

# FMA-INS info

Vol. XXI No. 4 Newsletter - December 2017 Provincial Office – Shillong 793014 – Meghalaya



## Christmas

A time for sharing  
and caring...

May we find the  
true meaning of  
Christmas in  
those around us!



# Congratulations!



Postulants who received  
their medal on  
11 October 2017



New Aspirants



**Sr. Kanrisha Thangkhiew**

Paviotti Memorial Award for Highest marks in ITLR Studies at Sacred Heart  
Theological College, Mawlai – Shillong



Auxilium Girls' School, Agartala awarded  
a five-star rating on Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2017  
in Tripura State





## Editorial

### *In Everything Give Thanks...*

The eventful year 2017 is at its ebb... If each of us only look back and review the reel of the year, one would certainly sigh and say, **"In everything give thanks"**. There must have been challenges that we were able to overcome and some yet to be but each experience must have brought out a better person that we were at the beginning of the year.



The year 2017 indeed has been blessed with the visit of our Beloved Mother General Yvonne Reungoat – the meeting with her has surely been a moment that would last forever; it must have brought a rejuvenation to our missionary zeal and ardour. Recalling her words... "You have a Mother, who always searches..." let us pay heed to her invitation and be generous to offer ourselves at the service of the mission. Another remarkable event in the life of the Institute was the celebration of the 140 years of the First FMA Missionary Expedition (14 November 1877-2017). Sr. Alaide Deretti, General Councillor for the Missions has animated the whole Institute through the monthly animation the whole year through. This has benefitted us to go back to the roots and enthuse in us the same missionary passion lived by our first Sisters. In all our communities of the Province too this celebration has been wonderfully commemorated and relived. It gave us ample opportunity to reflect and examine the way we live our vocation and mission and calls us for greater commitment and determination for the good of souls. Glancing the diary of the year we see another yet significant moment for the Province namely the visit of Sr. Runita Galve Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry. In her two-week's stay in the Province we have been oriented to the oratorian heart in our mission for the young above all she has guided the Province in the consultation process for the new Provincial. It was indeed a time of introspection, awareness and planning for the future. With all these significant events and others not so significant yet necessary, we close this year of grace with gratitude for the past and fortitude for the future.

I would like to sincerely thank Sr. Joplin Suchiang who has been part of the Social Communication team since 2015 till August this year. We appreciate your contribution in the team and may God continue to assist you in your new assignment and in all you do!

In a joyous note, the end of the year always brings good tidings and jubilation for it heralds the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Though born more than two thousand years ago yet his birthday is never forgotten because He is the reason for our life. FMA-INSinfo wishes its readers a Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2018. May this holy season awaken in us the true meaning of Christmas of beholding Jesus in those around us particularly the most needy ones of the society.

**Sr. Euginia Laloo**



# Celebration of THE 140<sup>th</sup> MISSIONARY EXPEDITION

14 November 2017

“Go and proclaim” Jesus says,  
To every corner here below;  
“Make them my disciples”  
Jesus’ mandate we want to fulfill.

140 years have passed,  
Since the First Missionary Expedition;  
Six of our sisters ready to leave  
For the mission with joy and zeal.

As true daughters of Mother Mary,  
We are called to share and care.  
The future mission of the church,  
Waits for us very much.

“Go wherever I send you”  
Are Jesus’ words for you and me.  
Let our genuine response be  
“Lord I am here, now send me”.

Those who follow the Lord,  
On the hard road have to trod.  
They’re always on a journey,  
From inconveniences we will not flee.

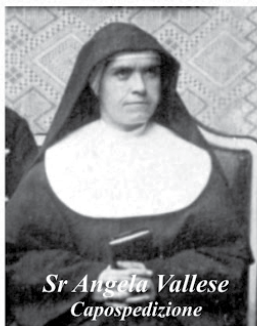
A person with missionary spirit,  
The fire in one’s heart is lit.  
Ready to do any sacrifice  
For love of God they do strive.

*Da mihi animas cetera tolle*  
The motto of Don Bosco we say.  
Let us make it our own,  
To save many souls both young and old.

Are we ready to leave and go?  
Wherever the Lord will show  
Let us be God’s little messengers  
To promote life from worse to better.



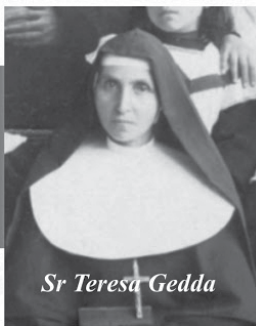




*Sr Angela Vallese  
Capospedizione*



*Sr Giovanna Borgna*



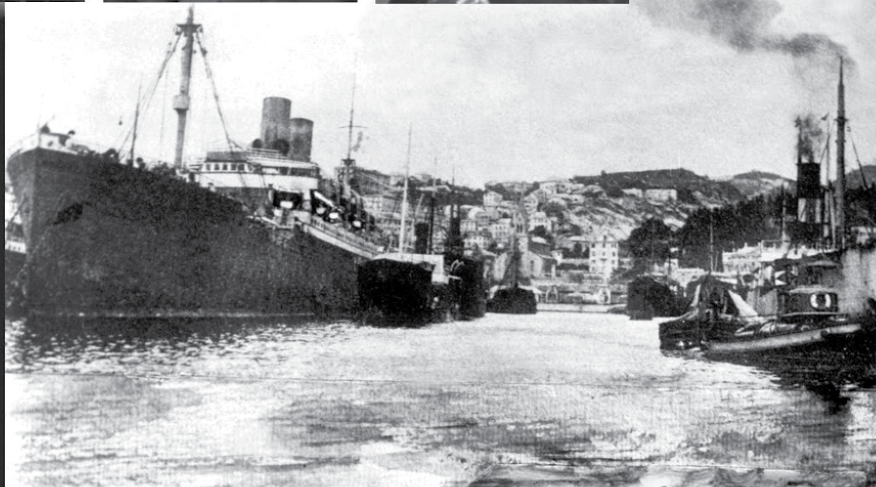
*Sr Teresa Gedda*



*Sr Teresina Mazzarello*

*Sr Angela Cassulo  
e Sr Angela Denegri*

**PRIMA  
SPEDIZIONE  
MISSIONARIA**  
14 novembre 1877



Jesus the perfect missionary  
Had a very unique methodology.  
With love and compassion, he shows  
His examples let us all follow.

A missionary is God's gift,  
A call to share and uplift,  
To bring goodness to the poor  
As ambassador from door to door.

So now dear sisters and friends,  
Let's be a little light that brightens,  
To those who need the touch of goodness,  
And chase away the sins of darkness.

O God master of our life  
Be on our journey as we strive.  
Keep us away from temptations  
To be true missionary without condition

O Mary our beloved Mother,  
Be our guide and inspirer.  
Instill in us a strong missionary spirit,  
That we may proclaim Jesus' Word bit by bit.



*Partenza delle prime "Figlie di M. Ausiliatrice" Missionarie  
(1877) ca. 68 (C)*

Across the land, across the sea,  
Let us opt to be a missionary;  
God is calling you and me,  
To fulfill His mission as He wants us to be.

**Aspirants & Postulants of Salden**

## ✧ AIZAWL - ITI

The community celebrated the feast with the vigil service animated by the animator, Sr. Lidia Paliar, where she emphasized on the Missionaries, especially on our Missionary Sisters who were the pioneers to our country India sowing the seed of Christian Faith. During the hour of prayer a lighted candle was placed on the altar, which reminded us that Christ is the light and our great missionaries brought the light to us.

A solemn morning prayers and meditation was organized by Sr. Meristella Kharthangmaw based on the Gospel of Saint Mathew 28:19-20 "*Go **therefore and make disciples of all nations...***" Through praying and meditating on the chosen Gospel, the community members made a personal reflection and thanked the missionary sisters who have worked and toiled in our country and particularly our Province. The day ended with a resolve to be missionaries of leadership and of service with the same mind of Jesus.

## ✧ BELLEFONTE

Mary Our Help Training Centre, Bellefonte celebrated the 140 years of the First missionary expedition with the young people and lay collaborators of four schools namely; St. Joseph's Secondary School Pynthorumkhrah, St. Anne's Secondary School Mawtawar, Lurshai Morning School and Bellefonte Community College, Lumshyiap. The whole assembly gathered at the grotto, which was very well decorated with the symbol of the ship along with the missionaries on it; a reminder of the first missionaries setting sail to Uruguay. The Prayer Service was centered on recalling the events, which preceded the departure and



also includes the presentation of the Word of God, the Constitutions, the Institute flag and coat of arms. During the Prayer moment the two Novices who opted to be missionaries namely Marbel Pasi and Meldaris Syiemlieh were invited to carry the lamps symbolizing the light of Christ and being prayed over by Sr. Carmelina Sun, Provincial Councilor and Animator of Bellefonte Community. In procession the gathering proceeded to the hall for the second part of the celebration. The beatitudes creatively presented by the novices sent across the message on how to be missionaries of hope and joy. Each of the schools present put up an item each on the theme "Missionaries of Hope and Joy". On the occasion, Sr. Carmelina Sun gave a message highlighting on the ways to become missionaries of love, care and compassion following the example of the first missionaries.

Present on the occasion were oratorians, parents' representatives, Fr. Ioannis War Pakma, SDB Parish Priest, Fr. A.L Jose SDB, Assistant Parish Priest, Sisters of Auxilium Convent, Nongthymmai and FMA Outreach.





## ✪ FMA-OUTREACH

To mark the conclusion of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of our congregation, our community on 13 November 2017 celebrated it with animated vigil service. All the sisters under the leadership of Sr. Happyline Shadap meaningfully animated the event.



On 14 November, Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, the animator, animated the Morning Prayer. The ambient of the Morning Prayer infused a sense of profound gratitude to God for the gift of our first six missionaries. It created a thrill for each one to inculcate the same fervour for the Lord and the mission. Privileged enough, there was an opportunity to have the Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. V.V. Paul from Sacred Heart Theological College. In his homily he highlighted and complimented the works and apostolate of the Missionaries and appreciated the first sisters who dared to take the courageous step to leave their country at a very young age for the sake of the Gospel.

In the afternoon, our Community joined the Community of Bellefonte to mark the day. The hostellers from our Community gave a Choir piece entitled “In that Sweet Home” and the choreography from Hillsong entitled “God’s great.” The day was concluded with the animated Evening Prayer service in the community. It was an event of joy and celebration and at the same time an occasion that incited a missionary impulse in the heart of each Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, candidates and young people.

## ✪ JOWAI

The Community joined the whole Institute in celebrating this great and important anniversary for which we have been preparing for a year. The immediate preparation with the prayer services during the triduum was a great help to celebrate this day meaningfully. The whole Community including our boarders joined in the Morning Prayer that was creatively and prayerfully animated by Sr. Mawniuh Thodosia and Sr. Kharkongor Risalin. We were fortunate to have the Holy Eucharist celebrated in the house thanks to Fr. William Kujur SDB, from Bosco Pnar. In his homily he spoke of the missionary dynamism of the Salesian vocation and appreciated the Institute of the FMA that ventured into the Mission right from the fifth year of its foundation, making a special mention of the 13 missionaries of 2017 who were given the missionary crucifix by Mother General last September. The Holy Rosary was prayed solemnly in thanksgiving for this great event. In the evening the Salesian group under the direction of Sr. Madonna Lytep put up a program to commemorate the event. In spite of being on the threshold of final examination they successfully and creatively enacted the final farewell of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello to the six missionaries. They also presented a touching scene of our sisters receiving a letter of Mother Mazzarello in the mission. In her concluding talk Sr. Susngi Rosina helped us to understand the wonderful missionary spirit that characterized our Institute right from its origin and encouraged the girls to be generous to say, “Yes” to the Lord.





## ★ KABUGANJ

14 November 2017 reminded us of our missionary call received at our baptismal consecration to 'go out to the whole world, proclaiming the Good News' as this day marked the great and memorable event of the 140 years of the anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of the Institute. The day was preceded by the three days of intense prayer during which the community prayed for the missionaries all over the world, so also during the community Rosary, prayers were intensified for the same. On the evening of this great day, the whole community gathered together for the Prayer Service, which was indeed very meaningful and prayerful. The different signs and symbols like the command 'Go', the Word of God, the coat of arms, the ship and the globe gave meaning and inspiration to the prayer gathering. It was indeed a wonderful and thought-provoking moment for all of us. It also spurred up courage and created enthusiasm on many of our boarding girls to be vibrant missionaries in their little way.

## ★ KAWNPUJ

The year-long preparation has brought the dawn of 14 November 2017 in which we recalled the 140 years of the First FMA Missionary Expedition. The Sisters, boarders and our helper gathered in the chapel to praise and thank God for the great gift of the six missionaries with a well animated adoration. At the goodnight talk Sr. Irene Lalmuanpui, the animator explained to the

boarders of the significance of the day. The boarders were very happy to know the brief life of the missionaries and they being all Presbyterians.

## ★ LAMYRSIANG

The Community celebrated the dual celebration of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Missionary Expedition of our Institute and the Children's day. The day began with praising and thanking God for the marvels done in the Institute. On this day the Sisters and Teachers organized the Stage programme for the school children and the spirit and zeal of the missionaries were relived through the re-enactment of the 1st Missionary Expedition and on the mission of the first Missionaries who came to our land, which was displayed by the Boarders. After the programme all the students enjoyed together the delicious meal, which was prepared with love by the Teachers and Sisters. Our day would not end without thanking God once again for all the graces bestowed on our Institute and we expressed it through our evening prayer service. We had a wonderful time in front of the Lord praying and thanking Him for the gift of the first missionaries of the Institute.

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

Helen Steiner Rice



## ✧ MAWKYNDENG

The celebration was anticipated on 11 November 2017 being a Saturday and it was more convenient to assemble together with the sisters of Saphai Sub-center and the Salesian Cooperators of Mawkyndeng Unit. Right from the Morning Prayer it was well animated by the sisters in charge of the month and the Holy Mass was celebrated in our house at 9.00am with Fr. Gabriel Jalong SDB as main celebrant. There was a beautiful introduction with all the symbolic gestures suggested by the center for the celebration. The entrance dance and melodious choir added colour to the celebration. Fr. Gabriel in his homily spoke of the importance of being missionaries in the place where we live and work with a greater zeal for God's Kingdom. At the end of the Holy Mass, meaningful thoughts, which were kept in small beautiful boats, were distributed to all. This was followed by a family meal. In the evening all the eleven sisters staged an evening programme for the children. Oh you could imagine what dance, what comic what acting out especially on the missionary mandate of Christ! The children were extremely happy and enjoyed every bit of it. At the end of it all Sr. Patricia exhorted us all to be imbued with the missionary spirit of the first missionaries and if it is the will of God to be ready to go to the distant lands where the people are most in need of us.



## ✧ MAWLAI

The anniversary of the 140<sup>th</sup> Missionary Expedition was celebrated in the community of Sacred Heart Convent Mawlai with the three days of Triduum by reflecting on the Missionary call and recalling the daring spirit of our first missionary sisters. On the 14<sup>th</sup> November the celebration begun with the animated Morning Prayer by the Missionary group as well as during Mass with an introduction read and the symbol of the lamp and the names of the first missionaries were carried and placed in front of the altar. The Mass was offered for this intention as well as for the children as it was Children's Day too.



## ✧ MAWROH

The community took part with enthusiasm and prepared for the great event of the 140 years of Missionary Expedition of the FMA. All through the year we have read and reflected on the materials, which the Institute had provided for every 14 of the month. We also did the in-depth studies on the letters of St. Mary Dominica Mazzarello by sharing our personal reflection to all the members of the community. On 14 November, we had animated prayer service together with the children, teachers and the



inmates of the community. Highlighting the significance of the day the photo frame of the first missionary Sisters together with the missionary flag were placed on the altar. At the outset, Sr. Cecilia Ksoo, Animator carried the Word of God to the altar which reminded us that we too are called to spread and proclaim the word of God to the whole world, following the mandate Jesus had given to the Apostles, “Go to the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature”.

The celebration has helped us to increase our zeal for souls and inculcated in us the missionary spirit of deep love for the mission entrusted to our care.

## ✪ NANADAN NAGAR

The day’s celebration began with a well- animated morning prayer, with the theme: *‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good news’* where a brief life sketch of the six valiant missionaries was recalled.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated in the evening where we invited the Don Bosco community to join us in the celebration. They were also glad to join us as on the 11<sup>th</sup>

of November they too celebrated the 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the first SDB Missionary Expedition. The comment before the Holy Mass introduced us to the solemnity of the celebration, which highlighted the Spirit of Mornese and the charism of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello which crossed the ocean to an unknown new world – Uruguay, Latin America. Fr. Sunny, SDB in his homily exhorted us not only to commemorate this great event, but we need to become missionaries today among the young people. The symbolic offerings were placed before the altar, the Bible, globe, bearing the names of the first missionary Sisters of the Institute. After the Holy Eucharist all shared the family meal. During the Goodnight

Sr. Celine, Animator thanked everyone for the meaningful celebration. She encouraged us to live the missionary dimension of the Institute with enthusiasm in the mission that we are called to live here in Tripura. Praying daily for missionaries, commitment to become missionaries of hope and joy, like our first sisters, celebrating our missionary vocation, commemorating with a year-long preparation had made our celebration more meaningful and fruitful.





## ✪ NONGTHYMMAI

At Auxilium Nongthymmai too this day's celebration was solemnized in the best way possible. The vigil prayer service on the previous day set a note to the event. The prayer moments and the Holy Eucharist were the prime moments of the feast. To crown the day, cultural programme was organized after supper. We bowed our head in thanksgiving to God for the numerous graces and blessings showered upon the Institute, particularly through the generous and zealous missionaries who have left their homeland to other distant lands both in the past and the present. The celebration has undoubtedly enkindled a missionary zeal in the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.



## ✪ RANGBLANG

Along with the rest of the FMA World the community of St. Mary's Rangblang celebrated the 140 years of the First FMA Missionary Expedition through a triduum. Everyday there was Meditation from the Constitutions and the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament in the evening. On 14 November 2017 a solemn Holy Mass was animated in the Parish Church. Fr. John Kharshandi SDB, Assistant Parish Priest presided over the Holy Eucharist. In his homily he appreciated the courage of the first six missionaries and prayed that the same enthusiasm be imbibed by the present

generation of FMA Sisters. In the evening the Boarders under the guidance of the Sisters performed various items like dance, song and skit with the theme: "Missionaries of Hope and Joy". Sr. Maria Goretti Nongrum, Animator in her goodnight talk invited the Boarders to be missionaries at the present moment according to their capacity and not wait until they grow up to do good and be exemplary to each other.



## ✪ SAIDEN

One of the prophetic gestures assumed by our community is the opening of the new Oratory Centre at Umjarasi Village, Ribhoi District. This indeed has made us to grow stronger in our missionary impulse. Along with the invitation of Sr. Deretti Alaide, the General Councilor for the mission, our community took this event to celebrate it with meaning and joy.

The celebration was indeed very grand as it was solemnized right from the vigil service animated on the theme "Missionary Spirit", followed by the animated Morning Prayer where the fervour of the first missionaries was re-lived by all of us. Rev. Fr. T.A Jose SDB also instilled in the candidates the missionary zeal through his sermon



quoting from the Word of God and solemnly celebrated the Holy Eucharist to mark this event. The day's celebration concluded with the Evening Thanksgiving Adoration. Sr. Phyllis Bamon, animator lowered the flag as a sign of concluding the year of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the First Missionary Expedition. When the flag was folded, the sisters stood in attention and chanted the Institute's Anthem, "O Qual Sorte". After dinner, the community once again gathered in the hall for the stage programme performed by the candidates. All the items performed were based on the theme "Be a Missionary today".

### ✧ SUTNGA

With 20 boarders and 3 sisters gathered together in the Chapel, the community celebrated the Vigil Service on 13 November 2017. Sr. Victoria Saioo, Animator guided the prayer moment based on the theme "First FMA Missionary Expedition". After the prayer service Sr. Victoria recounted the scene of the First Expedition to all present. On the 14<sup>th</sup> morning Sr. Bontila Makdok animated the Morning Prayer with beautiful reflection, which us to meditate on our life as lived by our Sisters. The climax of the feast was the Holy Eucharist, which was celebrated by Fr. Martin Shylla, the Parish Priest. At the beginning of the Holy Mass Sr. Ephrina Rympeit read out the introduction

and presented the two symbolic gestures of **mud and seeds**. In homily, Fr. Martin appreciated the work of the Salesian Sisters and encouraged us to carry on the beautiful apostolate among the young and the poor ones. Prayers were offered for the entire Institute especially for our missionaries who are working in the different places of the world.

### ✧ TURA

On the evening of 14 November 2017 the community gathered in the Hall to conclude the day through a beautiful Evening Prayer animated by Sr. Sabina Mawrie and Sr. Sinjak R. Marak. During the prayer moment they the wonders done by the missionaries, especially those 6 young sisters who 140 years ago marched towards South America for God's glory. Through the slides presentation we realized that the mission of the FMAs never changed from the beginning of the Institute till the present day, the main target is to gather young people and give them Christ. Wherever we are, we gather young people especially young girls and women through boardings, hostels, workrooms, schools, oratories, village touring, dispensaries and family visit in order to spread the love of God. These works were shown through pictures and videos clips. The beautiful power point presentation had helped everyone to thank God for the gift of all the FMA Sisters who



have gone before us, and we who are still working for the same with the same charism.

## ★ UMDANG

The community of Auxilium Convent, Umdang started the celebration of the conclusion of the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First FMA Missionary Departure with a solemn animation of the Morning Prayer. The day was spent in thanksgiving to God for the gift of our first Missionaries. At 6:00 pm the community continued to thank God through the Holy Eucharistic celebration joined by a few representatives from the youth, Salesian Cooperators, Sunday Catechism Children and the women of the Parish. Sr. Maristella Jyrwa gave a brief explanation on the event of the day before the Holy Mass in which Sr. Marilyn Wahlang carried the Symbol of a ship with the names of the six sisters attached to it and placed it at the altar. In His thought-provoking homily Fr. Gaspar Wahlang, the Parish Priest invited each one of us to be missionaries in our own little way as religious, priests, parents, young people and children. He also invited all present to thank God for the First Salesian Missionaries whose life offered for God's Kingdom had enabled them to reach to our area. After Mass all proceeded for the programme where the boarders enacted the life of our first missionaries through a skit and performed beautiful dances as well. The day concluded with a fraternal meal.

## ★ UMSWAI

The celebration took place on 18 November 2017, which was duly prepared by a triduum from 15 November. The community was glad to have the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the house presided over by Fr. A Tomey SDB, Parish Priest. A meaningful presentation of the symbols pertaining to the missionary expedition was done before the Holy Mass. In his homily Fr. Tomey emphasized on the theme chosen for the day "Go to the whole world..." On this special day the missionaries who have come to our land and those who have gone from our province were specially remembered in our prayers.

"Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday."

Gladys Taber





## Missionary Mandate to the New Missionaries

On 24 September 2017, the Salesian family rejoiced and thanked God for the 36 new missionaries who courageously responded to their missionary call; 22 SDBS and 14 FMAS. The celebration began with the solemn entrance procession led by the missionaries followed by the priests. Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime was the main celebrant and concelebrated by numerous priests, supported by Mother General, Yvonne Reungoat and the presence of the young people of Pietmontese added grandeur to the celebration.

The Rector Major Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime reminded the gathering about the 140<sup>th</sup> First FMA Missionary Expedition,

dated 14 November 1877 with Uruguay as the destination. He remarked that the missionary mandate of this year too was as beautiful and authentic as the first and subsequent ones by Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. During the homily, he added that the 148 consecutive expeditions that have never stopped, even in the years of the two world wars revealed the reality that is beyond the human. To the new missionaries, Fr. Ángel F. Artime also wished to spotlight the missionary work of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, faithful to God and to his mission in Yemen, both in the time of his ordinary ministry and throughout the time and experience of his kidnapping. To the missionaries, the Rector Major underscored the importance of feeling summoned to share life with the very people they would be soon reaching, without the pretense of being there to teach, as experts; and he reiterated that the missionary dimension was, and remain, a fundamental option for the Congregation. “Without the missionaries, many of us would not be here,” he said. Beautifully, accompanied by the prayer of all those present, he consigned the Missionary Cross





to the Salesian missionaries, while Mother Yvonne Reungoat did the same with the FMA missionaries. The missionaries were overwhelmed with joy and supported by their unfailing trust in God and the prayer of the faithful ready to set forth to the different parts of the world where they are sent to proclaim the Good News. It was indeed a meaningful and God experience celebration.

*Sr. Catherine Sutnga*

## AINACS 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention

All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Chennai at Monfort Matriculation Higher Secondary School. The convention was held from 30 September to 3 October 2017. The theme was "Modern trend in Education". The participants were the Principals of Catholic Schools from different parts of the country which numbered around 600 hundred. Sr. Lydia Pala and Sr. Joplin Suchiang from our province took part in the same.

The input sessions were on the related theme. The resource persons enlightened the participants on how to relate themselves with the modern trends in education and get themselves updated to be of help to the students who are far ahead of them in it and to guide them wisely. The election for the post of President and the Executive members was held. The proceeding was followed accordingly which led to the smooth outcome of the same.

## 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Education

A three-day conference for school principals and Educational administrators was held at Don Bosco Institute Guwahati from 19 - 21 October 2017. Sr. Luigina Shylla and Sr. Joplin Suchiang participated in it. The theme was "Re-defining Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century leading change through Management Skills and Innovative Leadership Practices'.

The resource persons who enlightened the participants were Fr. Dr. John Parankimalil (PD), Mrs. Saloni Priya, Founder Director, UMMEED, Mr. Rakshit Tandon, Director: A&R Info Security Solution Pvt. Ltd. The well-delivered sessions got the attention of every participant. The participants in this meeting were the Principals from different parts of the country and our neighboring country Bhutan too were part of the Conference.

**Sr. Joplin Suchiang**

"Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values."

Thomas S. Monson

## NORTH EAST LEGAL FRATERNITY (NELF) Meet held

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Convention of NELF was held at Pastoral Centre, Shillong which was facilitated by Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR), Guwahati in collaboration with the Īalam Lynti Legal Fraternity Shillong on the Theme 'Faith that does Justice ' from 20 to 22 October 2017. About 150 delegates from all across North East India participated in which Sr Garnet Sutnga was one among them.

The convention was inaugurated by Shri Peter S. Dkhar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills Meghalaya. The convention was a valuable mix of experiences and perspectives. The speakers also came from different social and cultural backgrounds and they presented the participants with different practical experiences, insights and views. It gave a good impression and understanding of the many perspectives that can and should be taken into account to promote and protect socio-cultural, economic, political and human rights. The convention was opened by the Director of the LCHR, Fr. Owen Chourappa. He gave an excellent introduction to the convention. The session on the first day by Mr. Romy Chacko Advocate of Supreme Court of India offered a clear perspective on the theme and he emphasized on how we can be Christian Lawyers with duties to reform the law breakers and deliver justice in order to realise the constitutional values. Fr. Peter Martin, Advocate of Ranchi High Court, Shri. W. Khyllap, IAS, Secretary of Law Department, Government of Meghalaya, Mr. Amrit Sangma, Caritas India were the resource persons and Mr Vincent H. Pala Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) was the guest speaker at the convention.

*Sr. Garnet Sutnga*



## Annual Provincial Team Meeting held

The Provincial Team Members guided by the theme, "Missionaries of Hope and Joy" gathered for the Annual Meeting on 4-5 November 2017 at Auxilium Convent, Nongthymmai. Sr. Agatha Shadap, the General Coordinator had meticulously planned the logistics of the meet, which was appreciated by everyone.

The meeting opened with a prayer moment creatively animated by Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang in which the Word of God, candles and incense were carried forth and placed in a prominent place. After the Prayer Moment, Sr. Agatha welcomed all the team members of the various sectors and in a particular manner Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial. An inspiring song on Team Work set the proper tone to the day's events. Sr. Isabella Suja in the inaugural speech invited everyone to re-ignite the fire of Christ as the purpose of our mission. Sr. Maristella Rynghlem who took part in the meeting of mission ad/inter gentes on "Initial Proclamation" South East Asia held in Thailand shared her experiences and the take-away of the meeting through a PowerPoint presentation. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the Presentation of Reports by all the sectors and group planning. The second day saw the presentation of the Annual Plan for 2018 and the formulation of the Province Calendar 2018. Concluding the meet the provincial Sr. Isabella invited the team members to measure one's life





by donation and not by duration. She also exhorted everyone to continue living our religious life with credibility in all aspects and transmitted some important information and communication for the forth-coming events in the Province.

*Sr. Euginia Laloo*

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet cum Capacity building of AMRAT

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet cum Capacity building of AMRAT (Asian Movement of Women Religious for Anti Human Trafficking) commenced was held on 10 - 12 November 2017 at Indian Social Institute Benson Town, Bengaluru. The participants numbering 100 represented the various Women Congregations under this big umbrella for the promotion of human dignity and protection of rights. Sr. Gemima Pohrmen being the Vice-President of the organization took part in the meet along with Sr. Marilyn Bahun Wahlang.

The three-day meeting focused on capacitating its members in order to be effective in their mission. The inaugural function gave a fitting start to the entire gathering. Among the speakers present, Bishop Bernard Moras in his message said God created human beings in His own image and likeness and how it is distorted has become a great concern. He appreciated the activities and the mission of AMRAT and

expressed the Church's concern about the evil of trafficking.

During the three-day meeting the various topics were dealt at length by efficient resource personnel. Rev. Fr. Edward Thomas SDB spoke on [www.missingcitizens.org](http://www.missingcitizens.org), Mr. Lukos, IAS, Retired shared his experience in the field of human trafficking and elaborated on the issue of child labour, Mr. Luke of the ARISE Foundation a benefactor who supported the Programme shared on his experiences and concern on this social evil and offered generously to collaborate in this mission, the experts from the International Justice Mission (IJM) Mumbai Mr. Mervin D' Mello, Miss Jonita Britto, Ms. Ruth Thomas and Mr. Sumith Unni efficiently dealt on Child Bonded Labour in all its aspects. After many input sessions, the participants met in groups for discussion in which each is assigned a particular question on Child Bonded Labour and how could AMRAT respond to this big challenge of the society.

The members in their respective regions presented the Annual Report of 2016-2017 and proposed the Action Plan for 2017-2018.

*Sr. Gemima Pohrmen*

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!"

Hamilton Wright Mabie



# ECHOES FROM THE HOUSES

★ BELLEFONTE

## Marian Month celebrated in the Novitiate

The theme “Let us go to Jesus through Mary” has guided the Marian Piety, study and research of the Novices during the entire month of October, which is dedicated to Mary. Novices were divided into six groups for their final presentation guided by Sr. Rosa Pyngrope, the Mistress of Novices.

The themes that were deepened during the month were: History of the Holy Rosary, Mary at the foot of the Cross, The Wedding at Cana, The Apparitions of Mary, The Annunciation and The Apparition at Fatima. On 31 October 2017, these were presented in a very creative way through skits, songs and poems. Each group came up with their best initiatives and creativity. During the learning process, the Novices have increased their knowledge and deepened their love for Mother Mary. Above all, the reflective, creative and inspiring work was an invitation to assume Mary’s lifestyle in living their Salesian vocation. Concluding the day’s presentation each of the four animation groups intoned hymns to Mary and the Novice Mistress gave a message. In her message, Sr. Rosa quoted St. John Paul II saying: “Learn, Look and Love Mary”. She further encouraged the Novices to reach the said goal not only through external presentation but also much more by imitating Mary’s virtues and to have a great devotion to her.

The presence of the two elderly Sisters of the community namely Sr. Lina Marak and Sr. Nerilla Mukhim for the group presentation



was an inspiration and encouragement for the Novices.

*Srs. Crecencia Sangma & Wankyrkhu Biam  
(Novices)*

## Mission month - “Mission at the heart of Christian faith”

Apart from being the Marian month, October is also dedicated to the Missions. The month was meaningfully commemorated in the Novitiate by offering Prayers for the missionaries working in the Province and knowing more about them. Enthused with the missionary zeal the Novices too had their share in reminding oneself of this inevitable element of their Salesian vocation.

After much preparation and research, the Novices came up with “A Preaching Competition” with the theme “Holy Eucharist”. Each one was so thrilled and the day finally dawned on 30 October 2017



wherein each Novice articulated the much-researched work. This venture has helped the Novices to inculcate a spirit of self-dedication and zeal for the evangelizing mission. New insights were also gathered from the sharing of the individuals and greater love and fervour for the Holy Eucharist sunk deep inside their hearts. Some of them remarked that the experience has brought deep joy within them. The Novices acknowledged the guidance and support of the Novice Mistress, Sr. Rosa Pyngrope and their Assistants for helping them to become effective messengers of the Good News through their vibrancy of life and preaching.

***Srs. Yandalin Kharmuti & Marbel Pasi***  
(Novices)

## Celebration of FAMILY DAY 2017

A Family Day was celebrated on 29 October 2017 at Bellefonte community for the parents of the Sponsored Children, the poor and old people of the locality. This was to celebrate the year of the Family with the theme, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain”. Many families responded to the invitation and more than hundred participated in the same.

The day began with a talk given by Sr. Igina Kharjana from Nongthymmai Community. She highlighted on “The Love of the Family”. Through the video clip on

the life of St. Rita, who was a pious mother and also a consecrated Religious, Sr. Igina brought home the message to all present. After the morning session lunch was served for everyone.

In the afternoon, there was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Ioannis War Pakma SDB, Parish Priest of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Pynthorumkhrah. In his homily, he reminded the gathering to love God and make Him the priority in life rather than focusing on anything that is material. Soon after the Holy Mass, the Novices and the Students who stay in Bellefonte performed few meaningful items. One of the items underlined the effects of the devotion to Mary, which exhorted all present the importance of praying together as a family. On this day, Sr. Carmelina Sun, the Animator gave away prizes to those sponsored children who passed well in the SSLC and HSSLC Examinations 2017 while, rice was distributed to all the old people who have come for the get-together.

***Sr. Eudashisha Sohshang***  
(Novice)

“God seeks to influence humanity. This is at the heart of the Christmas story. It is the story of light coming into the darkness, of a Saviour to show us the way, of light overcoming the darkness, of God's work to save the world.”

Adam Hamilton



## Celebration of the First World Day of the Poor

Uniting with the whole universal church and heeding to the invitation of the Holy Father Pope Francis, on 19 November 2017 our community celebrated the 'First World Day of the Poor' with the theme 'LOVE NOT ONLY WITH WORDS BUT WITH DEEDS'. The poor people of our locality were invited for this programme.

The program started at 2.00pm in which the poor and aged people whom the community had invited came. At the outset Sr. Carmelina Sun, animator of the community delivered a welcome speech followed by the welcome song sung by the Novices. After which Sr. Christina Kharkongor gave a talk. In her talk she explained to them about the meaning and aim of the day which was dedicated to them and which was introduced by Pope Francis. She told them that though they are poor they are not neglected. The Holy Father and the whole Catholic Church are thinking of them and are taking different initiatives to help them. She invited them to pray for all the poor and marginalized of our country. Soon



after that Sr. Agatha Shadap animated them with the power point presentation, showing them that though they are poor but there are many people in different parts of the world who are poorer than them, who even have to beg in order to support themselves and their families. When the animation programme was over, we had the distribution of a bundle of clothes, a blanket to each of them and 5kgs of rice to each family. They were very happy to receive those parcels and they expressed their gratitude to all the sisters for helping them and for foreseeing their needs. Our hearts too were overjoyed to be able to bring a smile on the faces of each one of them. At the end of the day everyone both big and small went home happily.

*Sr. Theresia Kongwang (Novice)*

### ★ GAROBADHA

## Diocesan Seminar for Touring Sisters

A seminar on Catechetical ministry was organized by the Diocese of Tura at Bishop's House, Tura on 25 – 29 September 2017. Forty-three (43) Sisters from different congregations took part in the ninth On-going formation for Sisters in the Touring Ministry. Fr. Augustine Graviour, Vice Rector of Oriens Theological College, Shillong animated the group.



The excellent sessions of Fr. Graviour have been divided into an interesting four pillars of the church in a symbolic way in the form of a house: 1<sup>st</sup> pillar is the Word of God – written and handed down; 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar is the creed - the pillar is built with twelve stones which refers to the twelve articles in the Creed; 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar, Sacraments this pillar is made up of seven articles; 4<sup>th</sup> pillar Christian prayer – since He has taught me and saved me I will deepen my faith through prayer. The Seminar has no doubt brought a high level of motivation, enthusiasm and missionary spirit to all the participants.

*Sr. Embahlang Dhar*

## Exhibition on the Apparitions of Blessed Virgin Mary

**D**uring the All Garo Hills Catholic Union Meet that was held at St. Dominic Savio's Parish Garobadha an exhibition of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary was showcased. 43 Parishes participated in the Meet under the guidance and patronage of Rt. Rev. Andrew R. Marak, Bishop of Tura Diocese. The theme of the celebration was, "May it be done to me according to your word".

The host Parish under the leadership of Fr. Mathias Marak SDB the Assistant Parish Priest cum Principal highlighted the theme of the celebration by showcasing the six apparitions of Our Blessed Virgin in Portugal. These apparitions took place on every 13<sup>th</sup> of the month in 1917 starting from the month of May to October. Through their thorough explanation, video clips and exhibits the hostel boys won the hearts of many both big and small. The Sisters too took wholehearted participation in the preparation and celebration of the event.

*Sr. Lepchi M. Sangma*

★ JOWAI

## Together in Prayer

**T**he quarterly Regional Recollection for the FMA of Jaiñtia Hills was held at St. Mary Mazzarello Convent Jowai on 23 September 2017. Twenty-three Sisters representing the four communities of Jaiñtia Hills participated for this recollection. Fr. Wilfred Kharपुरi SJ from Jalaphet Parish facilitated the Day of Prayer and Reflection.

The day started with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer for a





Happy Death, personal adoration, talk and reflection by Fr. Wilfred, during which he stressed on the need and the priority we ought to give for the cultivation of our prayer life and constant union with God to ensure the success of the mission. This was followed by confession and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. During the family meal Sr. Marylang Suchiang thanked father and the community on behalf of the Sisters who then departed to the different communities.

## THANK YOU we say!

Gratitude Day was celebrated on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September for the students of classes Nursery/Arit - Class II under the guidance of Sr. Dakyrmen Sohkhet, Sr. Elfrida Khardewsaw and the Teachers to express their gratitude for the gift of everyone in the school - the Sisters, Teachers and especially Sr. Rosina Susngi, the Animator. A Class II girl read a short address and followed by presentation of gifts and performance of action songs. Sr. Rosina gave a short message to the little ones on the need to be grateful to God first of all and then to their parents and the school. She exhorted them to learn and

form the habit of saying "Please, Sorry and Thank You", the programme ended with the distribution of sweets for everyone.

The second day of the celebration of the gratitude day for all the students from Classes III – XII was observed on 27 September under the direction of Sr. Albrida Pyngrope, the Principal. The programme started with the presentation of bouquet followed by the reading of the address by Arilam Kyndiah of Class X. Gifts generously brought by all the students, [for distributing and sharing with others] were then presented. Beautiful items were performed by the different sections of the school under the guidance of the teachers, which was a feast to the eyes and conveyed their expression of love and gratitude to the authority of the school. Sr. Rosina Susngi gave a beautiful and inspiring message on the theme of gratitude. She also expressed her joy to be with the teachers and students on this day. Sr. Albrida, delivered the vote of thanks to all for the hardwork each teacher and student had put in for the success of the programme in collaboration with all the Sisters. The programme concluded with the singing of the school anthem by all. Sweets were distributed to all the students while the teachers were invited for a festive lunch.







## Together in the Family we celebrate...

**T**he Community feast was celebrated with the theme "Make our home - a family of love and life" on 28 September 2017. The celebration started with a very solemn and meaningful vigil service on 27 September. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was celebrated by Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh DD, who offered the Holy sacrifice for the good of the community and especially for the good health of Sr. Rosina Susngi, Animator.

The melodious voices of our girls under the guidance of Sr. Madonna Lytep and Sr. Dakyrmen Sohkhet added to the solemnity of the day. Soon after the Holy Mass everyone gathered together in front of the house and exchanged greetings coupled with the melodious festal song of the Boarders. At 12.00 noon Sr. Rosina Susngi inaugurated the exhibition which was beautifully arranged by the different groups consisting of various items for sharing with the less fortunate people. Soon after followed the sharing of the family meal, which was lovingly prepared by the Sisters, Girls and Co-workers.

Apart from the Prayer animation, an evening get-together was organized at

the Boarders' Study Hall. The programme began with the presentation of the bouquet and the address was read out voicing out the sentiments of gratitude to Sr. Rosina the animator and the Sisters followed by presentation of gifts. The boarders, Sisters and co-workers performed beautiful and meaningful items of skits, songs and dances to express their love and gratitude for the gift of this beautiful community. At the end of the programme Sr. Rosina gave us a message and thanked the whole community for the beautiful way the feast was celebrated after which, sweets were distributed to all.

## Annual Spiritual Retreat for Boarders

**T**he boarders began their annual retreat in the evening of 29 September 2017. The seriousness with which they took this spiritual exercise not only edified but also took the Sisters by surprise. Fr. Leborki Dhar Sdb from Savio Juniorate, Mawlai was the animator and he led the girls to their encounter with Jesus in the silence of their hearts, minds and surroundings. The students took an active part in the different sessions and prayer moments. The Community was



## Prayer for Peace

In response to the call of the Pontiff Pope Francis, the community joined the Universal Church to pray the Rosary for Peace on 20 October 2017. At 9 am the time fixed for us in India, all the girls and Sisters who were not on duty elsewhere gathered together in the boarding playground. Sr. Madona Lytep animated the service with the statue of Our Blessed Lady being carried in procession through all the nook and corner of the Boarding cum campus as we joined in imploring God through the intercession of Our Mother for the much needed peace in the world. In the evening the whole Community joined in an hour of Eucharistic adoration asking the Lord to make the desire of Pope Francis for peace be realized in the world.

happy to note the interest of the girls and the fervour with which Fr. Leborki animated them. The retreat concluded on 1<sup>st</sup> October with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which took on a very solemn note, be it with the prayers as well as with the singing, after which they thanked and felicitated Fr. Leborki. As said earlier, the whole community was truly edified with the children's capacity for silence and recollection and it was a real lesson for us.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Betty Alma Ryan Memorial Elocution Contest

The final round of the 5<sup>th</sup> Betty Alma Ryan Memorial Elocution Contest took place on the 2 October 2017. Seven girls from each group [Salesian, Marian. Guardian Angels] were the finalists chosen after the first round. The boarders prepared themselves very well; the winners were duly felicitated and received a prize each. The Sisters were happy at the way the Boarders took interest in the competitions.



## Child Protection Committee (CPC) Meeting

The first meeting of the **Child Protection Committee (CPC)** of St. Mary Mazzarello Girls' Higher Secondary School was held on 7 November 2017 in the School Premises. Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, the CPC In-charge of the FMA Province Shillong animated the meeting.



Sr. Pyngrope Albrida, Sr. Lytep Madona, Sr. Khardewsaw Elfrida, 5 parents representatives, 6 teacher representatives and 9 student representatives, attended it. In a precise and crystal clear manner Sr. Gemima gave a clear concept on the purpose and gamut of CPC in our school. The deliberation and interaction, that followed has thrown lights and ideas on 15 most important points of the powers and function of the CPC. The Community is indebted to Sr. Gemima for her keen interest in the work assigned to her by the province and assures her of its fullest cooperation to see that the purpose of the CPC is achieved for the good of our students at large.

*Jowai Diary - Jottings*

of overcoming good over evil. The house was illuminated with candlelight and the statue of Mother Mary was well decorated, which helped everyone to enter into the spirit of prayer. The Laura Vicuna group enthusiastically took up the responsibility to animate the Holy Rosary. Everyone prayed devoutly and with much fervour, so also Marian hymns were lively sung, expressing one's filial love to Mary. It was indeed a memorable and prayerful moment. We prayed that Mary might continue to intercede for all of us so as to grow deeper in our faith and overcome the evil power of darkness.

**Teresa Shadap & Martha Pohplet**

## ★ KABUGANJ

### Honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary in October

**O**n 19 October 2017, the Sisters and boarding girls of Auxilium Convent, Kabuganj gathered together in the evening for the solemn animation of the Holy Rosary celebrating and honouring our Blessed Mother Mary, being the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

The day also coincided with the feast of Diwali, the festival of light, symbolic gesture

## ★ KAWNPUI

### Installation of the New Animator

**I**n the evening of 16 September 2017 the community of Auxilium Kawnpui witnessed the Installation of its 3<sup>rd</sup> Animator in the person of Sr. Irene Lalmuanpui by Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial. The theme that ran through the short but meaningful ceremony was on "Light".

The prayer moment helped the inmates of the community to appreciate light and make use of it in encountering persons, culture and the richness of the region.





Sr. Isabella presented to Sr. Irene a lighted lamp, which she then placed at the altar. Further, the Sisters were reminded that they are called by the Lord to be the light of His love, which would brighten the dreams of thousands of young people who aimlessly grope in the darkness. Sr. Evalynejoy Kympat animated the prayer service in a very meaning and prayerful way. The pleasant evening concluded with cake cutting and a family meal.

## Cultural Cum Children's Day Celebration

On 14 November 2017 at 11 in the morning all the staff and students of St. Thomas School Kawnpui gathered at Awithangpa hall campus for the great celebration of the Cultural cum Children's Day. Mr. Gaston Vanlalhriatpuia SDO was the chief guest of the day.

The day commenced with the welcome speech from Sr. Irene Lalmuanpui, headmistress which was followed by the



various items of the students from Classes KG I to VIII. They have showcased the Mizo Cultural richness in dances and songs coupled with the colourful attire. Apart from that they also presented a Nepali and Telugu song and dance. Fr. Mathew Arackel the Headmaster in his speech appreciated the culture of the Mizos and thanked God for the gift of the students in the school. He invited them to become leaders and builders of the society and state at large. The Chief Guest admired the discipline and talents of the students and exhorted them to do well in their academic studies too. Above all he said that they should always respect the different cultures while they develop their own. The parents and special invitees present on the occasion made the day beautiful and they too were full of awe at the spectacular performance of the students.

*Sr. Jenita Nongbri*

## ★ LAMYRSIANG

### 1<sup>st</sup> Saipung Block Inter-School Athletic Meet

On 11 – 12 October 2017 the students of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Lamysriang participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Saipung



Block Inter-School Athletic Meet at Latyrke Village Playground organized by the Office of the District Sports Officer East Jaiñtia Hills District Khliehriat. The two days were days of joy and contentment for our students and our two teachers who accompanied them Mrs. Krenita Bareh and Mrs. Emika War for they bagged the best team of under 17 Category, Best Athlete by Remeo War, 20 gold medals in various games, 15 Silver medals and 5 bronze medals. We congratulated them for they have rocked the playground and brought laurels to the School.

## Thanksgiving Day for Seniors



On 3 October 2017 the Class IX students under the supervision of their class teacher, Mrs. Nidahun Shadap and Sr. Jubil Mary Dkhar, headmistress organized a remarkable Thanksgiving Day for the gift of Class X friends who would take leave of the school very soon. Early in the morning they came to prepare the food in order to serve their seniors after the function. The program started with a welcome song sang by the Class IX students followed by various items prepared for this occasion and a gift was also presented to each of them as a sign of love and farewell for them.

## A day of togetherness

Over the beautiful hills that surround Lamysriang Village, the Class X students of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Lamysriang organized a day of togetherness on 4 October 2017. Sir Narayan Sharma their Mathematics teacher guided the students in a day of trekking and experiencing the Mountaineer's Spirit.

As they climbed the steep hills they had unique life-breath experiences on the slopes and fresh air of the hills. They had delightful moments and were filled with awe and wonder at the beautiful creation of God. For many of them it was a maiden walk, which would linger on in their minds and hearts even after they had gone to different destinies. The students expressed their gratitude to Sr. Jubil Dkhar, Headmistress who had given them the golden chance to be together.

## Awareness Program on Bank Products & Schemes

On 15 November 2017, The Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, organized an Awareness Program on Bank Products and Bank Schemes at Sacred Heart Secondary School Lamysriang from 10 in the morning to 12 noon. The resource persons for the day were Mr. George Biam, the Bank Manager and Mr. Alvin K. Fanion, Industrial Promotion Officer DC & IC, Khliehriat, East Jaiñtia Hills District. Many parents and students were present for the programme.

The resource persons made known to the gathering the various facilities that the Bank offer for the benefit of the general public. In a clear and concise way, they were able to spread the knowledge to all those present. Mr. Dominic Pala the headman of the Village,

Mr. Teibor Suja the Village Secretary and other dignitaries were also present and each one gave a message to the crowd gathered on this day on the importance of saving money in the Bank. The Sisters and Teachers too took the opportunity to address the parents and exhorted them to take full responsibility for the integral growth of their children. Thanks to Sr. Jubil Dkhar, Headmistress for the necessary arrangements made towards the success of the day.

*Sr. Rina Kharthangmaw*

## ★ MAWKYNDENG

### Oratory Day at Mawkyndeng Centre



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Oratory Day of Don Bosco Oratory Mawkyndeng run by the Sisters was held on 22 October 2017. There were about three hundred young boys and girls who came to be part of the programme under the leadership of Sr. Aitihun Mary Lawai with the cooperation of the laity including the Salesian Cooperators, the Women, the Men and Youth Associations.

At nine in the morning there was a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in which Fr. Gabriel Jalong was the main celebrant. The Church was full with children donning the Oratory scarf. The Oratorians were the protagonists of the day. They were involved in guiding the liturgy and singing. After Mass, tea and snacks were served to them followed by lively games. At 1:00pm

all took part in the fraternal meal and after which all joined the prayer group for Prayers and Worship. A short thanksgiving programme was organized where mutual love and gratitude was expressed to everyone. Sr. Patricia the animator was there to distribute prizes to all the winners of the various competitions conducted during the year and in her message she exhorted the children to be faithful to the Sunday Class and Oratory and wished them best of luck for their final examinations. Awards were also given to the five Oratorians who had performed well in the last board examinations. The day went on so smoothly and everyone was contented with the day's programme.

### Auxilium Saphai celebrates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parents Day

The Auxilium Secondary School Saphai had its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parents Day Celebration on 8 November 2017. Shri Robinus Syngkon the MLA of 4/Mowkaiaw Constituency was the Chief Guest of the celebration and Smt. Marsaline Pde, District School Education Officer (DSEO) of West Jaiñtia Hills District was the guest of honour. Shri Ohiwat Laloo the Scout and Guides officer and other dignitaries were also present on this red-letter day of the school.







The march-past contingents of the four houses opened up the show of the day. On this day the various classes with their colourful attire and splendid performance made a lasting effect on everyone present especially their parents who saw them grow each day. Gratitude towards the parents and the guests were enacted through different songs, dances and other performances. The Chief Guest of the day even remarked that the items performed were of the same quality with those of the city schools. In his speech he also encouraged the students to fare well in their studies and show utmost respect to their parents even if they are less educated than them. Smt. Marsaline Pde in her speech stressed on how to achieve their goals and have a positive mindset for their lives; always remaining obedient and hardworking as students. The School was also blessed with

three new classrooms, which was received through the MLA Scheme (under Border Area Development) West Jaiñtia Hills District. The inauguration of these classrooms would surely be a great help to the students and sincere gratitude was expressed to the MLA who was the Chief Guest of the day. Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, the Headmistress of the School at the end of the function proposed the Vote of thanks and at the same time presented before the authority for the need of recognition of the School, which had duly been granted.

*Sr. Marylang Suchiang*

## ★ MAWLAI

### Annual Retreat of the Boarders and Pre Aspirants

The Annual Retreat of the Boarders and Pre Aspirants was held from 29 September – 1 October 2017. The days were set apart for them in order to be connected with God and draw many values from their prayer and reflection.

The retreat began in the evening of 29 September with an introductory talk by Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem, the animator and followed by the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament animated by Sr. Aquila Makri. The second day was dedicated to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which they were well prepared through a talk from Fr. Gilbert Bhoi on 'Tips to make a Good Confession' and twelve Priests administered the Sacrament to them. Another topic that was dealt with was on "Self-esteem" and the day concluded with a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Finally on the last day, the topics shared and reflected were on "Transfiguration" and "Call to Holiness". The days of close encounter with the Lord concluded with the Holy Eucharistic celebration wherein everyone experienced deep joy and satisfaction having spent ample time in prayer and meditation.

*Medaaihun Bamon  
Class XI (Boarder)*





## Parents Day celebration: 'Parents' God's precious gift'

The 27 October 2017 marked another joyful event at Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School Mawlai namely the Parents' Day. The day dawned with a bright sunshine, which boosted up the spirits and hope of everyone in the school considering the not very good weather in the previous days. With the decorations put up to focus on the theme, 'Parents God's precious gift', the school compound looked very festive and inviting.

The sight of the students in their colourful dresses in different cut and style was worth watching. The programme started as scheduled when the Guest of Honour and Chief Guest arrived amidst the smiling gathering of more than two thousand parents spectators. At the outset, Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem, the Secretary of the Managing Committee and animator of the house gave a welcome speech, accompanied by the welcome song from the Class XI students. As we strongly believe in the words of Mary Mazzarello, 'Prayer is the most powerful weapon that can fight all evils', we were introduced to different items with a prayer service followed by a prayer dance to invoke God's blessings upon each one present.

The items followed one after the other systematically without any wastage of time. All items right from the 'Nothing can take your

place' performed by the tiny tots of Nursery up to the 'Ummat Ksiar' (A Khasi legendary dance) performed by the Classes XI and XII, were spectacular pieces of art, which brought big smiles on the parents' lips and happiness in their hearts. The Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest both acknowledged the hard work and sacrifices of the missionaries in their speeches. They lauded the wisdom and vision of the missionaries who had foreseen the needs of the thousands of children of the locality. Our school can now stand with its head held high as the results of the school became better from year to year, be it academically or spiritually. The Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest both urged the parents and the students to co-operate with the school management so that children would grow up to be someone great in life. In her short message, Prettynis Hadia, the 7<sup>th</sup> Rank holder in the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination 2017 said that, it's not the school that matters in education, but the motivation and encouragement present in the school matters a lot. She thanked the Sisters and teachers for what she has achieved. Sr. Lydia Mary Pala, the Principal of the School who is also the brain behind the success of the Parents' Day, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The programme ended with the enthusiastic singing of the School Anthem 'Rise up Sacred Heart Girls'.

*Mrs. Amabilis Susngi (Teacher)*



## Auxilium Lum Jingshai bags First Prize in Khasi Folk Dance

The students of Auxilium Lum Jingshai, Mawroh bagged the first prize at the state level Cultural Khasi Folk Dance Competition organized by the Government of Meghalaya Department of Arts and Culture at the State Central Library Premises, Shillong from 16- 18 October 2017.

Having excelled at the Block and District levels the students of Auxilium Mawroh represented the West Khasi Hills District for the Folk Dance. Along with the other Schools from the District they were accompanied by Shri Josephas from the Arts and Culture Department, West Khasi Hills. During their stay in Shillong they were accommodated at Pastoral Centre, Shillong. They performed the dance on 16 October and the result was announced on 18 October. Though being small that is below the age of 14 yet their splendid performance earned them the coveted first prize. The success was one of the historic events to be noted in the chronicles of the school and would always be a boost to exhibit the inborn gifts and talents of the students.



## Silver Jubilee Celebration of Religious Profession

On 28 October 2017 the community celebrated the Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr. Cecilia Ksoo, Animator. It was a celebration prepared with much love by all the members of the community, the Staff, co-workers and by all the faithful of Mawroh village.

The Solemn Eucharistic sacrifice was presided over by Fr. Wilbert Marweñ, Vicar General of Nongstoin diocese and concelebrated by seven priests. At the entrance procession the Jubilarian brought a lighted candle to the altar, which was a reminder of the light of Christ, received at Baptism. In his homily Fr. Wilbert shared his reflection on the "Call" relating with the feast of the day - Saints Simon and Jude the Apostles and with the motto of Sr. Cecilia "You did not choose me but I have chosen you" Jn. 16:16. He congratulated Sr. Cecilia for her dedicated service and generous response to God these past 25 years and prayed that she continue to be His worthy instrument of His love among the people whom she lives and encounters in her life. As a mark of felicitation Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoottil, Provincial Councillor donned a silver crown







on Sr. Cecilia for the 25 years of service in God's vineyard as an FMA. Later the Jubilarian expressed her gratitude to God for the wonders He continually works in her life and thanked the Benefactors and well wishers for the help and support rendered which made the day's celebration a grand success.

The celebration was made grander with the reception of the First Holy Communion of 15 children and the two girls who received Baptism. Soon after Mass all the participants were served with good and delicious food prepared by the community as a sharing of love on this memorable day.

*Sr. Christilin Marngar &  
Sr. Bisilda lawphniaw*

## ★ NANDAN NAGAR

### Sixth Edition of Auxi-Ignite:

### The More, the Better...

Auxilium Girls' School (AGS) Agartala ventured into a new milestone as it celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition-Auxi Ignite on 23 September 2017. The Chief Guest of the day was Brigadier Navin Sachdeva from the Assam Rifle and Shri Abhijit Samajpati Inspector of School as the Guest of honour.

A small inaugural ceremony marked the onset of the day. Auxi-Ignite is a platform

for every Auxilian to show one's worth, talent, and creativity. This year we focused on 17 different departments and issues that contribute to the trinity of all human beings. The budding scientists, mathematicians, laureates were well prepared with their models, thus enveloping the school with a learning environment for everyone. Ripples of joy, and happiness ran down through the visitors as they stepped into a world of creativity and excellence. Stalls with light refreshments at subsiding rates also attracted the visitors. Auxi-Ignite 2017 was altogether a fountain of fun, folio, hard work, creativity, learning and success. The classrooms of AGS were brimming with excellent and crafty models and designed by the youthful, elegant and dynamic Auxilians under the able guidance and unending support of their Sisters and teachers. Another exciting moment for every Auxilian was the release of Auxilians 2017 our annual school magazine where we cherish and walk through the





memories of the past year. Further, the launching of the upgraded school website has added vibes of bliss to the day. The Chief Guest expressed his gratitude for inviting him to this Annual school Exhibition where he witnessed the creativity of both students and teachers and he also admired the discipline that he witnessed in every Auxilian.

*Romita Roy (Class XI C)*

## Debaters today, Leaders Tomorrow...

The first ever Inter-School debate competition was held on 04 November 2017 in the school auditorium. Don Bosco, Holy Cross, Ram Krishna Mission, Ravisankar, Bharatiya Bhadya Bhavan, St. Andre, Sishu Bihar School of Agartala came forward to take part in 'War of Words' debate competition with the Topic

**"Corruption is a necessary evil".** The Chief Guest and the speaker of the competition was Smt. Dipannita Chakraborty, Principal, BBMC College, Agartala. The esteemed judges were: Smt. Sarbani Nath, Associate prof. Dept. of English, Women's College, Mr. Nibir Sen, Head Master, MTB Girls' School and Dr. Surajit Sengupta, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology, MBB College.

The programme started with a prayer moment, everyone invoked God with the prayer song 'Asa to Maa'. The Choir group of Auxilium School welcomed all with their musical bonanza. Gunjan Behwal of class XII then felicitated the eminent speaker, Judges and respectable teachers from different schools, and their presence was acknowledged. The anchors then requested Sr. Celine, Principal to deliver a short message.

The participants in favour of the motion and against the motion were called on the stage. The Speaker read out the norms and Kritodhee Lahiri, representing Auxilium Girls' School started in favour of the motion. All the students, representing different schools put forward their valid, logical point of view for and against the motion. After the first round, candidates were chosen for the final rebuttal round. Finally, the most awaited moment arrived; the judges declared the results after striving long to choose the winner out of the best candidates. The first prize for the motion went to Kritodhee Lahiri, Auxilium Girls' School and the second prize to Vishal



Vania from Bharatia Vidhya Bhavan School. The first prize against the motion went to Janeet from Don Bosco School and Romita Roy of Auxilium School won the second prize. The best speaker award was credited to Janeet from Don Bosco School. All the participants received a certificate of participation. The winners were awarded a trophy along with certificates. The programme ended with a vote of thanks from Fancy Chakma, Head Girl. Thanks to Sr. Celine, Sisters and teachers for supporting all of us to organize the first inter school Debate competition in our school.

*Ms. Ankita Sengupta*

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Day for Pre-Primary Section

10 November 2017 was a special and memorable day for the Pre primary students of Auxilium Girls' School Agartala where they celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Day or the Parents' Day. Mrs. Nabamita Dey, Principal of International School of Agartala was the Chief Guest, Mr. Jayanta Debnath and Mrs. Madhumita Debnath as the Guests of honour and some representatives from the parents as special invitees for this great day of the little ones.



A prayer dance opened the day's celebration invoking the blessing of God the Almighty especially on all the parents who had come and witness the performance of their children. Words of welcome from Sr. Celine, the lighting of the lamp and the felicitation of the chief guest, the guest of honor and the special invitees followed suit. The great joy of the students was to showcase their gifts and talents on the stage. The Hajagiri dance was very much appreciated by the parents when they saw the small ones confidently climbing on the pot. The last item that was displayed by the KG II students entitled "No one can take the place of a Mother" captured the hearts of everyone present there because we all know that Mothers are very precious like gold. Every item was performed to its perfection by the students and the anchoring students did really exhibit their confidence in hosting the show.

The esteemed guests had a high appreciation towards the Principal, the sisters and teachers and the way the school functions.

## Annual Day for Primary Section: Let your Light Shine!

The 11 November was yet another day when the students of Classes I-III celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Day with the theme "Let your light Shine". On this day Shri V.G. Jenner was the Chief Guest, Mrs. Elizabeth Toby as the Guest of Honour and some parents representatives as special invitees.

The programme began with a welcome and prayer dance invoking the blessing of God on all present. Then Sr. Celine welcomed all the parents in the name of every Auxilian. This was followed by the different items like





Tribal - Unity in Diversity, Gujarat, Empower Girl Child, Dignity of Labour etc. as to convey a message to all those who witness the performance.

The Chief Guest Shri V. G. Jenner was extremely happy to be part of the celebration and to visit the school. He appreciated the contribution made by the school towards the education of girls in the state of Tripura and he was greatly taken up by the performance of the children. Mrs. Elizabeth Toby, Guest of honour who is the mother of our two students Natanya and Wynnona was extremely happy for inviting her to be the Guest of honor. As a parent she appreciated the all round development given by the Sisters and teachers in the school. Parents were spell bound to see the little ones anchoring the whole show and the participation of each student in the program. The whole celebration ended with a sense of great joy and achievement as we concluded the day with the National Anthem paying our respect to our Motherland India.

*Sr. Margreth Kharmuti*



## Auxilians' Mega Show at the Annual Day

With an eager heart full of joyous excitements, the Auxilians ushered in their 15th annual day on 18 November 2017 with a gala event of mesmerizing performances and enthralling items. Mr. Jitendra Choudhary, Member of Parliament, was the Chief Guest and Rt. Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala and Swami Hitakamanandi, Rama Krishna School were the Guests of Honour at the function.

Auxilium has always lived by its values and the School Annual Function is the platform where the students not only showcase their talents but also reflect the values learnt in this holy place. At the outset, the Principal Sr. Celine D' Cunha gave a brief explanation of why Auxilium has chosen the theme 'Let Your Light Shine'. The Chief Guest, Mr. Jitendra Choudhary also shared his valuable opinion with this regard. The prayer dance in all its glory illuminated the surroundings with its graceful light invoking the blessings of the Almighty. Other items performed with spectacular enthusiasm and energy followed in an array: 'Unity in diversity', 'Glimpse of Tripura', 'Care of Creation', 'Girl Squad', 'Urban Hip- Hop', 'Swaach Bharat- a step towards clean India', 'Save Girl Child', 'The Beacon', 'Beats of Modernity' etc ... It is noteworthy to mention that a harmonious presentation of an instrumental piece by

the school choir has witnessed the audience being swayed away with the graceful and melodious instrumental as the choir coaxed out the sweet melodies from their various instruments and filled the air with their soft and soothing tones. Every item was excellently performed to the satisfaction of both performers and audience. It not only was a feast to the eyes but laden with inspiring messages for lifelong enrichment. The ceremonial vote of thanks conducted by the anchors expressing their gratitude to each and every one was like an icing on the cake. Finally, the theme of the annual day "Let your light shine" was enacted in the theme presentation as they performed their beautiful dance drama showering light of goodness on everyone and inspiring all to do the same. All present have truly witnessed a memorable event in the history of Auxilium and went back home much relaxed and satisfied.

*Akangsha Roy Choudhury (Class X)*

## Inauguration of the Lift in the School

24 November 2017 was a remarkable day for everyone at AGS being the blessing of the Lift in the school. As per CBSE rule and recommendation that all affiliated school



should access either Lift or Ramp for safety measure as well as to make the differently abled students' learning system easy.

This dream and essential need was realized in Auxilium Girls' School on the day dedicated to Mother Mary and the birthday of the Province. We acknowledged God's blessings in the safe completion of the work under His divine providence, supervision and protection along with the help of so many people during these past months. It has been the long awaited dream of the community under the leadership of Sr. Celine D' Cunha, Animator and Principal who worked very hard from the start. We thanked Fr. Sunny Joseph SDB, for invoking God's blessings and protection upon all those who would go by it in the generations to come.

The following day, soon after the morning assembly, the Sisters, Teachers, Students and the three engineers from the company gathered around the lift for the solemn inauguration by Sr. Celine D' Cunha. Thanks to Sr. Celine for the keen interest she takes in all the developmental work of the school.

*Sr. Rihun Sten*

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

Agnes M. Pharo



## ★ NONGTHYMMAI

### School Diamond Jubilee Inaugurated

On 22 September 2017 a historic day in the annals of Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School, the Management, Staff and Students were happy and proud to unfurl the Jubilee flag, inaugurating its Diamond Jubilee Year. The Chief Guest for the celebration was Dr. Jemino Mawthoh, the local MLA.

The campus was donned with festive air and the joy of everyone was infectious. Sisters, friends and well-wishers were part of the celebration. Added to the colourful cultural items was the felicitation of the rank holders in the SSLC Examination 2017. Mr. Jemino surprised the excelling students and the gathering by presenting Lakyntiew Tang and Mebarika Pyngrope, the rank holders with a laptop each. It was an unexpected gift, which was also a motivational factor for the Auxilians to follow the example of their seniors. This has become a memorable event as the School marks the opening of its jubilee year. Auxilium School was established in 1958 and it has completed the Silver and Golden mileage alongside numerous feats and concerns recorded in the pages of its history. Thus, '*The Journey Continues...*' is a

well-chosen theme for the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee in 2018.

*Sr. Theresa Phawa*

### Rank Holder felicitated by We Care Foundation

On 23 September 2017, the We Care Foundation, a Trust spearheaded by doctors with a social commitment felicitated Balakynthiew Tang, a topper from the school in the SSLC Examination 2017 along with the toppers from other schools at Pine Wood Hotel, Shillong. The Trust, organized this event to encourage the students coming from financially struggling families to continue pursuing their studies with grit and determination.

The meritorious students received a cash award of ₹ 10000/- each and a certificate and to the school a Memento of acknowledgment. Sr. Joplin Suchiang, Principal of Auxilium Girls' Hr. Sec. School, Mrs. Celine Donald, a teacher and seven students witnessed the event on invitation. Present on the occasion were the Chief justice of High Court as the Chief Guest, Padmashree Patricia Mukhim, Editor, The Shillong Times as Guest of Honour and Director of MBOSE as special guest along with other dignitaries.

*Sr. Joplin Suchiang*







## A Visit to the Don Bosco Museum, Mawlai

22 September 2017 was a memorable day, which opened our minds to the past history of the Northeastern States as we were offered a chance to visit the Don Bosco Museum or Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures (DBCIC). It was indeed a great joy for the Postulants and Aspirants to behold the Northeast in one roof at the invitation of the Director of Don Bosco Museum, Fr. Churuliyl Manoj SDB.

The Don Bosco Museum Bus from Mawlai fetched us all from Auxilium Saiden at 8.30 in the morning and we were thrilled with excitement to reach the place. This visit was one of the unique experiences for all of us. We had been enriched with the knowledge of our traditional lifestyle in the ancient days, the different tribes and cultures, the traditional dresses, dances and the natural handmade tools used for the daily work in people's lives and our ancestors. It gave us the brief history of its monuments, the caves, the different ranges and waterfalls and the ancient places. It also underlined

the ministry of the Salesians particularly in the field of Education. It has broadened our general knowledge about the Northeastern States and has made each one of us to be more responsible in keeping alive the rich traditions and heritage of the land. Thanks to Fr. Manoj for his kind invitation and we appreciate the staff members who were always present around us during the tour.

*Sngewhunlang Nongtdu (Postulant)*

## 25 Young Women received the Postulants' Medal



On 11 October 2017 Auxilium Training Centre Saiden was enveloped with special joy and thanksgiving to behold the 25 young women receiving the Postulants' medal from the hands of Sr. Runita Galve Borja, the General Councilor for Youth Ministry.

Sr. Phyllis Bamon, Animator welcomed everyone present and invited all to pray for the young and enthusiastic Postulants. The prayer service for the reception of Postulants' Medal took the center stage when the 25 lined up and approached the assigned seats for the meaningful ceremony. The three-point striking message (*remain united with God, to grow with the nurturing of the Father and to bear much fruit*) of Sr. Runita to the

candidates based on the theme chosen, “I am the Vine and you are the branches” made a deep impact on each of the Postulant in particular. After the message, the Postulants dynamically renewed their generous response to God’s call on their first step to religious life and were donned a medal which bear the picture of Mary Help of Christians on one side and Don Bosco on the other side. Soon after the service the Aspirants congratulating the new Postulants for their first courageous “yes’ to the Lord staged a short felicitation programme. The day concluded with a short thanksgiving programme of the new Postulants followed with the family refreshment.

Prior to the grand celebration, the one-month preparation on the theme along with its four-week practice had really boosted up our spirit to take another step in our vocational journey. The presence of Sr. Isabella Suja, the Provincial and the Sisters from the different communities of the Province added grandeur to the day and encouraged us to go ahead in our journey without fear.

*Darisuk Shabong (Postulant)*



## First World Day of the Poor Celebrated

On 19 November 2017, united in the celebration of the World Day of the Poor as proposed by the Holy Father Pope Francis, our community took an initiative in our own little way we could in order to reach out to the poor. First of all the message of the Holy Father was read to the Sisters and then to the candidates. Some concrete actions were proposed to be done from the contribution of the Sisters and Candidates. We were able to share with the poor what we can give especially to our own co-workers who are our close collaborators. Furthermore, to mark this event more meaningful and memorable, the candidates exhibited the painting competition in groups on the theme: “*Let us love, not with words but with deeds*”, and in the evening after dinner, the presentation of the skit in-group was staged by them. They do express the joy in celebrating this event, for they say that it helped them, to be grateful to God for their gifts and talents, and above all, to be generous in giving, not only their material goods but their time in helping those who are in need.



## My Impression on the Salesian Co-operators

I count myself lucky to participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet of the Salesian Co-operators at Garobadha in Garo Hills on 24 September 2017. It was for the first time that I witnessed the beautiful function of the Salesian Co-operators. Our Sisters used to tell us about Don Bosco and how he founded the congregations of the SDB and FMA and the Salesian Co-operators. I thought to myself that the Salesian co-operators might be a small association but to my surprise it is a mighty association or congregation of lay people. From Fr. Januarius S. Sangma, Vice Provincial of Guwahati, I came to know more about this family of Don Bosco. During the homily he told us that the Salesian Co-operators are lay missionaries who reach out to others through their missionary works. How I wish my parents to be one among them! After the Holy Mass we had the cultural programs presented by the co-operators from the different regions of the Shillong Province. We the Auxilium girls from Tura had the opportunity to perform our dance title "Nothing is impossible". We thanked God and all our Sisters who took us to Garobadha for the Annual Meet.

*Nevia A. Sangma (Class VII)*



## The Magnificent Shrine is open to all...

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 marked one of the most important events in the history of the Catholic Church in Garo Hills. In the presence of 7 Bishops of the Northeastern Region, many priests, religious and thousands of faithful Most. Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati inaugurated the Sacred Heart Shrine. After the inauguration all the faithful proceeded to the beautiful Shrine, which could accommodate more than 5000 (five thousand) people. The Shrine was packed to the maximum and people flocked to the Shrine even after the Holy Mass. We feel very privilege because we are part of the Parish and our community gets the chance to animate the English Mass on Sundays. On the 12 November 2017 a Thanksgiving Day was kept wherein Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi and CBCI General Secretary was the main celebrant. On this occasion the Borders presented a dance entitled, "Give thanks to the Lord". We appreciate Fr. Theodore T. Sangma Parish Priest and all his collaborators for their hard work, which left no stone unturned for the completion of the Sacred Heart Shrine.

*Aidora N. Sangma (Class IX)  
& Chanime R. Marak (Class VIII)*





## Tolling the Silver Bells....

Silver bells are ringing in our ears; Auxilium Secondary School Tura would soon be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the school next year. Therefore, on 24 October 2017, Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial declared the Jubilee Year open.

In the presence of our animator Sr. Elizabeth Vazhakalayil, Sr. Lucy Marak, Animator of Margaret Bosco Girls Hostel Tura, Sr. Sonitha R. Marak Principal, Sisters, parent representatives, Secretary of the Alotgre village, teachers and students, she hoisted the jubilee flag with the motto "A spark igniting mind". Soon after, the students from the different classes under the guidance of the Sisters and teachers performed their short cultural programme and felicitated Mother Provincial. Sr. Sonitha Marak expressed gratitude to all present and for all who made the day a grand success.

*Bambina D. Sangma (Class IX)*

## Celebrating the 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Sr. Liliana

On the feast of all the Saints, we also had the joy to celebrate the 89<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sr. Liliana K. Marak our Ambi (grandmother). Her birthday is always a special occasion for us because she is the pioneer of our house,

the founder of the Salesian Co-operators Garobadha Unit, and the first FMA among the Garos.

Rev. Fr. Charles Lakra SDB, Vice principal of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School Tura celebrated the Holy Mass in the evening. During his homily Fr. Charles said that Joy comes when we spent our life for others and he also added "Life spent for God is not a waste". This is very true with Sr. Liliana who lives her whole life for God and for others. During the course of the day the Sisters recalled all her work in the different mission by showing to us her old photographs taken from the album of the house and her old diary. She was extremely happy with the presence of 20 Salesian Co-operators from Garobadha Unit who came to participate in the Holy Mass. The whole community was thankful to Fr. Charles, our sisters from the two communities of Garobadha and Margaret Bosco and Fr. Albert Thyрниang SDB Rector and Principal of Don Bosco who joined us for this joyful day.

*Ronisha M. Sangma (Class IX)*

## Blessed to be in the presence of the Rector Major

Auxilium Convent, Tura was fortunate to be selected as the choir for the great event of the commemoration of the 95 glorious



years of the presence of the Salesians in North East India at Damra on 11 November 2017. This event was blessed by the presence of the Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Arttime SDB, 10<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco.

Early on the 10 November, four Sisters and 46 girls travelled to Damra to take part in the great event. The climax of the day came when on the 11 November the Rector Major arrived at Don Bosco Damra amidst cheerful voices of the young people and others welcoming him with drums and dances. The smiling face of the Rector Major captured the entire crowd. The Holy Mass began at 10 in the morning with Rector Major as the main celebrant and many other priests who concelebrated with him. His words that captured our hearts were, "Never forget that we have received so much from our missionaries – let our faith grow and be rooted in Christ". Soon after the Holy Mass we pushed ourselves forward to shake hand with him and to take a snap with this 10<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco. Thanks to Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB, Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province who made it possible for us to be part of the event.

*Simbera M. Sangma (CL. IX)*

## ★ UMDANG

### Boarders' Day celebrated

22 September 2017 brought with it the wind of joy and celebration as the Sisters of Auxilium Convent Umdang, wished the boarders a very happy feast day in a grand and unique way. The joyful celebration began at 6.30 am with the solemn Holy Mass. At the beginning of the Mass the boarders with flowers in their hands walked in procession to the altar as a sign of growth and sweetness in their lives.

The main celebrant Fr. Gaspar Wahlang, Parish Priest in his introductory talk thanked and appreciated the girls for they have improved a lot in all round especially in sharing the Word of God daily during Mass. He then exhorted them to continue to do well and be different from other girls who do not have the opportunity to stay in the convent. The days' programme was further followed by yet another important and memorable event, the different competitions which started at 4.00pm. The big girls played the throw ball and the small girls played potato race. In the afternoon too Sr. Josephine organized a throw ball and volley ball in the school. But the most exciting moment was the dancing and singing competition that was held in the evening after the Holy Rosary, which was prayerfully, and beautiful animated by the Sisters. It was so good and



encouraging to see all of them big and small, actively participating in the competition with full enthusiasm. Prizes were distributed to the winners at the end of the programme. It was then followed by a fraternal meal altogether.

*Sr. Angeline Thongni*

## Parents Day celebration at Auxilium Convent Umdang



The long-awaited day dawned for the celebration of the Boarders' Parents Day on the 30 September 2017 at Auxilium Convent Umdang. Almost all the parents turned up, in spite of heavy rain and a long walking distance from the different villages to the convent.

The parents were led to the beautifully and artistically decorated hall prepared by the boarders under the direction of Sr. Angeline Thongni the Head Assistant. Though there was no proper hall but with their hard work and creativity the study Hall became a lovely auditorium. The boarders welcomed their parents with a melodious song, which was followed by the words of welcome from the Animator Sr. Marilyn Bahun Wahlang. She also expressed her joy in celebrating this occasion as one family and thanked them for the effort they make

to take part in the celebration, in spite of the heavy rain. The children depicted their sense of gratitude and appreciation for their parents through their dance, skit and comedy. They also presented a gift to their own parents made by their own hands. The parents were so delighted to see their children so active and creative. They were overjoyed that the rainy day turned to be a bright sunny atmosphere inside the hall with their smile and laughter.

A parent representative in the person of Mr. Elias Langrin gave a speech on behalf of the parents. He appreciated and thanked the Sisters for taking care of their children and urged the children to work hard so that they bear the fruit of success in their lives. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Sr. Maristella Jyrwa, the Vicar of the house followed by a meal prepared in the local way i.e lyngngam preparation by Mrs. Violet Thongni and her husband our parishioner from Nongmawlong village. After the meal a group photo was taken in common then followed by the Parents with their children.

*Sr. Virginia Wankhar*

## Youth Retreat in Umdang

The youth of the Parish organized a three-day Annual Spiritual Retreat at







Divine Mercy, Umdang Parish from the 6 – 8 October 2017. It was a great success and accomplishment indeed where about 200 Youth participated in the Retreat. Fr. James Anderson Syiemlieh was the main animator of the retreat. While, Sr. Josephine Ryngksai FMA the local youth coordinator and Sr. Maristella Jyrwa FMA were also fully involved in the Retreat and helped in the smooth running of the Retreat. The topics dealt during the Retreat were as follows: The need for Retreat, Prayer - a strong weapon in life as youth, peace, Aim in life, Forgiveness and Reconciliation. On Sunday after the Holy Eucharist, all the youth met together in the Hall for the Renewal of the Office bearers. The Retreat came to its conclusion with Benediction given by Fr. Gasper Wahlang, Parish Priest. After that everyone departed for his or her respective places.

*Sr. Josephine Ryngksai*

## Women's Retreat in Umdang

On the 13 – 15 October 2017 the Women of the Parish organized a three-day Annual Spiritual Retreat at Divine Mercy, Umdang Parish. The Retreat began solemnly with the hoisting of the flag by Fr. Gasper Wahlang the Parish Priest. It was indeed

a great joy and fulfillment where about 180 women participated in this Retreat. Rev. Fr. James Anderson Syiemlieh was the retreat preacher, with the theme love of God and love of neighbour. The three Ladies from Nongstoin Diocese, Mrs. Sensefully Dkhar, Mrs. Isilda Nongrum and Mrs. Rupa Marweih had come to share on the topics: Relationship of Women with the society, women with the association and women as the elements of peace. Sr. Maristella Jyrwa, the local women coordinator was also fully involved in the Retreat in animating prayers and helped for the smooth running of the Retreat. The Sunday Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. James the Assistant Parish Priest as the main celebrant and Fr. Gasper Wahlang concelebrated. The Mass was solemnized with the eleven new members who were introduced into the women association in the Parish. After lunch the flag was lowered down and Sr. Maristella Jyrwa declared the Retreat closed, which was followed by the Benediction ministered by Fr. Gasper Wahlang, Parish Priest. Soon after all departed for their respective destinations. We thank God, our Heavenly Father for all His manifold blessings bestowed upon the successful conclusion of the Women's Retreat.

*Sr. Maristella Jyrwa*

# Technology & Teenagers

It can often seem like teenagers are using technology and the internet for a large part of the day. And it's hard to know where the line falls between safe, rewarding use and overuse of technology. This page can help you to find out more about how your child uses technology, whether they are using it responsibly, and when there might be a problem with how they are spending their time online.

## How and why teenagers use technology

It sometimes seems like teenagers' lives revolve around their phones and technology. From the internet and social media, to phones, apps, games, television and other types of technology, it's easy to wonder whether it's all too much. Technology is increasingly becoming an essential part of our lives, and many young people – often referred to as 'digital natives' – haven't known it any other way.

Young people use the internet and social media to:

- connect with, comment on and discuss things with others, through social networking, emailing and online messaging
- find, create or share interesting photos, videos and articles
- join or follow interest groups
- play online games
- learn more about topics that interest them
- as a study tool for school.

## Potential benefits for teenagers

Young people love going online, for very good reason. By using the internet, they can:

- access information to inform and educate themselves
- maintain and develop supportive relationships
- form their identities (through self-expression, learning and talking)
- promote a sense of belonging and self-esteem through staying connected with friends and being involved in diverse communities.
- Research shows that the things that help young people have a positive experience online are:
  - having a good understanding of the internet and how online media work (including things like privacy settings)
  - having the skills to critically understand, analyse and create content that adds value for themselves and others.

If young people understand what it means to be a good 'digital citizen', you have every reason to trust them with managing their own internet use, just as you trust them to act responsibly when they're at school and out with friends.

## Potential risks for teenagers

Potential risks online are closely related to issues young people can experience at school, at home and in the community. It's important to remember that, just as teenagers need to have good boundaries and rules for offline behaviour, and the guidance and morals to make good decisions, they also need these things to protect them when online.

Some risks associated with being online are:

- Cyberbullying: This is when people use

technology to embarrass, harass or bully someone. Cyberbullying can include posting mean or untrue statements, making fake online profiles intended to embarrass people, sharing embarrassing photos, and more.

- **Trolling:** This is when people deliberately try to start arguments or to upset people on the internet, often causing considerable distress.
- **Isolation:** Too much time spent online and using technology is time not spent face-to-face with family and friends, which can create barriers and contribute to a sense of isolation.
- **Inappropriate material:** Teenagers posting inappropriate pictures or content online, or sharing such material with friends, may humiliate themselves or others.
- **Inappropriate relationships:** Strangers or others may try to form inappropriate relationships with young people.

Being aware of these risks is the first step in helping your teenager to manage them.

### **How much time are young people spending on screen-based activity?**

A 2011–12 study by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicated that young people aged from 5 to 17 years spend, on average, just over 2 hours per day on screen-based activity, compared to 1.5 hours per day on physical activity. Just under half of 2- to 17-year-olds had access to at least one type of screen (TV, computer, phone, etc.) in their bedrooms. For 15- to 17-year-olds, this figure goes up to 75 per cent.

More recent statistics on teenage internet use (2014–15) indicate that 15- to 17-year-olds:

- spend an average of 18 hours per week online (just over 2 hours per day)

- are most likely to use the internet for social networking (91 per cent), entertainment (73 per cent) and formal education activities (73 per cent).

### **What is a healthy limit to set for my teenager?**

Two hours used to be the golden rule for the amount of screen time young people should be allowed per day. That's now being revised because it just isn't realistic in the modern world where technology is used for education and social networking, as well as for entertainment. It's more important to set limits on recreational screen time, and to focus on the quality of what your children are doing on their devices.

Ask questions like:

- Where is my child looking for information? How do they know it's good quality?
- What kind of games and apps is my child using?
- Are they almost always using their screen time for distraction or procrastination?

These sorts of questions will help you find the line between healthy and unhealthy use of technology for your family.

### **It's all about balance**

All of us, especially young people, need to learn how to exercise moderation in the things we spend time on. Having fun and staying connected to our friends and family is important. Some teenagers will do this by spending a lot of time connecting with their friends on social media, or by hanging out with other 'gamers' when playing multi-player games online. That's okay!

But it's important to support them to balance that with face-to-face time with people, and to make sure they leave enough time in their week for physical exercise, learning, and other types of play.



## ✦ SALESIAN COOPERATORS

### Seminar of the Salesian Cooperators at Umdang

On the 9 September 2017 the community of Auxilium Convent Umdang organized a one-day seminar for the Salesian Cooperators. The day was blessed with the presence of the sixteen invitees from the different villages of Umdang, Nongryngka, Mawkhap, Mawlong and Nongdangon who have joined the seminar along with the three Cooperators and two aspirants. The resource person of the day was Mr. Genes Thyrniang the former coordinator of the Salesian Cooperator of Nongstoiñ Centre.

The day began at 10:00am with the words of welcome from Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang, the incharge of the Salesian Co-operators of Umdang followed by a welcome song from the boarders. Then the session was taken over by Mr. Genes who introduced the day with the dream of Don Bosco at the age of nine through a power point presentation. The morning session enlightened the participants on who is a Salesian Co-operator? Who can be a Salesian Co-operator? The Rules and

Regulations of the Salesian Cooperator, the motto of Don Bosco and in gist about Salesian congregation. The session was very practical with many examples and incidents. At 1:00pm the participants broke out for lunch in the convent and soon after gathered for the afternoon session. The session then reflected and shared on the works and activities of the Salesian Cooperators and invited them to work for the young as lay people wherein they could reach to the place where Salesian Fathers and Sisters could not enter. The day concluded with an hour of Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament.

*Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang*

### Annual Provincial Congress of the Salesian Cooperators cum Silver Jubilee celebration.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Congress of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators was held at Garobadha Parish on 23-24 September 2017. It also coincides with the Jubilee of 11 Salesian Cooperators who took the pledge 25 years ago since its existence in Garo Hills on 24 October 1991 under the leadership of Sr.





Liliana Marak FMA. Around 400 Cooperators came from the 18 Centres, which spread all over the states of Meghalaya and Tripura and reflected on the theme “We are Family”

The Delegates arrived on Saturday and commenced the programme with an Inaugural Function where in Rt. Rev. Andrew R. Marak, Bishop of Tura was the Chief Guest. The Prelate welcomed all the participants to his Diocese and exhorted them to reflect deeper on the significance of Family Life. This was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Bishop Andrew. In his homily he spoke on the keywords of accepting neighbour’s culture: Know, love, appreciate and make it our own.

On the following day, the Congress witnessed the promise taking of ten Aspirants during the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB, Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province and concelebrated by ten other Priests. The Provincial Coordinator Mrs. Benita Marbaniang received the promise and the new full-fledged members received a certificate of membership. Soon after Mass, there was a stage programme put up by the nearby Parishes and the gathering had the joy of having Mr. Conrad R. Sangma Tura MP, Mr. Cyril V Darlong Diengdoh, DC of Ampati as the esteemed Guests.

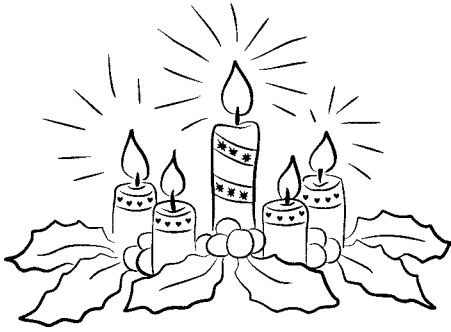
On this occasion they felicitated the Silver Jubilarians and in particular to Sr. Liliana K. Marak for the realization of the

Association. The venue for the 40<sup>th</sup> Provincial Congress would be at the Jowai Centre. Following are the results of the Mini Lucky Draw held during the Congress: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize No. 784, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No. 165, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No. 4540 and consolation prize Nos. 5231, 5361, 4071, 1049, 3154, 5437, 5300, 2728, 2737 and 5661. Those who have the above tickets could collect the prize by calling on 9615314828.

***Sr. Embhahlang Dkhar &  
Mr. Anthony Laloo***



## INSPIRATIONAL STORIES



### Joy of Giving

A woman who was travelling alone in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream.

The next day she met another traveller who was hungry; the woman opened her bag to share her food.

The hungry traveller saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him.

She did so without hesitation.

The traveller left, rejoicing in his great fortune.

He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime.

But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the woman.

"I've been thinking," he said,

"I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."

The woman smiled, "The joy of giving!"

**Author: Unknown**

Once, a teacher and his young assistant arrived at a village where the people were angry and quarrelsome. At their request, he gave them his blessings, and asked them to remain together in the village forever.

In the next village they met joyful people who were cooperating with one another and caring for each other. The teacher blessed them too, but asked them to leave the village, and spread out across the country.

The puzzled assistant asked the teacher why he had given such different advice. The teacher smiled, "Those angry, argumentative people will only spread their unhappiness wherever they go. So I asked them to stay where they were. But it is better for the caring people to spread out, taking their happiness with them. Then others will also learn to be joyful."

One day a man from a nearby village called out at the monastery gates, and handed the old monk who opened it a magnificent bunch of grapes, saying, "Dear Father, I have brought as a gift the finest grapes my vineyard has produced."

The monk smiled, "Thank you, I will take them to the Abbot immediately; he'll be delighted with this offering." But the villager said, "No, no I brought them for you."

The old monk didn't think he deserved such a fine gift. "Oh yes!" insisted the man. "For whenever I come by, you open the gates and welcome me. When I needed help because the crop was destroyed, you shared your meal with me every day. I hope this bunch of grapes will remind you of the sun's love, the rain's beauty and the miracle of God, for it is He who made them grow so fine."



The monk held the bunch of grapes. It looked full and luscious. He decided to present it to the Abbot, who had always encouraged him with words of wisdom.

The Abbot was very pleased with the grapes, but as he accepted them, he thought of one of the brothers who had been very unwell. "I'll give him these grapes; they may bring some joy to his life."

But the grapes didn't stay in the sick monk's room for long. He reflected, "Brother Cook has been feeding me such nourishing meals to help me recover. I'm sure he will enjoy these." As the cook brought him his meal, he presented him with the grapes. "They're for you," said the sick monk. "You work so hard; take a moment to sit and enjoy these."

Brother Cook was amazed at the beauty of the grapes, then he thought of the newest entrant to the monastery. He decided to gift them to the youngster as he felt he might be a bit lonely without his family, and also so that he might understand that the work of God is in the smallest details of creation.

When the novice received them, his heart was filled with the Glory of the Lord, for he had never seen such beautiful grapes. Just then, he recalled the first time he came to the monastery, and of the simple old monk who had opened the gates and warmly welcomed him; it was that gesture which allowed him to feel at home in this community of people who knew how to value the wonders of life.

And so, he walked to the monk at the gates. "Eat and enjoy them," he said. "For you spend most of your time alone here, and these grapes will make you very happy."

"Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and to create memories that will last forever. Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others on Christmas and every other day of the year."

Joel Osteen

# MERRY CHRISTMAS





## Consultation Process for the New Provincial





# Thank You

**Sr. Runita G. Borja**  
(General Councillor for  
Youth Ministry)

for your visit to our  
Province  
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