apologized to the faithful for not putting visit programmes to the village of Monabari 'A' those years after the incident because of the trauma she went through.

This memorial is the initiative of St. Dominic's Parish, Garobadha in appreciation of the missionary zeal of Sr. Rital who spent most years of her religious life in the Garo Hills and finally gave up her life while on her mission. She along with Sr. Jomita and another girl were crossing a river on a raft on 15 September 2007, wherein the raft gave way. The Sisters were very conscious to protect the life of the girl and in that situation Sr. Rital succumb to the river and gave up her spirit. We salute this courageous Sister whom the Lord found ready at her work place.

Prior to this, Sr. Lona Mary Sangma and Sr. Wanrilang Kharkongor along with 12 Youth conducted a training programme for children and young people from 11-14 November wherein 168 of them participated. On Saturday there were 12 baptisms and 3 couples settled the marriages and on Sunday there were 84 children who received their First Holy Communion. Simultaneously, there was a retreat for the faithful on 13th and 14th in preparation for the Silver Jubilee.

FMAinsinfo correspondent

was "Go to the world and proclaim the Gospel". Sr. Lona Mary Sangma and Sr. Wanrilang Kharkongor from Garobadha community and Sr. Jomita Sangma and Sr. Felicita Rynshon from Chapahati community took part in the course.

Seven resource persons enriched the group of Sisters with relevant topics for the pastoral work and needs of the diocese. Bishop Andrew R. Marak spoke on Garo

culture, Fr. Francis on sacraments and sacramental, Fr. Mackley Gomes SDB on Consecrated Life, Fr. Levio Sangma on the Methodology for Touring, Fr. CJ Jose on Family, Fr. Rikseng S. Sangma on Catechetics and Fr. Lyndoh Sangma on Liturgy. All of them shared their knowledge and experiences what they have learnt in their life's journey. The sessions were lively with variety of activities like group discussions, songs, action songs, games and presentation by the participants on different themes. 47 Sisters from different parishes and congregations of the diocese participated in this programme.

This orientation programme was indeed an inspiration to go ahead with great zeal and enthusiasm in proclaiming the kingdom of God and

teach the people the important elements of our Catholic faith.

On the 31st October the last day of the programme all the participants together with Fr. Lyndoh participated in the ordination of Fr. Francis Ch. Marak at Rongara parish, which was also part of our outing as we usually go every year. We thank the Diocese for organizing for us such programme, which stirs us on in our apostolate.

Sr. Wanrilang Kharkongor

JOWAI

Silver Jubilee of Service

St. Mazzarello Girls' Higher Secondary School celebrated the 25 years of service of Mrs. Jessima Dhar of the Primary Section on 7th September 2015. Her husband Mr. Alfred Kharjana, her two sons Fabian and Deibormi along with her niece Sr. Ninidayooluti DharVSDB, who was brought up by her were present. After the address read by the student, Sr. Esther pinned a silver posy on her, Sr. Rosina crowned her with a silver crown and Mrs. Misline Shullai placed a golden ring on her finger – a gift from all the Staff, and the students presented her with a special gift on the occasion. The teachers voiced out their joy with a special number – a Congratulation Song composed by Mr. Paulinus Kharmudai. Mrs. Jessima in her turn publicly thanked the Sisters, Teachers and students



for this manifestation of love. Later, during the meal with the staff, Mrs. Jessima cut the Silver Jubilee cake and was presented with a gift from the Sisters' community.

Year of Consecrated Life

On 13th September to honour the year of Consecrated Life, our boarders under the guidance of Sr. Catherine Sutnga and the Group Assistants made a study of the Six FMA pioneers and presented the result of their studies. They were divided into six groups and each group enacted the life of one of the pioneers namely Sr. Innocenza Vallino, Sr. Da Roit Cecilia,

Sr. Berra Giulia, Sr. Appiano Clotilde, Sr. Bricarello Maria, and Sr. Antonietta Rosetti. It was amazing to see how our girls took this to heart from the oldest to the youngest. The presentation was realistic, creative and true to life. It was especially beautiful to



see the presentation of the life of Sr. Bera Giulia and Sr. Antonietta Rosetti as very little could be had about them. In the concluding talk while congratulating

the Sisters and girls Sr. Rosina Susngi, Animator expressed her deepest appreciation for the effort put into the study and presentation, Sister also shared some first-hand information and narration about Sr. Appiano Clotilda and especially of Sr. Da Roit Cecilia whom she knew very well and with whom she had lived for some time.



Celebration of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello Week

The School celebrated Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello week from 14th to 17th September. The theme was "Building youth for a better tomorrow" and the catchword of the week was Don Bosco's maxim: *"Never do anything for which you would have to blush tomorrow. It is not enough to love the young but they must be made known that they are loved."*

On 14th September the primary section had their one-day celebration in the hall, Sr. Esther Marwein gave the introduction and then Sr. Rosina Susngi declared the School Week 2015 open for the Primary Section. The Second Day began with a prayer moment centered on Don Bosco where, Mr. Terrence Sawian animated the theme of the School week very meaningfully. Sr. Rosina Susngi then gave a brief explanation of the theme and declared "Mazzarello

School Week 2015 opened". A thunderous applause followed and shouts of Long Live Don Bosco! Evviva Don Bosco! resounded and re-echoed within and without the hall. In fact the energy and enthusiasm of our students for Don Bosco resounded throughout Jowai town since our school is situated on a hill. The highlights of the week included Fancy dress, Singing, Dancing, Recitation, Skit Competitions, basketball matches, food fest, multiple subjects Quiz; with a major portion of questions based on the life and mission of Don Bosco, debate on the topic "Internet is a source of education" and Extempore Speech. The last day of the School Week heighten the excitement of the audience as 13 girls took part in the Miss Mazzarello Contest. The title of Ms. Mazzarello went to Ms. K. Melory Singh of Blue house with Ms. Yophika Rumut of Blue house as the first runner up and Ms. Chandasaka Kharsiangshai,

School Vice-Captain the second runner up.

At the closing function Mr. Arun Kumar Kembhavi IAS, District Commissioner of Jaiñtia Hills was the Chief Guest and Mr. R. Muthu IPS, Superintendent of Police, West Jaiñtia Hills was the Guest of Honour. The rendering of the theme song "Building youth for a better tomorrow" and that of our School Bicentenary Song "Viva Don Bosco" sang by the school choir so enthralled everyone that the DC asked, "is this the Mazzarello Chamber Choir?" In his talk the SP urged the girls to

have the courage to get up, get out and reach for the goal. The DC urged the students to be up to date with all aspects of modern knowledge and insisted on the need to be avid readers more than spending time on some types of modern gadgets, which give no knowledge but distractions. During the function, the School also felicitated Ms. Naphisa Pde who secured the 20th Rank in the SSLC MBOSE Examination 2015. She was presented with a citation, cash awards and a gift. In her turn Naphisa thanked everyone in the School and encouraged the students to keep on trying and working hard because they too can shine if they have the will to. Concluding the weeklong celebration, Sr. Esther gave the vote of thanks after which Sr. Rosina declared the Don Bosco Mother Mazzarello Week closed. The enthusiastic shouts of Long Live Don Bosco and Evviva Don Bosco once again filled the air.

Celebration of Sisters/ Brothers Day in Jowai

The Jowai Diocese celebrated the Day for Religious, the Brothers and Sisters in particular on 20th September. The Cathedral parish arranged a meaningful celebration for the Sisters of the four Convents of the Parish, namely the St. Theresa's Convent of Mooralong [MSMHC], The Assumption Convent of Nongbah [VSDB], the Mother Elizabeth Convent of Nongbah [FSC] and that of St. Mary Mazzarello Convent [FMA] and the lone Salesian Brother of Bosco Pnar. The feast day was preceded by an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Vigil. A solemn Mass was celebrated at 10.00 am and all the sisters and brother were invited to lunch



in the refectory after the Holy Mass. At 1.30 pm a felicitation for the Sisters and brother was organized by the Parish Council in the Parish Hall. The Parish Community presented each Sister working in the parish with a white shawl as a sign of gratitude.

Each of us is called to do something in the name of love, to make sure that humanity comes to understand itself and is able to choose love over fear. - *Robert Holden*

Sharing the Joy of Life

The monthly commemoration of Our Blessed Mother, the Help of Christians, 24th October brought in a specially unique and happy celebration, the birthday of Durga Angallamuthu, daughter of the West Jaiñtia Hills SP, Mr. R. Muthu IPS, the little child completed two years. As planned earlier, the SP had sent us his contribution to prepare lunch for the girls and the whole community. Under the guidance of Sr. Dakyrmen Sohkhet and Sr. Lisa Mary Kharkongor, the girls prepared a short and meaningful dialogue and songs to celebrate the day. The family arrived punctually at 12 noon and there was a very cordial and familiar celebration. They had also brought chocolates, fruits and snacks for all. Sr. Theodosia



Mawñiuh along with Sr. Ibansara Kharkongor and the house girls prepared a good, simple and delicious lunch, which delighted everyone. The family was very appreciative of everything and very happy with the homeliness of our girls. We on our part were happy to see how notwithstanding his position, Mr. R. Muthu and his family are so simple and humane, thoughtful and capable of homely interaction with simple and poor girls. We pray and hope that this significant and edifying example of sharing in the spirit of the Gospel – Luke 14: 12: “When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your rich neighbours, for they will invite you back and in this way you will be paid back for what you did”, will strike a deep root in our girls.

Annual Day of the Salesian Cooperators

The Salesian Cooperators of Jowai Unit celebrated their Annual Day on Saturday 7th November. His Grace Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil SDB, DD, celebrated Holy Mass at 6pm and Fr. Paul Dayo Passah, SDB, son of one of the Cooperators concelebrated with him. Taking a cue from the Gospel of the day, the Archbishop in his homily dwelt at length on Don Bosco's intuition to make education an effective tool to combat against the mammon of greed, ambition and ignorance. He emphasized



the important role that the Cooperators have in their own family, in the Church and the Society. The Archbishop highlighted the fact that Don Bosco foresaw that the contribution of the Cooperators in places and situations where the Salesians would not be able to reach out to would be very great. He encouraged the Cooperators to give their best for

the Church and the Society. During the homely gathering after the Eucharist, Sr. Susngi Rosina, local delegate welcomed every one and invited the boarders to give a welcome item - the “*Khasi phawer*” to the accompaniment of indigenous musical instruments - the ‘bom’, and three ‘ksing shynrang’; an item which won the appreciation of all. Later in his concluding talk His Grace encouraged to value and promote local culture. Mrs. Medalin Dhar, the Secretary then read out the Annual report of the Unit after which Mr. Louis Suchiang, Local Coordinator, took the occasion to wish His Grace for the Diamond Jubilee of his Religious Profession and the Golden Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination. The Cooperators

offered him a gift as a mark of their appreciation, which His Grace graciously offered for the Cooperators fund. The assembly then shared a family meal at the end of which Mr. Louis Suchiang thanked His Grace, Fr. Paul Dayo Passah and Bro. Barnabas Khriam for being present with them. Special thanks and appreciation was given to the Community of Mazzarello, Jowai for always being there to support and encourage.



Betty Alma Ryan Memorial Elocution Contest

The Final Round of the Elocution Contest took place on 11th November. Betty Alma Ryan was the wife of our great benefactor George Ryan, who died in the year 1995. Betty too passed to her reward in 2012 and while continuing the good work of her father and mother, Carol Harman [their daughter] and her husband Christopher John Harman, wanted us to do something in memory of Betty Alma Ryan. Since her favourite hobbies were Book Keeping and Elocution, the “Betty Alma Ryan Memorial Elocution Contest” was held annually in her honour from 2013 onwards.

This year there were 21 final contestants divided into three categories: Salesian Group [Big girls], Marian Group [Middle girls] and the Guardian Angels Group [Small girls]. The topic of the Salesian Group was on the life of Great Men and Women. It was beautiful to

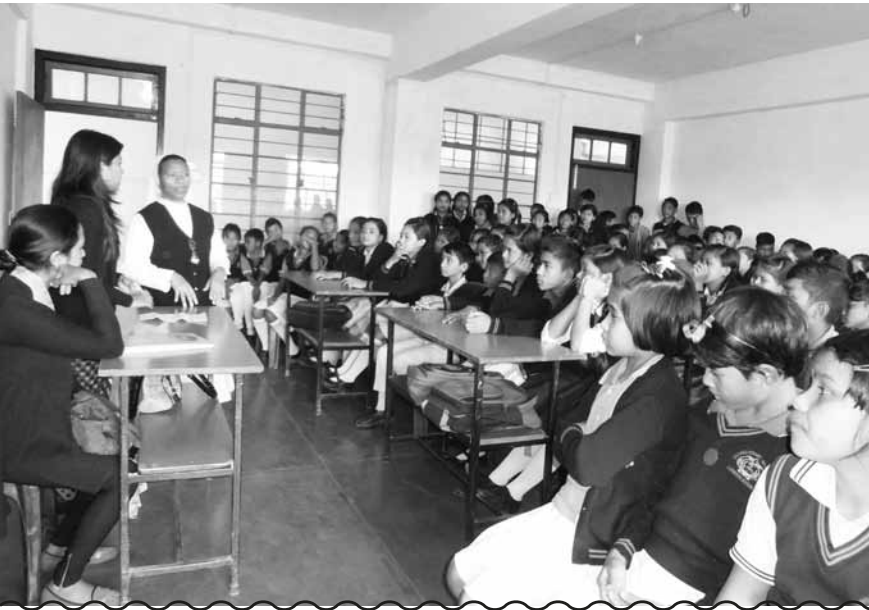
note how some of them spoke on Don Bosco – the man of Action; Don Bosco – the man of Prayer while others spoke on lives of great national figures and sports person. The Marian group had to narrate a story with a moral theme while the Guardian Angels Group recited a poem with moral theme. We were particularly happy to note that the girls have taken this task seriously so that it was not only an elocution contest but also a three-hour formative programme cum entertainment. Prizes were given to all the winners after which Sr. Rosina while congratulating the girls and the Sisters recapped the main moral lessons learnt through the competition. We are sure that Betty will be happy and from heaven will continue to shower down her blessings upon our Community.

Jottings from Jowai Diary

LAMYRSIANG

School Health Programme

On the 14th October, 2015, Sacred Heart Secondary School, Lamysriang organized a School Health Programme and the resource personnel were the doctors and nurses from the Community Health Centre, Sutnga.



The first session on Health, Hygiene and food habits was given by our nurse sister, Sr. Icydora Pasi, and the topics on anaemia and leprosy were delivered in the second session by Dr. J. Bamon and Dr. T. Manar who are also Medical Officers in-charge of School Health Programmes in East Jaiñtia Hills District. Everyone profited from the useful and interesting talks of all the resource persons. More than 300 students attended the programme.

In the end, Sr. Jubil Mary Dkhar, the Headmistress of the school, thanked the doctors and nurses for their valuable time, speeches and health instructions. The students and staff too were grateful to the School authority for arranging such useful programme.

Sr. Icydora Pasi

Children's Day Out

The Sunday Catechism children of Lamysriang Catholic community had an outing to Transformational Leadership Resource Center, Siloam and the nearby places on 15 October 2015. This incentive was given to the 150 children of classes IV to X who have been very regular the whole year through. Sr. Jubil Dkhar, Sr. Evelyn Dhar, Sr. Pdianghun Kharduit and Sr. Anita Dhar accompanied them along with three women helpers.

Fr. George Palamattam SDB, the Director and Fr. Devasia Vazhayil SDB, the Assistant Director of Siloam cordially welcomed the group. No sooner had the children got down from the bus, they sang "We thank you, O Lord, for Don Bosco" and the atmosphere of Don Bosco's oratory was instantly felt in the surrounding. The boys and girls wasted

no time; they immediately went around, exploring the enchanting locale. After lunch, the group spontaneously thanked the fathers for the memorable time they spent there and the three class VIII boys who opted for the Salesians were introduced to them. They left Siloam and visited Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC). The children were astonished to see those kids who lack hearing and speaking capacity yet performed so well in their studies. Many of them

expressed their joy at having seen them. From this centre they proceeded to Umran where Fr. James Mani SDB, the Director of Rural Resources Training Centre (RRTC) together with his collaborators had prepared a high tea for all of them. There too, Mr. Kynsai Chyne, the Manager of the Administrative Department of RRTC animated them for a few minutes and they in turn sang “We thank you, O, Lord for Don Bosco”, had their tea and returned to Lamyrsiang through the by-pass road. This



was also one means of attracting young people to the Catechism classes.

An Educational Trip to Sikkim

Seventeen students, four teachers, two other women and two Sisters led by Sr. Jubil Mary Dkhar, Headmistress embarked on their journey for an educational tour to Sikkim on the dawn of 21st October 2015. For most of the students it was a first time experience of journeying by train. The dusk of the day brought them to Guwahati Railway Station.

With much excitement the students waited patiently till their turn came at 10:45 p.m for Kanchenjunga Express - 15658 that took them up to New Jalpaiguri. The group was housed at Auxilium New Chumta, a community of our Sisters of the Kolkata Province. During the tour the students were taken to the Tea Estates, Science Centre and market in Siliguri city. At New Chumta, the

Sisters were taken up with the way our students took part in the Rosary and Holy Eucharist. Continuing the journey, the Sikkim Nationalized Transport that was arranged by Mr. Gautam Ranpal, an Army Officer took the group to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. Everyone was so delighted to witness the Kanchenjunga Mountain Ranges and experience the beauty of the hill station. The greatness of God, the Creator is being revealed in the extensive and magnificent mountain ranges. The most memorable time spent during the trip was the visit to Nathula Pass, the Indian-Chinese border. This part of the Himalayan ranges looked fascinating because it was covered with the first snow of the year. Everyone enjoyed playing with snow, although it was difficult



to breathe because the altitude was as high as 13,615 feet up. Standing at the edge of the country, other mountains in China can clearly be seen which were also covered with thick snow. While travelling to and fro, the students observed many things, which they have learnt in their books but have not really seen in reality. It was

an educational expedition, which has broadened the minds of the children in some way or the other. On the morning of 25th October, the return journey commenced and the group reached home in the evening of the following day. Thanks be to God, the tour was informative and pleasant and they returned safe and sound. Special thanks to Sr. Isabella Suja, our Provincial for the permission granted, to Mr. Gautam, Mr. Kishan Singh Riwayat who accompanied them throughout and to many good people who have made this excursion possible.

Annual Seminar of Catholic Women Association

Sr. Therina Mallai animated a one-day seminar for more than 150 women of Tluh village belonging to the Holy Trinity Parish, Sutnga on 24th October 2015. Sr. Pdianghun Kharduit accompanied her for the programme. It was a good opportunity of interaction with the women folk in this annual event of the Catholic Women Association of the village. The theme of the seminar was "A Wise woman builds her home" (Prov. 14:1).

Sr. Therina opened the session with the quotation from the

letter of St. Paul to Titus 2:3-5, which includes the admonition of St. Paul to the women to fall in love with the Lord and His Word, with their husband and children and with their home. She further spoke on the role of Mothers as homemakers and stressed on the following important elements of building a house and a home:

- Building a house requires a good foundation
- Building a house requires a plan
- Building a house is messy
- Building a house can be costly
- Building a family is worth the investment

The women of the village were very happy to listen to Sister and they expressed regret for the time was too short. They ended the session with some questions after which they prayed the Holy Rosary together and thanked the Lord for being with them throughout the day.

Sr. Anita Dhar

MAWLAI

Annual Congress of Women Association at Mawlasnai Parish

The St. Paul's Mawlasnai Parish, Ri-Bhoi District conducted the Annual Congress of the Women Association on 5th-6th September 2015 in which Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang was

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the resource person. The Congress began with the flag hoisting ceremony and the singing of the associations' anthem. Immediately after this they proceeded to the statue of Mother Mary for a short prayer service and entrusted themselves to her maternal care.

Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang animated the whole day's programme based on the theme "A good tree always produces good fruits". In the evening she gave a reflection on the importance of Prayer Life in the Family, which was followed by the Benediction Service. In the afternoon of the following day, that was Sunday, Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang gave one more session in connection with the theme. She also

animated the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament and blessing was given by Fr. Zachaeus Syngkli, the Parish Priest.

It was an enriching experience and the women including the faithful who participated on Sunday were very interactive and took part in all the sessions with great enthusiasm and fervour.

Ms. Theodora Kharjana

Seminar on "The teaching of Catechism"

A two-day seminar was organized on 2-4 October 2015 by the Parish Priest of Sohra, Rev. Fr. Paschal Roy Anthony SDB for the teachers of Catechism in schools and Sunday Schools of Sohra Parish. Seventy teachers from around Sohra actively participated in the seminar.

Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang was invited to the seminar as a resource person. The theme of her lecture was 'Deepen our Faith'. She emphasized on the importance of understanding faith, which is a requisite to teaching of catechism. In her speech she reminded the participants of the arduous task of educating to the faith. She explained to them that faith can only be shared but it can never be

transmitted since transmission of faith is the work of the Holy Spirit. She also exhorted them to take the Biblical Approach that is sharing the knowledge of the Gospel with the learners through life experiences in a prayerful atmosphere. Furthermore she insisted that teachers should be with the students, interacting with them through active participations, discussions and questionnaires so that the students meaningfully understand the faith. For this reason, she said that teachers of Catechism must have an in-depth knowledge in faith by upgrading and updating themselves through daily reading of the Gospel Texts and other spiritual books that would be of tremendous help towards the teaching of Catechism.

Sr. Bernadeth reminded the teachers that unlike other subjects, their task is a spiritual one - that of educating the faith to the students so that these



children grow up to be strong in Christian faith. She also said that children like to identify themselves with heroes so teachers of Catechism should bear a pleasant, loving and good personality. They should be people of deep faith in Christian living. This would just be enough to stand testimony to the

mission they are entrusted with as teachers of Catechism.

Sr. Mildred Kharsyiemlieh

Celebration of the year of Consecrated Life

The School has set aside 5th November as a day to honour Consecrated persons as this year is dedicated to Consecrated Life. The Chief Guest of the day was Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, Vice Provincial; the Guest of Honour was Fr. Marius Thongnibah SDB, the Parish Priest of Mawlai Parish. The other guests and invitees were the fathers, brothers and sisters from the nearby communities.

The programme began in the afternoon with the Prayer Service animated by Mrs. Susila and Miss Silvery Sun our teachers followed by the different items from the different sections. Sr. Maristella Rynghlem the Animator welcomed everyone to the function. All the items were based on 'the call'. It was well organized, well prepared and animated by the Staff and the students under the leadership of Sr. Lydia Pala, the Principal and the Sisters working in the School. The programme was short but meaningful. Sr. Marvella, the chief guest of the day gave a beautiful speech on Consecrated life; she quoted from the letter of our Holy Father Pope Francis that reminds the religious to give joy and hope to the people around. Fr. Marius Thongnibah too gave an inspiring speech on the same topic. He read out



the statistics of all the religious men and women in India and appreciated the presence of the priests and religious in all the institutions which is of great help for all the young people. He further said that they spend their lives to shape and mould the younger generations. At the end of the programme, Sr. Lydia gave the vote of thanks followed by the School Anthem from the Students. After the programme the fathers, brothers and sisters proceeded to the sisters' residence for refreshments while all the teachers had it in the school itself. Everyone returned home with joy and satisfaction and we hope that many young people would heed the call of God.

Sr. Bertina Kurbah



NANDAN NAGAR

Teachers' Day Celebration

The sky was a little extra blue, clouds all white and fluffy, reflecting the happiness that we felt as we left for the beautifully decorated auditorium from our school ground to start the episode. It was the fourth day of the ninth month of the year 2015. The event started with the royal entry of Sr. Celine D'Cunha, our ever-smiling principal, followed by the dignified guests of the day; our teachers.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp in remembrance of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The melody queens of music club started the programme and took us to a ride of musical roller coaster. The extravaganza showcased the different classes with their colourful presentations. The students of class VII with their trip to Manali, the tiny tots of class III with their bollywood tadka and the masakkallis of class IV who filled the atmosphere with rhythm and style. After

each performance the students occupied in the audience screamed "woo" in a very much Auxilian way. Teachers play a key role in our life which can't be expressed in words and so was expressed through a dance drama by the middle-school students. After that, we landed to the game zone and had a lot of unforgettable fun and enjoyment with our teachers. Then we proceeded towards few more mesmerising performances. These included the magnificent ballet dance by class VI, the superb bollywood and hip-hop remix by class XI, awesome trends of class XII and outstanding masti dance by class X. Then we had the stupendous and fabulous surprise item by class IX comprising of many edited songs put together and combined with mind-blasting moves which ended our rocking episode in an even more rocking way. Our dream transformed into reality and we had, by then already co-ordinated a programme which was enjoyed by all. Our effort was appreciated by both teachers and sisters. As we ended the day, a feeling of relief engulfed us because the tension was all over and we were able to live our dream effectively. It was indeed one of those memories that we will cherish forever in life.

Purba Roy & Riya Baidya (Class IX B)

Girl Child Day Observed

September 8th is a singular day for Auxilium Girl's School Agartala as we join the Church in India to celebrate "The Girl Child day". The School Management gives pride of place to this celebration being the lone Girls' school in the state of Tripura. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm of the students who came with posters and placards with thought provoking messages for the day. The gala began with the assembly animated by Class IX-XII where they presented a skit on "Daughters are JEWELS" which was a fitting message of the day.

To raise our voice against the injustice done to girls, students along with sisters and teachers went on a rally, making people aware of the mental trauma and pain suffered by the girls and their keen interest for their education though posters containing slogans





“beti bacho, beti parhao”, “today’s women tomorrows future, “save girl child save the nation “, “Girls are Gold and not to be sold...” etc.

On this day there was a competition in drawing and poster-making for the different classes from class I – XII. It was beautiful to see our girls depicting the preciousness of every girl in their work of art and their eagerness to promote the awareness in saving each Girl child who is and will be born in the face of the earth.

Thanks to the School management especially to Sr. Celine D’Cunha our Principal for taking this initiative to celebrate this unique day.

Sr. Margreth Kharmuti

Student Development Programme (SDP)

One day Student Development Programme for classes VII - X was held in the School from 26 – 30 September. The topics dealt were – “ Education to Life and Love, Media Education – Cyber Crime, Care of Creation – our Common Home and related issues of Young People Today”. It was a great learning for all the students and termed the experience as “Education beyond textbooks”.

The entire programme was coordinated and conducted by Sr. Celine D’Cunha, Principal with Sr. Rihun Sten, Sr. Mercy Nongsiej, Sr. Margaret Kharmuti and Sr. Janicia Nongrum as her

team. It was indeed a very enjoyable time for all of us students since the programme was very lively intermingled with team games, action songs, various yells and very enriching learning sessions. While, Sr. Celine took the sessions other sisters organized the team games, group efficiency projects with lessons to be learnt for life. The students were at their best; participated actively and enthusiastically in the programme as it opened our eyes to many realities. We learned the meaning of growing up gracefully as teenagers – understanding the real meaning of true love, infatuation, obsession, liking, cultivating feminine qualities, building our lives on the strong foundation of values, virtues and principles, being empowered with quality education, being aware of the media that influence our life styles.

An important moment of the programme was group efficiency project based on the theme: “Care of Creation – our Common Home.” We were asked to present the theme in drawing. We also composed poems, speeches as well and prepared an advertisement on the same theme. Above all we made a commitment to love God’s creation with a great sense of gratitude and love, to care for this our common home, never to destroy it or degrade it.

We are grateful to our beloved school, to Sr. Celine D’ Cunha, our Principal and all the sisters for organizing such an enriching programme and for giving us this wonderful opportunity of spending a very useful and fruitful day together.

*Stayi Chakma (Class X B)
& Rashmi Chakraborty (Class IX B)*





4th AUXI Ignite Celebrated

The Annual School Exhibition christened as Auxilium Ignite was organized on 10 October 2015 in the School premises. The Inaugural programme was a short yet extremely colourful one. It commenced with the prayer “Asa To Ma”. Rt. Rev. Lumen Monterio CSC, Bishop of Agartala was the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour was Mr. Francis Kulandei, who received Magsaysay award in 2012. Mr. Francis is a social activist and an eminent scholar.

Running gracefully in the fourth year, it showcased the varied talents and skills of the students. It is a product of a weeklong preparation of the students during the Creativity Week seasoned with a lot of hard work, patience and perseverance as well as organizing skills and management by teachers and students together.

The various stalls put up in the exhibition are representatives of the various departments like English, Maths, Social Science, Art and Craft, Tripura Indigenous Culture, Hindi, Bengali, Value Education, IT and Media, Discover Incognito, Care of Creation, Wonders of God’s Creation, Legal Education etc. The Senior School students displaying the Harry Potter theme in the English department was an unusual theme. The tiny tots too did not lag behind; they

put up their stalls displaying their assignments and Class activities. The motivating force behind such a grand scale event is none other than our Principal Sr. Celine D’ Cunha, who is a constant support and a real source of inspiration for all Auxilians.

Present for the occasion were a hosts of dignitaries from the neighbouring institutions and the representatives of Parents and Guardians of the students. Mrs. Jhansi Debbarma, Scientist, working at DRDO, Bangalore and Mr. Tarun Debbarma, who was also working at DRDO, but now self-employed were specially invited as judges for the Science Exhibition. The exhibition was opened to the public and the whole daylong hundreds of parents, guardians, friends and well-wishers came to the school to see the exhibition. Everyone had high praises of the whole event; they could not imagine that such creative ideas could be realized within a school ambience.

Literary Club

13th Annual Day -The Grand Fiesta

Auxilium Girls’ School celebrated its 13th Annual Day on 7 November 2015 with the theme Care of Creation - Our Common Home. The luminaries who adorned the occasion were Rev. Fr. VM Thomas, SDB, Chancellor of Don Bosco University and Provincial Superior, Don Bosco Society, Guwahati Province, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, Rt. Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala,

and Shri Subhasis Choudhury, Deputy Secretary TBSE, were the Guests of honour. There were other special invitees and dignitaries who made the day really special with their special and encouraging presence.

Invoking God’s blessing and presence through the lighting of



the lamp and the prayer dance performed gracefully by the little children followed by the welcome dance marked the beginning of the grand occasion. After felicitating the guests and invitees, Sr. Celine D' Cunha, our Principal, welcomed and thanked the audience especially the Guests and dignitaries, above all the parents and guardians for their majestic presence, as well as highlighting the theme of the day, and inviting everyone to own responsibility for the care of our Common Home – our Mother Earth.

Students with their colourful amazing costumes then performed a saga of colourful items with perfection. To name some – PK is Back, The evils of child labour, Allow Children to be children, One Earth, Diversity of Cultures, Text Book Vs Facebook, Welcome Monsoon, East West Blend, Nachou Maicheng, Nature: before and now, Love in the air, Empowerment of girls - all were so marvelously performed that stars seemed to be on the stage at Auxilium. The Last item on the theme: Care of Creation – our Common Home, made everyone feel sorry for the way we have treated our Mother Earth which has started giving signs of warning. The students brilliantly made everyone feel responsible to take care of the creation. A lovely dance drama ended with a pledge by everyone- to love the earth, to take care of it, to make it clean, green and beautiful.

The various speeches by the Guests of honour were indeed great praises for the Auxilium Management, staff and students. Bishop Lumen, highlighted the theme which, he said, touches everyone and he was full of admiration for the way the students had presented it so creatively. Fr. VM Thomas SDB, the chief Guest of the day, who had come all the way from Guwahati, exclusively for this programme, was all praise and admiration for Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Principal as the leader, and the staff and students whose performance he appreciated immensely. He said that, the entire programme exceeded all his expectation, which was beyond all words and description.

The colourful props that were artistically made were a visual treat to the eyes, which has added pomp and grandeur to the celebration. All the viewers were taken aback as no efforts were spared by the Auxilium family. The national anthem, sung with a patriotic pride closed the curtain on the eventful programme.

Mrigakshi Saha (Class IX A)

NONGTHYMMAI

Triple Celebration

Joy was in the air and it filled every nook and corner of the school campus on 18 September 2015 as Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School celebrated the triple celebration. The day marked the conclusion of the bicentenary year of the birth

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of Don Bosco, the visitation of Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial and the Feast of Gratitude. The Chief Guest of the day was Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial and Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoottil, the animator of the community as Guest of Honour. The guests were given a warmest welcome of standing



ovation by the staff and students while the guides company and the National Cadet Corps led them with a solemn slow march.

The students in their colourful attire and splendid performance made the day memorable. The

school choir with their welcome chorus resounded the whole campus with mirth and celebration. The well prepared items consisted of skit, songs, action songs, dance and comedy marked the day. It was a joy to witness that almost every auxilian was out on the stage to show case their talents and capabilities as a sign of their love and gratitude to Don Bosco, our founder, their gratefulness to Mother Provincial and to the community for their unending support and guidance. At the end of the programme Sr. Joplin Suchiang voiced out a vote of thanks, thanking everyone for making the celebration a grand success and a taste of a family feast. -

Sr. Joplin Suchiang

SAIDEN

Fifteen Postulants for the INS Province in 2015

The Province rejoiced at the precious gift of vocation to the 15 young girls who on the 7 October 2015 received the Postulants' Medal at Auxilium Training Centre Saiden - Nongpoh.

The short and meaningful ceremony began with the words of welcome from Sr. Phyllis Bamon, Animator of Saiden community. The fifteen young girls approached the altar with a symbolic gesture of offering an empty vessel, which symbolizes their readiness to be guided and accompanied in their vocational journey. The Word of God chosen for the occasion was on the call of Samuel. It has spurred in them the courage to respond to God's call as expressed by some of them. The Provincial, Sr. Isabella Suja

questioned their motivation of entering the first step to religious life in which they responded in unison their ardent desire of living the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. She then welcomed them to the Postulancy and vested on each of them a medal, which bears the image of Mary Help of Christians and Don Bosco. In her talk the Provincial, exhorted them to be humble and to accept corrections cheerfully. A felicitation programme organized by the twenty-two Aspirants followed the initiation to Postulancy. The Postulants too reciprocated their greetings and gave a thank you song along with a vote of thanks.

Besides the Provincial and Vice Provincial, present for the function were the Sisters from the three communities of Shillong and two other neighbouring communities of the Ribhoi area.

FMAinsinfo correspondent



TURA

Confirmation and First Holy Communion

The 27th September 2015 was the happiest day for the twenty-two of us who received the Sacrament of Confirmation and four of our friends who received Jesus for the first time at Sacred Heart Parish Church Tura.

The Church was packed to its capacity with the faithful who came to participate in the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Fr. Levio T. Sangma as the main celebrant and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Theodore T. Sangma Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church Parish Tura.

There were 80 people for confirmation and 150 children for the First Holy Communion. Our Sisters have taken much



pain in preparing us for this great event. They made us understand the preciousness of this spiritual food offered by the Church for us her children. Great care was taken in explaining the Sacraments in detail and helping us to encounter the Lord more deeply and specially. Our parents too are extremely grateful to the Sisters for this chance given to us. We are very grateful to Rev. Fr. Thodore for making it possible for us to join together with the parishioners of Sacred Heart Tura, since all of us hail from the different parishes of Tura Diocese.

In the boarding we were felicitated and made us feel very special and loved. We thanked Sr. Elizabeth Vazhakalayil our animator and all the sisters for the care and concern shown to us. It was indeed a memorable day for all of us.

Christina D. Sangma (Class IX)

A Unique Orchestra in our School

On 3 November 2015 the students of Auxilium Secondary School – Tura had the privileged of witnessing the stupendous

performance of St. Louis Orchestra of the Blind managed by the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. They have come all the way from Chennai to perform the Orchestra of the Blind in our school. We were glad to welcome them in our midst and more especially we appreciate their undaunted spirit in excelling in the God given talents to each of them despite their disability.

The poster which has these words, “The only one of its kind in the entire world” proves that the handicapped people want opportunity and not pity”. The other slogans and messages that they conveyed were to fight against illiteracy, ignorance, malnutrition, superstition and consanguineous marriages. These messages have gone to the hearts of the students and staff of our school. It was a splendid performance



that no one would think that the blind could fill the entire atmosphere of Auxilium hall with fantastic music and wonderful singers. They also sang for us Garo songs to which we all joined in a chorus. It was their first time in the North East and we were the fortunate ones to have them first in our school. We thanked Bro. Octavian from Chennai and Bro. Rajashekar Reddy from Montfort Center of Education

– Tura, Sr. Elizabeth Vazhakalayil the head of our Institution, our principal Sr. Celibon Maslai and to all our Sisters who made it possible for us to meet these wonderful people.

Matchinora S. Sangma (Class IX)

Youth Awareness Programme

A one-day seminar was organized for the students of Auxilium Secondary School on 4 November 2015 in the School Campus. Fr. Paul Rabha SDB from Don Bosco Institute Guwahati was the animator of the programme. The catchword that echoed in every Auxilian was “Success comes through hard work”.

The day began with the Morning assembly in which he displayed a short magic show. Through the magical tricks he converted a ten-rupee note to a thousand-rupee note. He then drew up a lesson for the students inviting them to work hard. He went on to say that easy life and easy money will bear no fruits and will be the failure of the students in the future. After the assembly, Fr. Paul met the Class IX students followed by the Classes VIII and VII separately through which he sensitized them to love the good things and be persistent in pursuing their goal and not to give up easily when faced with failures. The sessions were very interesting and interactive. He brought forth many good examples for us to emulate.



It has inspired in us the true spirit of competition especially in our studies. We thanked Fr. Paul Rabha for the new insights given us and to our Sisters who gave us the opportunity to come out of ourselves and to grow and bloom in all our endeavours.

Marina R. Marak (Class IX)

UMSWAI

The fifteen young people of Auxilium Umswai had the joy of attending the Faith Fest 2015 at Don Bosco Institute (DBI) Guwahati from 21-24 October. The theme of the gathering was “Be my witnesses” and was organized by the Youth Pastoral team of the Salesian Province of Guwahati. Sr. Tistabha Bareh and Sr. Aihunlyne Marwein accompanied the young people.

The programme started on the 21 October with a formal inaugural function. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Sr. Grace Ottalankal FMA, Animator of St. Mary’s Convent, Guwahati. She encouraged

the young people to live their faith in their day-to-day life’s situation. The following two full days of input sessions were days of enrichment where the young people were enabled to introspect their life based on the teachings of the Catholic Faith. Apart from the sessions, there were also the Dancing, Skit and Singing Competitions based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

During the entire programme the Liturgy and Prayer moments were well animated through which the young people were able to have a deeper encounter with our Lord and Creator.

VAIRENGTE

Sunday School Annual Meet cum Eucharistic Procession

After a long awaited preparation the 25th September 2015 dawned when the Sunday School children from different parishes gathered at Vairengte for the Sunday School Annual Meet 2015. Every year the seven parishes of Kolasib district organize this typical meeting and this year it was held at our Parish at Vairengte.



The children who came from the different parishes were allotted in different families of the faithful for their food and lodging. It was a delightful scene to see the Sunday school children taking part in different competitions enthusiastically. They were very attentive to the different input sessions too. The children of Vairengte both beginners and primary students obtained 1st in psalm recitation and in singing competitions. The new insight that they perceived from this Annual Meet will surely provoke them to remain faithful in their

Christian faith and to inspire their friends in turn.

On Sunday 27th October we had the solemn Holy Eucharist and Eucharistic Procession. Many priests, religious and parishioners came and witnessed their faith. His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Stephan Rotluanga CSC the Bishop of Aizawl diocese was the main celebrant. Many young boys and girls received confirmation during the Holy Mass. We pray that they may remain faithful to their Christian commitment. Snacks were distributed to the faithful after the Holy Mass and soon after refreshment we had the procession. Being the first time of such celebration at Vairengte, the spectators of different Christian denominations were dumbfounded and thrilled when the procession was displayed with the decorated float that carried the Blessed Sacrament. The faithful who were in procession praised and thanked God with their melodious voices in chorus.

Our community took an active part in all the preparation works and saw to all that was needed for the smooth running of the celebration.

“You are what you say and think daily, if only you keep at it. Great men always have a starting point, from their heart via their lips to their lives.” - *Bassey Ndon*

The Nuncio in our midst

The 7th of November 2015 would remain as a special day for us when we welcomed His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio Salvatore Pennacchio at Vairengte. He was on his visit to the state of Mizoram and was kind enough to pay a visit to the Parish community.

We deemed it a blessing to have his presence and the Catholic community welcomed him with a bouquet of flower, a garland, a Mizo bag and Mizo cap. He was very appreciative for the little acts of kindness towards him and more so was happy to see many people young and old in the Church because he said in Rome they see only elderly



people coming to the Church. He addressed us on behalf of the Holy Father in the Church and gave his special blessings. He also handed out to us a picture of Holy Father Pope Francis and also his blessings. Having met the faithful of the parish he came to our convent and had coffee with us. We saw in him a very simple and holy person marked with his spirit of cheerfulness and humility. We truly believe that his visit would draw us many blessings.

Sr. Brijitha Marak

From the Salesian Cooperators' Corner

Creation of a New Centre at Laitkroh

The Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Laitkroh rejoiced at the creation of a new centre of the Salesian Cooperators in their Parish on 29 November 2015. Nine Aspirants took their promise on that day. They came in procession towards the altar

with a lighted candle in their hands symbolising their Baptismal promise which now they would deepen through their life of witness as fullfledged Salesian Cooperators.

Sr. Christina Kharkongor FMA Provincial Delegate, in the words of introduction explained to the faithful about the Association of the Salesian Cooperators. After the homily, the celebrant Fr. Laurence Nongkse SDB Parish Priest, questioned the aspirants on their motivation of joining the association and the promise was received by the Provincial Coordinator, Mr. Antony Laloo. The signing of the name on the altar gives meaning and weight to the ceremony which was done by each of the new members. The witness on this occasion was Mrs. Mildred Iawphniaw, Provincial Secretary and the flag of the newly created centre was handed over to the members by the Provincial Coordinator, Mr. Antony and Provincial Administrator, Mrs. Bernadeth Mawkhlieng coupled with a thunderous applause from



the faithful who filled the Church to its capacity.

Present on the occasion was also the former Parish Priest, Fr. Muct Kumar Tirkey SDB who distributed the certificate of membership to all the nine

members. The new Salesian Cooperators had been preparing for this great day as aspirant for two years and a day before the promise with a retreat animated by the Provincial Councillors. The whole celebration was devout and meaningful accompanied by the melodious Choir of the youth of the Parish.

Promise taking at Upper Shillong

On 21 November 2015, Mr. Pynsuk Pathaw from the Upper Shillong Centre took the promise as fullfledged member of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators at St. Thomas Church, Sadew village. Fr. Philip Barjo SDB Provincial Delegate was the main celebrant on the occasion and assisted by Fr. A. L. Jose SDB from Sunnyside Novitiate.

The local coordinator Mrs. Benita Marbaniang accompanied the aspirant and was the witness for the promise taking which was received by the Provincial Coordinator Mr. Antony Laloo in the presence of the Celebrants, Catechists, Church Leaders and faithful who have come from near and far. Smt. Anabel Kharपुरi one of the members thanked everyone present and especially the Parish Priest of Upper Shillong Parish who encouraged them from time to time in their endeavours.

*Antony Laloo
Salesian Cooperator*

The Blind Man with a Lamp

Once there lived a blind man in a small town. He always carried a lighted lamp in his hand whenever he went out at night.

On one dark night he was going with his lighted lamp in his hand. A group of men were passing that way.

They saw the blind man and made fun of him. They said, "O Blind man why do you carry the lighted lamp. You are blind and cannot see anything?"

The blind man politely said, "This lamp is not for me, but for you people who have eyes. You may not see a blind man coming and push him. They felt ashamed and begged pardon.

Moral: Think twice before you speak.



Living the Don Bosco Legend

We are almost at the end of 2015 and it has been a year that was marked with innumerable celebrations in honour of a great Champion of Youth, a Perpetually Youthful Saint - Don Bosco - a legend that is still alive today!

Celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco was an unforgettable experience, a grace-filled opportunity for all his sons and daughters and for the world of young people. Participating in the spellbound, magnificent celebrations organized at local, regional, national and international level, exhibiting the love and affection we bear for him, we realize how much we are called to live his spirit and charism and make him alive for the world of young people, who are in need of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, educators and guides, friends and companions just like Don Bosco was for them.

Don Bosco - some thought he was a saint, some others thought he was mad, some thought he spent too much time with urchins and street children, unwanted and despised, while others thought he was the friend of the Popes, Kings and the affluent. While some plotted against him, many believed in him, admired him



and followed him. But such had been the lot of the Divine Master whose faithful disciple he was. In spite of this, he persevered; he maintained his equanimity, peace and cheerful attitude. He retained extraordinary trust and confidence in young people and believed that, however degraded their condition or behaviour, tapping into their innate goodness, we can raise them for better heights, higher goals, nobler visions and greater achievements. He was courageous and daring to risk anything and everything for the sake of his young people whom he loved dearly, passionately and unconditionally. He never lost his trust and confidence in them and in what they could be under the influence of divine grace. This trust enabled him to nurture them, educate them, form them and transform them into 'Young Saints - Heroes of Holiness' in his Oratories, Youth Centres, Schools - in a word, in all his educational setting.

Don Bosco - Two magic words that have been the inspiration for thousands of his sons and daughters to make inroads into the lives of young people to Engage, Educate and Empower and shape their lives and destinies in a meaningful way during these past 200 years. Don Bosco was a man of God and a man for others, deeply human, deeply holy. He was a man for all times and for all

seasons. He was a great Educator, a prolific writer and publisher, tireless worker, undaunted visionary, a holy priest, master of youthful holiness – all for his young people. Rarely the world has produced a person who loved the young people so very much like Don Bosco.

Don Bosco is a saint, one of the greatest stars that shines brightly in the Church. Mighty works have been done through him: numerous souls received God's forgiveness and enlightenment from him; bodies and souls were healed by his prayer and blessing. He read in the hearts of people as in a book and gave direction to souls in private conversations and in public talks. In his dreams and communication with God he saw hidden things. It was clear that he lived intensely in the presence of God and had God's holy will always at heart. He was truly a man of God.

But while he was profoundly immersed in God, and perhaps on account of this, he, as his divine model, Jesus, remained intensely human. Don Bosco was everywhere and above all the priest, the man of God. Everything he said and did ultimately had the purpose of God's glory and the salvation of souls. He was not content to provide for the needs of the soul in isolation from the needs of the body. In a sense we can say that he was a subscriber to the modern theory which says that human beings cannot think of God with an empty stomach. He lived the joys and sorrows

of the people of his times, of his young people, of the society, of the Church. He did not run away from this world but, as the divine presence in penetrating all human activity so Don Bosco remained immersed in the life of the world. He was only intent on saving it and making it better. Don Bosco was able to take such an active part in the history of his period and at the same time remain so united with God.

Don Bosco is both a saint of the past, a saint relevant for today and for all times. For his radical union with Christ, who is the same 'yesterday, today and always', Don Bosco is a saint for all times. The fact that Don Bosco still attracts crowds of youth, that shows that he possesses something that transcends the centuries. Those who live in his family or those who like to be with him can receive without any fear the message of sanctity – simple and profound, compelling and beautiful, happy and cheerful. Don Bosco, who was kind and understanding wants that 'we be not worldly in the world; not strangers but people with a specific identity; not out of date but prophets of the eschatological reality of the resurrection; not easy followers of novelty but courageous agents of a taxing renewal; not escapists from human vicissitudes but leaders of the history of salvation. Our following of Christ according to the spirit of Don Bosco makes use of all occasions, events and signs of the times, even the most adverse and unjust situations to grow and make others grow in sanctity' (Don Egidio Viganò). The greatest gift we can give to others is our sanctity.

As we solemnly conclude the Bicentenary celebrations, a Jubilee Year of the Salesian Family, the birth of this great and remarkable saint of the young people, we hear a clarion call to start afresh from Don Bosco, 'the man of dreams.' Don Bosco lived his dream – the dream of changing young people's lives from wolves into lambs, from seclusion to inclusion, from meaninglessness to significance, from worthlessness to importance. He worked day and night to make his dream come true, bringing hope to the young who had lost hope, healing the young who were broken hearted, joy and happiness to those who were sad and depressed. He worked with singleness of purpose to see them in a better situation than when he first met them. His dedication to the young remains the mark of his sanctity.

These young people are with us too. It is our mission to bring Don Bosco to the youth of today. It is our responsibility to touch young people's hearts with hope, joy and fulfillment, and like Don Bosco always "with the young, for the young." It is a call to work like Don Bosco, love like Don Bosco and venture into the lives of young people like Don Bosco, with courage, competence, conviction and creativity.

The challenge for us today is not only to admire Don Bosco and be proud to be called his sons and daughters but to rekindle the legend among the youth of today especially the most vulnerable, the most poor, and the most broken and to make his dream, our dream; his spirit, our spirit; his mission, our mission; his passion, our passion.

Having concluded the mega celebrations, it is time to make special commitment to become like Don Bosco, that extraordinary saint, sent by God to touch the lives of young people, giving them meaning and hope for a brighter future, filled with new possibilities. It is above all, a time to renew ourselves as his children and take a pledge to be faithful to Don Bosco, his spirit and his charism; a pledge to imitate him in his passionate unconditional love for and unlimited trust in young people for whom he promised to live to his last breath; it is a pledge to carry forward the torch of Salesian charism from tribe to tribe, from generation to generation with creative fidelity, always alert to the signs of the times and to see that it is kept bright and burning in the years

to come in the hearts and lives of young people. It is a time to be re-energized and enthused to march forward carrying the flame of fidelity and the torch of commitment and dedication in our hearts to all the peripheries where the young people are and like Don Bosco wanting to spend our lives to our last breath for them.

The young people are in need of Don Bosco today as much as he was needed by the young people of his time. We need to commit ourselves to continue that legacy – to rekindle the flame of joy and love in the hearts of all young people, to give meaning to their lives, to assure them of a future filled with hopes and possibilities. It is a call for renewal and regeneration, of re-commitment and rejuvenation and to become Don Bosco for the young and to live the legend with today's young people – a truly "Returning to Don Bosco."

Sr. Celine D'Cunha fma

DON BOSCO'S POSITIVE ANSWER

A traveler after walking some distance met Don Bosco advancing from the opposite direction, and asked him, "Fr. Could you please tell me the distance and how much time do I need to reach that village up there?"

Don Bosco looked at the man in amazement and answered; "my dear son, it does not depend on the distance and how much time you need to reach there, but it depends much on your energy and ability to walk fast in order to reach that place where you intend to go".

All things that we do depend on our attitude towards them.

*Concocted by Sir. Paulinus Kharmudai (Teacher)
St. Mary Mazzarello Jowai*

Theme announced for 2016 World Communications Day Message

(Vatican Radio) The Pontifical Council for Social Communications announced the theme for the 2016 World Communications Day. It is Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter.

The day is celebrated each year on the Sunday before Pentecost, which next year is on 8 May. World Communications Day was established by Paul VI after the Second Vatican Council in order to draw attention to the “the vast and complex phenomenon of the modern means of social communication.”

This year’s theme was decided in order to coincide with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the Holy Year called by Pope Francis to announce the Mercy of God.



Communication and Mercy: a fruitful encounter

The choice of theme this year has clearly been determined by the Celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, and the Holy Father undoubtedly

desired that World Communications Day would provide the appropriate occasion to reflect on the deep synergy between communication and mercy.

In the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year, in paragraph 12, the Pope affirms that: The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person. He adds: Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father. It is helpful, in this regard, to remember that our reflection is situated in the context of an awareness that communication is a key element for the promotion of a culture of encounter.

The Pope, on this occasion, refers to the language and gestures of the Church but the context makes it clear that all men and women in their own communications, in their reaching out to meet others, ought to be motivated by a deep expression of welcome, availability and forgiveness.

The Theme highlights the capacity of good communication to open up a space for dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation, thereby allowing

fruitful human encounters to flourish. At a time when our attention is often drawn to the polarized and judgmental nature of much commentary on the social networks, the theme invokes the power of words and gestures to overcome misunderstandings, to heal memories and to build peace and harmony.

Once again, Pope Francis is reminding us that, in its essence, communication is a profoundly

human achievement. Good communication is never merely the product of the latest or most developed technology, but is realized within the context of a deep interpersonal relationship. World Communications Day, the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council (“Inter Mirifica”, 1963), is marked in most countries, on the recommendation of the bishops of the world, on the Sunday before Pentecost (in 2016, May 8th).

The Holy Father’s message for World Communications Day is traditionally published in conjunction with the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, patron of writers (January 24).

Many years ago a great earthquake did considerable damage in San Francisco, California. Many buildings were wrecked by the quake and others through fire started by the earth tremors. In the midst of this great tragedy an elderly grandmother was observed sitting in her rocking chair on her front lawn and singing.

A passerby asked her how she could be so happy when the earth was cracking up. Her reply was, “I’m rejoicing to see how God can change things.”

Theodore H. Epp



Joseph Haydn, the great musician, was asked why his church music was so cheerful, and he replied, “When I think upon God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap, as it were, from my pen, and since God had given me a cheerful heart it will be pardoned me that I serve Him with a cheerful spirit.”



A REFLECTION

Consecration and Vows

Chastity introduces the consecrated person to a vast kinship with others that reaches beyond the limits of flesh and blood. Poverty allows to put all the goods in common, to channel the resources of the mind and heart, time and strength in the service of God. Obedience inserts into a greater scheme of service in the common management of the apostolic charism.

Religious find their consecrated life a privileged means of effective evangelization. All the deepest level of their being is caught up in the dynamism of the Church's life, which is thirsty for the divine Absolute and called to holiness. It is to their holiness that they bear witness. They embody the Church in her desire to give herself completely to the radical demands of the beatitudes. By their lives they are a sign of total availability to God, the Church and the people.

As such they have a special importance in the context of the witness which is a prime importance in evangelization. At the same time, as being a challenge

to the world and to the Church herself, this silent witness of poverty and abnegation, of purity and sincerity, of self-sacrifice in obedience, can become an eloquent witness capable of touching also non-Christians who have good will and are sensitive to certain values, "Doing the work to completion is my food (Jn 4:34) it is not to do my own will that I have come down from heaven, but to do the will of Him who sent me" Jn 6 : 38.

adapted by: Sr. Margaret Mami

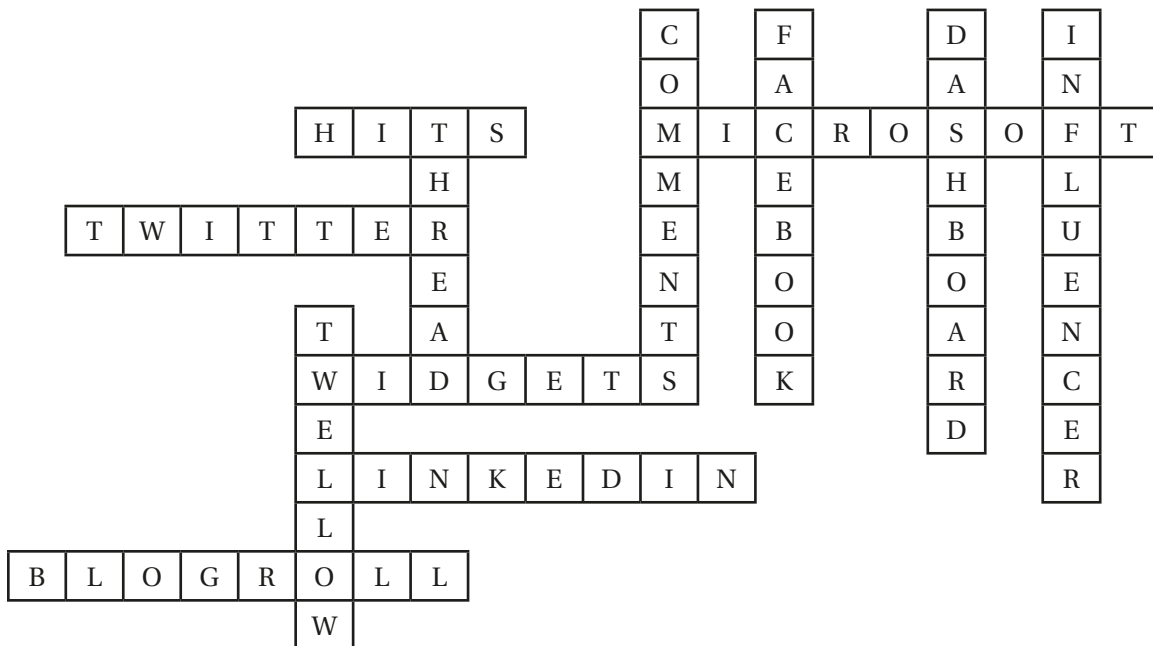
A word cloud centered around the word 'MEDIA'. Other prominent words include 'PROJECT', 'RESEARCH', 'LITERACY', 'SCHOOLS', 'TEACHERS', 'DEVELOPMENT', 'VIEW', 'LEARNING', 'TECHNOLOGIES', 'LITERACIES', 'ACTION', 'EDUCATION', 'AUSTRIAN', 'CULTURE', 'ACHIEVE', 'CULTURES', 'MODEL', 'SEES', 'MULTIMODAL', 'UNDERSTANDING', 'FRAMEWORK', 'PRODUCTION', 'TEXT', 'CHILDREN', 'DEVELOP', 'PROGRESSION', 'POPULAR', 'TECHNOLOGY', 'PARENTS', 'CONNECTION', 'LEARN', 'TEACH', 'RESEARCH', 'DISCIPLINE', 'CONCEPT', 'MATERIAL', 'CLASSES', 'TEACHING', 'TEACHER', 'STUDENT', 'ACHIEVEMENT', 'CULTURAL', 'TECHNOLOGICAL'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central word 'MEDIA', with varying font sizes and orientations. The colors are primarily black and white, with some light gray accents. The background is a solid light gray.

A crossword puzzle grid with 12 numbered starting points for words. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers are: 1 (down), 2 (down), 3 (down), 4 (down), 5 (across), 6 (across), 7 (across), 8 (across), 9 (down), 10 (across), 11 (across), and 12 (across).

5 A measurement used in web analytics
7 This software giant has a 20% share in Facebook
8 Was named as “Status” for quite a while till its actual codename caught on!
10 Stand-alone applications you can embed in other applications
11 Oracle’s Chief Financial Officer was headhunted for the position via _____
12 An assembly of blog URLs, displayed at the sidebar of blogs that the blogger reads
regularly

- 1 Replies or opinions in reference to the topic at hand
- 2 The owner was sued by fellow classmates for stealing their business idea and tech-
technology and using it to start his own competitive site
- 3 The administration area on your blog - to check traffic, comments etc
- 4 A highly recognised person of the community
- 6 A related line of conversation
- 9 Helps you search your target audience on Twitter

Answers



Inspirational Thoughts

- “Don’t give up because things are hard, but work harder, when you think of giving up.” - Anthony Liccione
- “If you are depressed, you are living in the past. If you are anxious, you are living in the future. If you are at peace, you are living in the present.” - Abhishek Shukla
- “Life is like a ocean; sometimes calm and sometimes stormy but still It has beauty.” - Alp Kumawat
- Always remember to forget the things that made you sad, but never forget to remember the things that made you glad - Elbert Hubbard





Reception of Postulants Medal 7 October 2015



Congratulations



Sr. Bashisha Massar for securing
6th Rank in M.Sc. Botany Honours (NEHU)



All the best to
Sr. Meristella Kharthangmaw
on your appointment
as the Lady Youth
Representative
of North East Region

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Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Dec. 8, 2015 - Nov. 20, 2016



"It is the Year of mercy" Pope Francis

STRENNA 2016

of the Rector Major
Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime

With **JESUS**
let us adventure in
the **SPIRIT** together!

