

FMA-INS info

Vol. XVII No. 3 Newsletter – Sept. 2015 Provincial Office – Shillong 793014 – Meghalaya

Joy of Being Called

Sr. Catherine Susngi (60 years)



Sr. Mary Estelle Rani & Sr. Theodora Lyngdoh (50 years)



Sr. Josephine Rynksai (25 years)



Sr. Monica Sangma (25 years)



Sr. Igina Kharjana (25 years) Missionary in Africa

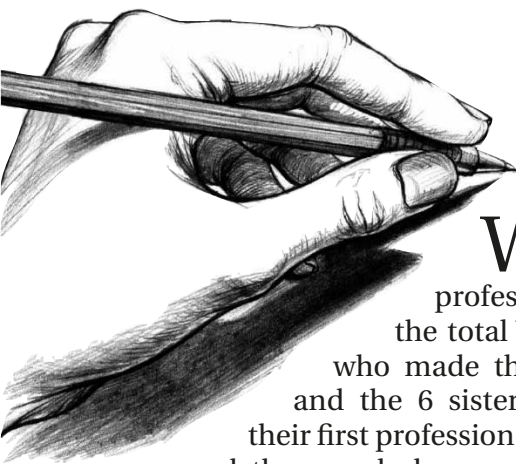


Participants of the
FMA-PCI, 2015
September 1-3
Kodambakkam –
Chennai



Representatives
of the Province





EDITORIAL

We have renewed our religious profession, we witnessed the total Yes of our 12 sisters who made their final profession and the 6 sisters who pronounced their first profession on the 5th of August and the grand closure of the bi-centennial birth of our father and founder St. John Bosco. These are all occasions for us to praise and thank the Lord and rejoice in his name always.

Joy is not a luxury or a mere accessory in the Christian life. It is the sign that we are really living in God's wonderful love and presence and that love and presence make us happy. Pope Francis says, "I want to say one word to you and this word is **"joy"**. Wherever there are consecrated people, seminarians, men and women religious, young people, there is joy there is always joy! It is the joy of freshness, the joy of following Jesus, the joy that the Holy Spirit gives us, not the joy of the world"

We have indeed responded to the call of the Lord with much joy and greater generosity. The clarion call of our Holy Father to all the consecrated men and women in this year dedicated to consecrated life to 'wake up the world' can be realized only if we are committed to be missionaries of joy and hope to the world. Indeed we have a big task before us to wake up the world, which lacks genuine joy. Our first and foremost duty is to wake ourselves up, become more convinced of the deep love and compassion the Lord has for us in consecrating us and so live our lives gratefully and joyfully.

Let us pause for a moment and ask ourselves, Am I really happy with my life? Do I find joy and fulfillment in serving the Lord? Do I serve the Lord with joy and gladness in good and bad times? Do I sincerely strive to make my community rich in joy and warmth in relationship? We have witnessed the joy of the Lord in our life and His joy is seen everywhere. If in some ways we have failed to be His



gift of joy and hope to everyone, let us recommit ourselves to live our consecrated life with joy bringing hope and consolation to all God's people and earnestly commit ourselves to make our heart a home for the young and reach specially to those in the peripheries.

We ask Don Bosco whose bicentennial birth we have just celebrated to give us the same zeal and enthusiasm to serve the Lord with Joy and gladness and to broaden our vision and mission with greater generosity and commitment so that together with the young we can be missionaries of hope and joy to the world.

Let us commit ourselves to:

Pursue the joy of the Lord in our life

Live the joy of our consecrated life genuinely

Witness the joy of the Lord through our warmth and smile.

Sr. Joplin Suchiang

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

Sr. Manoda T. Sangma

Continuation

FMA Provinces in Northeast India:

The then province of Shillong encompassing the whole region of Northeast India was bifurcated in the 1987 giving birth to the new Province of Calcutta. And again in the year 2000 for better administration and for the enhancement of better service to the people, the Province of Shillong was bifurcated into Shillong and Guwahati Provinces.

Province of Shillong:

The province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Shillong, India, was canonically established on November 24, 1953. At the time of its bifurcation in 2000 the province comprises of 13 presences. Today it has 26 communities and 5 sub-centres, in seven Dioceses, of the Northeastern states of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam.

The presences or communities reaching out to

States	4
Dioceses	7
Houses	26
Sub-centres	5

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The presences or communities reaching out to

State	Number of presences
Assam	03
Meghalaya	23
Mizoram	03
Tripura	02

the people of various regions are given below Statewise.

Keeping in mind the

goal or the raison d'être of its existence the FMA carries out its missionary mandate through different activities adapting itself to the need of the time and the people of the region. The various forms of apostolate and the developmental programs that are carried out in Shillong Province as a means of reaching out to people are:

Educational Mission

1. Formal Education: The FMAs run schools with the maxim of 'evangelization through education and education through evangelization' catering to thousands of children and youth belonging to different races and religions with the sole intention of forming good and honest citizens after the heart of their Father and Founder Don Bosco. Their method is based on reason, religion and loving-kindness, the three principles of the system of education, which the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians inherited from Don Bosco. They run Higher Secondary, Secondary, Middle and Primary schools as well as evening and morning schools in order to cater to the children who are unable to attend the normal day school and drop-outs. FMAs try to find out varied ways to help out the less privileged children and youth by making use of the means available and also getting the possible help from available sources. Schools run by the Salesian Sisters offer integral development of the students paying attention to not only academic excellence but their social, emotional and spiritual aspects as well. Programs are conducted in the schools to meet such needs of the students frequenting the schools and also reach out to their parents through 'parents meetings' and other interactive programs. When the need arises such as natural disasters, students in

various areas are sensitized to help the victims either in cash or kind, initiated in the school then, the Sisters reach them to the victims.

To be more effective the schools have started adopting ICT methods in schools wherever possible. The FMA schools in Shillong Province follow the State Board and CBSE. The Sisters also work in higher education institutions and collaborate in schools run by the Salesian Fathers and also with the Diocesan Priests.

2. Non-formal Education: Another method the FMAs in Shillong have adopted to serve the young people is that of offering NIOS courses where regular coaching classes are conducted and students are prepared for the exams. IGNOU centre too was run at Mawtnum from 2011- 2014 which is now closed down due to some inconveniences.

Boarding/Hostel

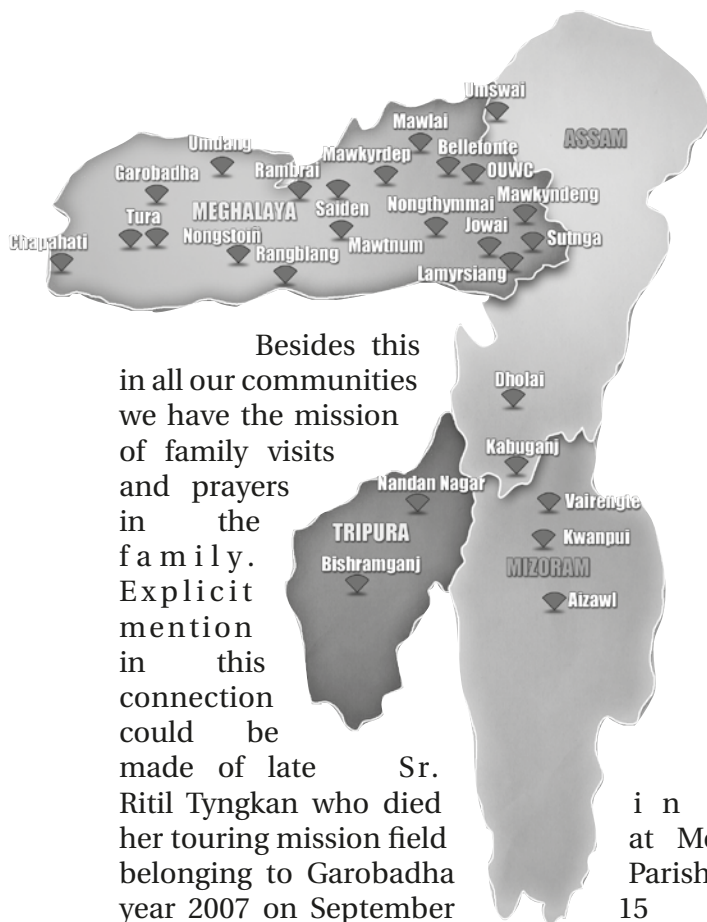
Boarding for school going children and hostel for college girls and also those attending vocational training centres are another platform for actualizing their charism where pastoral care is also given to the recipients. In almost all the houses of our province we have either a boarding or a hostel.

Evangelization & Catechesis:

The Salesian Sisters participate in the Church's mission of

evangelization working in different communities in collaboration with Salesians, Diocesans as well as with other religious groups and that of the Salesian family.

Sr. Catherine Susngi and Sr. Ivy D' Souza were members of the Regional Catechetical Team entrusted by the Regional Bishop's Conference of the North East, with the task of preparing Catechism Text Books for the Schools from Class I to Class X. They worked under the chairmanship of Late Bishop Abraham Alongimattahtil SDB, together with eight other members, priests and religious belonging to different religious congregations. It was quite a daunting commitment, but after having received the approval of the syllabus by the Diocesan Commission of the North East and consulted experts in Catechetics in different parts of India, the team began its work in 1979. It gained momentum as the years passed by and the books were ready for use in the school a year after till 1985 when the revision of Books I and II in English and Khasi was completed. Others too followed in successive years till the year 1993 when a new Team took up the work of the revised books as they are today. We thank God that through our Sisters we have been able to give our little contribution to the work of Evangelization through Catechesis. The FMA Shillong Province owes a debt of gratitude to Sr. Josephine Gaod for being one of the great pioneers of our mission in this region. She was an excellent catechist and a great musician. She had composed numerous songs and hymns, and had translated them from French and Italian to Khasi and English to cite a few "Duwan Bakhuid", "U Trai U khot ia nga", "Hapdeng eriong", "La pyndep ka kam bakhraw", etc. She directed a number of entertainment stage programmes with a creativity and perfection that is so special of her. Still today Sisters help in the parish ministry and parish catechesis on Sundays to prepare the children and people for reception of the Sacraments. They have set aside Sisters for the purpose of touring the villages to meet the people and evangelize them. This is done throughout the year irrespective of the weather and difficulties it offer. We have 10 centres with full time touring Sisters.



Besides this in all our communities we have the mission of family visits and prayers in the family. Explicit mention in this connection could be made of late Sr. Rital Tyngkan who died her touring mission field belonging to Garobadha year 2007 on September crossing a water body

in at Monabari Parish in the 15 while to get across

to the other village in the mid-summer amidst floods and unfair weather. Other giant in this area is Late Sr. Felicita Syngoh who was well known in Mawlai area for family visits and preparing children and adults for various Sacraments. That was her daily task and felt it her great responsibility proclaiming along with St. Paul 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel'.

(to be continued)

religious state have, 'a special consecration, which is deeply rooted in their Baptismal Consecration and is a fuller expression of it". This is a radical imitation of Christ to which not everyone is called. It is certainly for the courageous few.

Religious Consecration: A Response To An Invitation Of God

It is a total self- ablation to Christ who followed the father's will completely and to all humanity. Religious consecration rooted in baptism and expressed in the professed imitation of the poor, chaste and obedient Christ - must contribute in one way or another to evangelization. This is true of all Christian life; religious life as such is a "radicalized" way of expressing the vocation common to all Christians.

The Vows express in a concrete form the different kinds of self-oblation, and the demands made by a consecrated life seriously lived in all its aspects.

Sr. Margaret Mami

A Reflection

Religious Life: Call to Holiness

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the people on earth to be his people, his treasured possession... (Deut 7: 6)"

If we all share in the same Holiness, it is because, "Jesus Christ alone is holy". His holiness is intimately bound to his being the Son of God and the source of the Spirit of Holiness.

We consider Religious Life in relation to holiness. There is no doubt that religious life is a response to holiness within the context of the Christian Vocation. It is born from the depths and absoluteness of God and its purpose is to work for the salvation of the people who belong to him.

The Religious life is certainly, in some aspects more arduous than other Vocations. People in the

In & Around Our Province

Salesian Cooperators' Pilgrimage to Don Bosco Shrine

Marking the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Don Bosco, the Salesian Cooperators of Shillong Province took part in the pilgrimage to the Don Bosco Shrine, Sohra on 21 June 2015.

The Salesian Cooperators from the various centres met at Mawkdok and proceeded together to the pilgrimage

centre. The procession towards the Shrine started from a place called ĩngkhroṅ where stood a statue of Don Bosco. With prayers and hymns the pilgrims made their way towards the holy shrine.

On this day of grace, the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Festus Shadap SDB, Provincial Delegate of Salesian Cooperators. During the homily, Fr. Shadap enlightened us on the meaning of a pilgrimage and shared with us his personal experiences. Speaking on the Gospel of the day, he associated the ship to a home and the sailor to parents, who play an important role in the upbringing of their children. After the final blessing we reverently had the kissing of the relics of Don Bosco and implored his blessings on all of us.

The afternoon time was dedicated to praying the Holy Rosary and Benediction Service. Fr. Dominic Savio Jyrwa SDB led all of us in the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. It was a precious moment to spend time in the holy presence of Jesus our Lord and Don Bosco our Father and Founder. For me personally, it was a time of renewal and a moment, which strengthens my love for Jesus and Mother Mary following the footsteps of Don Bosco.

Rosana Kurbah (Mawtnum Centre)





Homage paid to the Former President of India

The Salesian Sisters of Shillong Province headed by the Provincial Economer, Sr. Marcellina Sangma were the privileged ones to pay their last respect to the mortal remains of Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at the Shillong Helipad, Upper Shillong in the early hours of 28 July 2015. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was prepared for the occasion with the inscription “India has lost a great person in YOU, We will miss you, Adieu Dr. Kalam”. During the floral tribute by the different dignitaries Sr. Marcellina too represented us and placed the bouquet on our behalf.

The 11th President of India Dr. Kalam who was in office from 2002 to 2007 breathed his last in Bethany hospital, Shillong. The master of life



found him ready while he was doing what he liked the most; that is interacting with young people, at the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong. This great visionary of the country has lived his eighty three years of earthly life to the full, being all the time an inspiration to all he encountered. His thoughts and words reveal his personality, which abounds godliness and human values. The passing away of this giant of knowledge and virtue has brought a void, which we as educators are inspired to strive and bring forth young people who would follow in his footsteps.

Born on October 15, 1931 at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu, Kalam went on to become one of the country's most celebrated aerospace and defence scientists. Dr. Kalam was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1981, Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and Bharat Ratna in 1997 besides hosts of other awards. Shillong is being blessed to receive the parting blessing of such a hero who completed his final sojourn here on earth in our beloved hill station. The passing away of Dr. Kalam re-awakens a true spirit of patriotism in each of us as citizens of India. His physical presence is no more with us but his words of wisdom will linger on in our hearts and minds and he will be looked upon as an icon of integrity. Rest in peace Sir!

Sr. Euginia Laloo



18 Young Women received into the Novitiate

3 August 2015 was a remarkable day in the annals of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novitiate, Bellefonte – Shillong wherein we saw the highest number of novices with the entry of the 18 new novices.

In a simple yet meaningful ceremony the eighteen young girls were received into the novitiate by Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial and entrusted them to the care of the Novice Mistress, Sr. Rosa Pyngrope. The novices enacted the scene of the vessels that boasted about their qualities and capabilities but finally the Master chose the clay pot, which allowed itself to be moulded and shaped according to his designs. Taking the lesson from the vessels, the novices want to assume the characteristics of the clay, which is

pliable in the hands of those who are entrusted with the mission of forming them to become authentic Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Sr. Isabella too gave a nice reflection on the theme “The Potter and the Clay”. With determination they expressed their desire in a song “We are vessels of Clay” composed by a Pauline nun, Sr. Caroline Duia.

The ceremony took on a moving note when the Novice Mistress along with the Novices knelt down in front of the Help of Christians entrusting the Novices to her maternal care. This was followed by a personal greeting to each novice. At the end of the service they were being congratulated by all present; the Sisters and novices from Bellefonte and the Sisters from the neighbouring communities.

fmainsinfo correspondent

Institute's Foundation Day Celebrated

The 143 years of the Foundation Day of the Institute was marked with twelve Perpetual Profession and Jubilee Celebrations of our Sisters on 5 August 2015 at Divine Saviour Parish, Nongthymmai-Shillong. Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong was the main celebrant for the occasion.

The Sisters having spent few years of religious life, a minimum of six years, pledged their fidelity forever through the rites of Perpetual Profession. The Sisters

are Sr. Euphresia Thyriang, Sr. Felisita Rynshon, Sr. Garnet Sutnga, Sr. Iahunlang Kyrlian, Sr. Makriana Marwein, Sr. Maria Roibok Suchiang, Sr. Merciful Nongsiej, Sr. Monica Lyngdoh, Sr. Nildaline Kharkongor, Sr. Rane Mary Pyngrope, Sr. Rose Mary Lyngdoh and Sr. Sonitha Marak.

It began at 10:00 am with an introduction read by Sr. Bashisha Massar the narrator of this great



event. It was heartwarming and awe-inspiring to witness the generosity and courage of our Sisters who approached the Altar accompanied by their parents and led by Sr. Isabella Suja our Provincial. The whole province was united in prayer to thank God for the fidelity lived by our Sisters who celebrate their Jubilee of Religious Profession. Sr. Catherine Susngi

for sixty years, Sr. Mary Estelle and Sr. Theodora Lyngdoh for fifty years and Sr. Josephine Rynksai and Sr. Monica Sangma for twenty five years. The church was jam-packed to its capacity and those present have witnessed the solemn moment when our sisters publicly pronounced their 'YES' forever. The Archbishop too urged everyone present to thank God for the gift of religious life, especially our sisters and exhorted all to pray for them that their life bear abundant fruit for God's kingdom.

Sr. Theresa Phawa

Perpetual Profession at Mornese

The great and memorable day dawned on the 5 August, 2015 to recount God's love and fidelity especially in the life of Sr. Kamar Rodalin, Sr. Dorcas Anna from Mozambique and Sr. Yolanne from Madagascar who pronounced their "YES" forever at Mornese. The solemn rite of the perpetual profession was presided over by Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandes Arttime SDB, Rector Major, in the presence of our sisters, friends and benefactors. The theme that has guided the Sisters in their preparation and self-giving was "Whoever remains in me and I in Him bears fruit in plenty"



In his homily, the Rector Major highlighted the importance of community life. He further recommended that we are meant not only for work and mission but most importantly we need to build up fraternity and unity among ourselves. The Vicar General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola in the name of the Church welcomed the newly perpetually professed sisters in the Institute to share together in perpetuity the life and mission of the Institute.

Prior to this great day, the full month of July was spent in deeper prayer, reflection and varied

experiences along with other 15 FMAs from Mozambique, Portugal, Hungary, Brazil, USA, Poland, Madagascar, Albania and Italy who gathered together at Mornese for a period of rejuvenation. The one-month experience in the different places of our founder and co-foundress was a moment that enkindled in each of us the fire of our charism and spirituality, sharing the multiplicity of expressions that draws water from the same source of the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello.

Immersed in the rich culture and humble beginnings of our origin in the places dear to the heart of every FMA was indeed a moment of blessing and a perpetuated experience to “magnify the Lord” at the wonders wrought

by our holy Founders. In our month of experience we were accompanied by the wise guidance of Sr. Martha Seide FMA, Sr. Piera Ruffinatto FMA and Sister Eliane Petri FMA. The wonderful experience concluded with a spiritual retreat at Pella preached by Fr. Fiorenzo Allamandi SDB an immediate preparation for the Final Profession.

Most of all, I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial and to each and every sister of the Province for the prayers, wishes and accompaniment during my intense preparation and especially for their loving remembrance on the 5th of August. I wish to express gratitude also to our friends from Milan- Anselma Castelli, Italo Vanoni and Franca Pizzamiglio who with much love participated in the solemn celebration to offer their encouragement and prayers on this day. I congratulate and offer my prayers also to all my companions of the Province who made their final profession. God bless you all.

Sr. Rodalin Kamar

A Salesian Family Seminar

Celebrating the 200th Birth Anniversary of Don Bosco the Salesians of Silchar Province organized a Salesian Family Seminar on 9th - 11th August, 2015 at Pastoral Centre, Shillong. The theme for the seminar was ‘The Charism of Don Bosco in North-East India, A Contemporary Reading’. Representing the province were Sr. Rosina Susngi, Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Sr. Maria Goretti Nongrum, Sr. Lydia Pala and Sr. Theresa Phawa and Sr. Euginia Laloo.

Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial along with Sr. Wismary



Kharbihkhiew the Provincial Secretary were present for the Inaugural Function on the first day. Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil, Apostolic Administrator of Jowai Diocese gave the keynote Address on Don Bosco's Charism and Mission for North-East India. He spoke at length with passion on the importance of our Salesian, Evangelizing Presence among Youth. On the second day, Sr. Rosina Susngi presented a paper on ‘The FMA perception and the relevance of Don Bosco's Charism in their life and apostolate in North-East India’. Speaking on the works and apostolate of the FMA that has made possible the

entrance of the Salesian Charism into homes and society, Sr. Rosina stated that the FMA contribution is 'a tiny drop into the ocean of NE India.' Nevertheless, 'far from being spent, the charism of Don Bosco is gaining momentum at every step and in every direction of the life and apostolate of the FMA in NE India'. In conclusion, she also said that the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a living monument of Don Bosco's gratitude will continue to be relevant, to grow in strength, beauty and apostolic efficacy. We are grateful to Sr. Rosina who spoke on

behalf of the FMAs in North-East India. The participants did really experience a strong family spirit wherein they shared their opinions and encouraged one another to live out Don Bosco's spirit in their life and mission.

Sr. Theresa Phawa



SYM Don Bosco 2015 at Turin

The SYM Don Bosco 2015 at Turin, Italy was an out of the world experience. Our entry into Italy started with our journey to Mornese from Turin airport. When we reached Mornese and saw the sisters' home and the sisters waiting and singing songs of welcome for us, it felt like Mother Mazzarello had come to life from the books and stories that we've read and heard. The three days spent in Mornese were undeniably enriching and noteworthy because we got to witness personally the hard work, dedication, love, sacrifice and thirst of Mother Mazzarello to live up to the dream that said to her, 'I entrust them to you'.

In Turin we saw the fruits of Don Bosco's sweat. Thousands of young people both boys and girls identified themselves as sons and daughters of Don Bosco. Each day was a day of reflection and celebration; encountering God through the various

programmes based on the life of Don Bosco. We saw the miracles that God wrought through Don Bosco and we also saw the love, care and guiding force behind Don Bosco's mission-Mother Mary. We were in awe on seeing the so many beautiful Churches particularly the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians built by Don Bosco. Visiting all the places connected closely to Don Bosco was a very overwhelming experience for us. To see how he started from nothing, the amount of problems difficulties and oppositions faced yet, he never gave up but put his complete trust in Mother Mary. We could feel his presence in Valdocco and the feeling was beyond description.

August 15th was a day that will remain etched in our minds forever. On that day, we walked nearly two and half hours to Don Bosco's birthplace, which is now called Colle Don Bosco. We had to brave the heat first and then the rain. In spite of the forces of nature, no youth grumbled or bent down instead they were motivated to reach Colle Don

Bosco for the night vigil of Don Bosco's birthday. In spite of tiredness and cold, the youth braved all and celebrated Don Bosco's Birthday at midnight. It was a night to be remembered and the celebration continued the next day i.e. 16th August, Don Bosco's 200th Birthday. It was a cold morning and rain was threatening us but God did not allow nature impede our celebration after all it was Don Bosco's 200th Birthday and all the young people from 53 countries regardless of differences in language, colour and age were one and everyone

sang songs of gratitude to God for the gift of Don Bosco to us. The Eucharistic celebration was a grand celebration and we knew that Don Bosco must have been smiling with love, contentment and satisfaction on all of us. The celebration came to an end with lunch. 'Good-bye,' we said and sadness settled in but only for a while because we knew the value of what we have gained from the celebration. We had to leave but taking back memories home-memories so colourful, so real and indelible!

We were fortunate to have been the representatives of the Shillong Province in such a grand World Youth Expo on the occasion of the bicentenary celebrations together with Sr. Manoda Sangma and another youngster, Namrhendidiam Phawa from Jowai.

Elena Kharkongor and Candida Kharpdah

Happy 200th Birthday Don Bosco

On 16 August 2015, marking the bicentenary birth of Don Bosco our Father and Founder, the East Khasi Hills Region of the Shillong Province had the privileged of making a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Don Bosco at Sohra. The Sisters and Novices gathered at the Shrine at three in the afternoon and spent ample time with Don Bosco whose presence was tangibly felt by the many pilgrims who visited the Shrine on that day. Many recalled that they have received spiritual blessings from our Father and Founder Don Bosco.

The Sisters had an exclusive time with their Father and Founder, which was experienced through a Prayer Service, animated by the Sisters from Auxilium Nongthymmai. The Prayer



moment was divided into three parts; The Penitential Rite, Homage to Don Bosco and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Crowning it all was the kissing of the holy relic of St. John Bosco and the singing of the FMA Anthem, which reminded each sister to be a living monument of Don Bosco's gratitude to the Madonna. Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Sr. Isabella Suja, exhorted the Sisters to be true to the spirit and charism of Don Bosco and also thanked each Sister for sharing one's life and mission in the Province. The Sisters then expressed their filial love to Don Bosco by presenting him a bouquet of flowers

coupled with a birthday song and a hymn to Don Bosco sung with much fervor and enthusiasm. After a two hour encounter with the Lord and the intimate presence of Don Bosco the Sisters left home with much determination and zeal to make Don Bosco alive in their respective mission places.

Another news of great joy that was announced on such a significant day was that the casket that contains the holy relic of Don Bosco which toured around the world in preparation for this great bicentenary of his birth would make the Shrine of St. John Bosco, Sohra

its dwelling place forever. We thanked the Salesians especially Fr. Gervasis Kozhupathadam who has worked very hard in the establishment of the Shrine and had pleaded for the casket to be brought to our land. We look forward to the arrival of our Father Don Bosco who will make his abode with us.

Sr. Euginia Laloo



ECHOES FROM THE HOUSES

BELLEFONTE

Youth Care Programme in Don Bosco Institute (DBI), Guwahati

Bellefonte Community College offered a 3-day "Youth Care Programme" for the students of Class IX and X from the 23rd – 25th of July 2015 at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. The main objective was to motivate them in choosing a career and to give up certain habits in life for better achievements in their academic prospects.

Sr. Helen Puwein, the Principal and two teachers: Miss Wansuk Lyngdoh and Sir Nickey Nongspung accompanied them throughout the programme. Different resource persons organized different orientation sessions and activities systematically.



The different sessions were 'Self-discovery' and 'Career Planning' by Sr. Flora Kujur FMA, a staff of DBI; 'Youth Alive Programme', 'Drugs Addiction and its Impact' and 'Leadership and Team Building' by Miss Pinky, one of DBI Staff and "Impact of Media on Youth" by Fr. Bivan Mukhim SDB, the Assistant Director of DBI. They followed a compact timetable all throughout the programme which besides these sessions also included the morning joggings, morning and night prayers and other sessional trips to Planetarium and to Science Centre. All the sessions were well presented and with lots of creative activities like role plays, dances, discussions, interactions, stories and so on. On the 24th night, they had put up various cultural activities on the stage where Fr. Johnson Parackal, SDB, Director, DBI gave a motivational message on how to be successful students by making use of the opportunity received from different sources.

As a whole the programme was very resourceful, inspiring, enriching and helpful for the students. They were especially motivated on how to choose their career in life and the

proper and correct use of the media. On the 25th, at about 1.30 pm, they concluded the programme and returned to Shillong. Thanks to Sr. Helen Puwein, the Principal, and the sisters who had arranged this trip and for all the resource persons at DBI.

Workshop on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Bellefonte Community College is now in partnership with North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and has enrolled 100 students in the National Service Scheme (NSS) with Miss Naphisabet Kynjing as a teacher in charge. On the 31st of July, 2015, ten (10) NSS students from BCC along with Miss Naphisabet Kynjing participated in the workshop on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign that was organized by National Service Scheme (NSS) at Multi-Convention Centre, NEHU at 10.00 am. The hall was packed with other students from different colleges along with their respective teachers. Mr. L. Kma, the Programme Co-ordinator, welcomed the honourable Chief Guest, Shri A. L Hek, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Professor L. S Gassah, the acting Vice Chancellor of NEHU and all the participants. Immediately after the welcome speech, Professor L. S. Gassah addressed the gathering. The honourable Chief Guest, Shri A.L Hek also gave a speech with regard to the maintenance of cleanliness and self-hygiene. He commented that once upon a time Meghalaya was a state of the cleanliness and most



beautiful place in northeast, which is now slowly losing its title because of our negligence towards our surroundings. He concluded his speech by quoting “we should clean our mind before we clean our environment” and be people with a more mature thinking and not to be selfish.

The different sessions in the morning included the lectures on the “*Conservation of Environment for our Future*” by Professor B. K Tiwari (Environmental Dept., NEHU) and on “*Awake or Aware*” by Mr. W.R. Kharkrang, an Environmental Engineer Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board. After the lunch break, the different sessions and discussions were coordinated and moderated by Smti O. Sumer, Director of Health Department on the Basic Need of Health and Cleanliness and how one should take care of it. The second discussion was on the Necessity of Proper Construction of Toilets by Mr. Mark W. Kharkongor who also pointed out very crucial facts about people’s concept to material needs and neglecting their daily needs. He supported his discussion with a PowerPoint presentation. There was yet another topic of discussion on “Solid Waste Disposal” by one of the members from the Urban Affairs Dept. of Government of Meghalaya.

Throughout and especially towards the end of the workshop there were open discussions and

clarification, sharing of views and thoughts and asking questions based on the various input sessions during which the students had the opportunity of interacting with the resource persons. The workshop was very resourceful to the young NSS coming from different colleges in Shillong.

Sr. Celina Maslai



First Religious Profession of Six Young Women

At the early hours of 5 August 2015 the province witnessed the self-giving of six young women through their First Religious Profession at Mary Our Help Training Centre, Bellefonte – Shillong. The solemn rite of religious profession was presided over by Rev. Fr. George Maliekal, Salesian Provincial of Silchar Province in the presence of hosts of Sisters, religious men and women, family members, friends and well-wishers.

The Sisters hail from the Khasi and Jaiñtia tribes of Meghalaya belonging to the three dioceses namely Shillong, Nongstoin and Jowai. They were led to the altar by their Novice Mistress Sr. Rosa Pyngrope and accompanied by their parents; a symbolic sign of offering by their parents and those responsible in their formation. The motto that has accompanied their journey was “See! I have carved you on the palm of my hand” (Is. 49:15). By the act of their religious profession they place themselves in the hand of the Lord and pledged to live their life for His glory in the footsteps of our Founders St. John Bosco and St. Mary

Domenica Mazzarello making the Salesian charism ever relevant in the present times. Further, in his homily, the main celebrant Fr. George expressed his words of encouragement to the newly professed in this way: “A while ago, when your names were called out, we all heard your response, repeating the words of young Samuel, ‘Here I am Lord; You have called me’. The celebrant did not reply like Eli, ‘Go back and sleep’. Instead, you are told: ‘May the Lord bring your desire to fulfillment’.

The Provincial, Sr. Isabella Suja in the name of the Church welcomed the Sisters to the Institute as members with temporary vows to share in the life and mission of the Province. The newly professed experienced a wonderful feeling of gratitude and excitement at their acceptance into the great Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians as they so vividly expressed through their song. The celebration was made devotional and meaningful with the apt liturgy and melodious choir under the guidance of Sr. Catherine Susngi. We extend our heartiest “CONGRATULATIONS” to them and wished them for a wonderful journey with the young being missionaries of hope and joy.

*Sr. Risa Mary Kharkongor &
Sr. Ibaniewkor Warjri
(2nd year Novices)*

GAROBADHA

Retreat cum Bicentenary Celebration

Garobadha Parish had organized three days of intensive retreat from 13-15 of August 2015 in commemoration of the bicentennial birth of St. John Bosco, the Father and Founder of the Salesian Congregation. Sr. Blandina Momin MSMHC animated the retreat. The participants were about 1000, who in their thirst and zeal for the source of all life participated with great enthusiasm.

The charismatic retreat was well planned and beautifully animated, from which both young and old alike were able to come closer to God. Sr. Blandina in her animation stressed on prayer citing examples from the very life of Don Bosco. In her talks, she extracted many instances from the life of this great saint, father and friend of the young. It inspired the many and thus came to know more about him. Besides Sr. Blandina two charismatic preachers from Tura too came to help in the preaching.

The climax of the celebration dawned on 16th of August, the 200th Birthday of our Father and Founder. It was a memorable day especially for the Salesian Family. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Andrew R. Marak DD, Bishop of Tura diocese solemnized the celebration with the Eucharistic celebration. Many fathers and sisters from close by parishes and institutions participated in this celebration and above 3000 people witnessed this great day. Bishop Andrew being a past pupil of Don Bosco spoke lots about Don Bosco in his sermon and speech. He also appreciated the gift of this great saint to the Church and all the Salesian family members for their dedication to the



mission among the young. He also applauded the Salesian congregations for their work done in Tura Diocese, both in terms of education and mission work. The Bishop gave credit to the Salesian missionaries who dedicated their lives totally for the welfare of the people of Garo hills. He concluded, praying that the celebration may not be just an enjoyment but a means to study Don Bosco, know more about him and more especially acquire his virtue for our sanctification.

The celebration ended with a colourful afternoon programme consisting of various items from the different associations and groups of the Parish. After a meaningful celebration, a sumptuous meal was served for all the invitees at Mazzarello Convent Garobadha.

Sr. Wanrilang Kharkongor

JOWAI

Our Lady was there

It was the 24th June and we have been having incessant heavy rains right from the last week of April. It was just an occasional day or two that we saw sunshine. One part of the



old building was dangerously hanging on the edge. Just before 12 noon we noticed that the mud started falling and we were planning what was to be done. Four minutes before the bell would ring for the children to

come out for their lunch break, the whole thing gave way. We see in this the powerful hand of Our Blessed Mother, had it fallen a few minutes later, there would have been a grave catastrophe because the children would have been rushing through that way to go to the toilets. Thank you dear Mother.

Anti-Drugs Day observed in the District

A group of twenty six students of Class XII under the care of Mrs. Niwanly Laloo and Ms. Paiadaka Khonglah participated in the International Day against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Friday 26th June. The function was organized by the District Social Welfare Office Jowai in collaboration with the various NGO from Jowai as well as from Shillong.

At 11 in the morning, the rally started from Kiang Nangbah Stadium with participants carrying banners and placards bearing different slogans and messages against drugs and substance abuse. Upon reaching the Chutwakhu Indoor Stadium refreshments were served to all and the extempore speech competition was conducted.



There were four other schools besides ours who took part in it. The topic, which fell to our girls, was "Substance Addiction". Our two girls Dolly Lamare and Dorachiva Daw did our school proud when they bagged the first prize. After lunch break the second session began at 3 pm. The theme of the day was: "Let's develop our life, our communities and our identities without drugs". The Extra Assistant Commissioner of West Jaiñtia Hills, Mr. B. Kharshandi was the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries and speakers included Rev. N. K. Syngkli of the NGO 'Break Through' of KJP Mihngi [a Presbyterian organization], Ms. N. Pakma of the Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya [VHAM] and Ms. Ariva M. Laloo from the Meghalaya Aids Control Society. The girls were happy not only because of the first prize but on account of the enrichment received through the programme.

Gratitude Day celebrated in the School

The school kept the annual celebration of Gratitude Day on 7th July 2015. The teachers and students were all excited as they entered the school premises and got ready for the celebration. At 10 am the girl guides inducted

Sr. Rosina Susngi, Animator and the Sisters into the specially decorated podium and the celebration began.

The school captain Ms. Dolly Lamare expressed the deep sentiments of Gratitude to the Superior, Principal, Sisters, Teachers and every one through an address. The opening chorus composed specially for the occasion by Mr. Paul Kharmudai was a befitting start for what followed. Each section – the Primary,



English Section, Middle School, Secondary and Higher Secondary vied with each other in presenting their item in the most perfect way and in their contribution of gifts for the poor. In her message, Sr. Rosina thanked everyone and taking a cue from

the dance drama presented by the Higher Secondary section exhorted each one to learn how to appreciate and respect the poor and downtrodden because one day we too may need their help. Sr. Esther Marwein the Principal gave the vote of thanks and after which sweets were distributed to all the students. The teachers gathered in the Vallino Hall after the students have gone home for the traditional Gratitude Day meal.

Youth Retreat at Ummulong

On 1st August 2015, Sr. Catherine Sutnga and Sr. Dakyrmen Sohkhet went to Ummulong Parish and helped in the animation of the Annual Spiritual Retreat of the youth of the Parish. The Retreat was held at Little Flower School Building and Fr. Manbha Pakem was the main animator of the Retreat which started on the previous day.

The Sisters had gone for the animation of the day so as to give opportunity for Fr. Manbha to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There were 140 youth both boys and girls who took part in the Retreat. Sr. Catherine gave a session on: 'Youth and the Religious' which was also the theme of the Retreat. She explained how the call to religious life varied from person to person and the radical choice one makes to follow the call comes after prayerful discernment. She emphasized the fact that the call to Religious life is a call within a call because the first call is to be a member of the Church ratified at Baptism. In the afternoon Sr. Dakyrmen gave a session on the influence of Religious in the life of people at large and of youth in particular. The two Sisters animated the adoration service in the evening while the sacrament of Reconciliation was being administered. After which Fr. Manbha gave the final blessing. Before the Sisters left the place the youth President, Mr. Rimivius Pyngrope of Wahrymbai



village, gave a vote of thanks expressing his gratitude for the service of the Sisters. Sr. Catherine in turn thanked the young people for being so attentive and cooperative. She encouraged them to be always 'youth for Christ' and wished them success and God's blessing for their future.



Celebrating Don Bosco through Films

The Don Bosco Bicentenary International short film Fest of India [DBBIsFFI] was organized by the Salesian Province of Silchar on 8 August 2015 at Jowai, our School Hall being chosen as the venue for the same. Seeing that Fr. Paul Dayo Passah SDB was almost single-handed responsible for it, the Community threw its whole weight to support and make sure that it was a great success.

The fest began at 9.45 am with a short prayer service on Don Bosco, animated by Sr. Rosina Susngi, Animator after which Fr. Paul gave a very interesting and apt welcome cum explanation on the reason for the film festival. It was also a very enlightening talk to bring into focus the importance of Don Bosco and the Salesian Family and the wonders God has worked through it in the past 100 and more years. The Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Hilarius Lamare, Parish Priest of Jowai and Vicar General of the Diocese was felicitated along with other invitees and the eminent judges who are all connected with media especially cinematography, these were Mr. D. R. Michael Buam, Mr. Daniel Sariang, Mr. Eaterius Shylla – local film producers and directors, and Mr. Raphael Warjri, Chairman of Riti Academy of Visual Arts, Artist and Film Maker, who had come all the way from Shillong for this event. In his inaugural speech Fr. Hilarius made it very clear that

everyone is actually enacting a cinema of life and we are called to do this acting genuinely. Don Bosco acted his life drama most wonderfully, that is why after 200 years we still remember him and his works is still being carried on. Fr. Hilarius then declared the film fest open and there followed the screening of 20 short films with Mr. Anthony Ranglong, Asst. Prof. (English Dept.), St. Anthony College Extension, Myndihati Campus, as the Master of ceremony. Poignant reflections and apt connection with the values taught by Don Bosco were brought out after each screening. The screening of the films took the whole day with an hour lunch break. There was a very good attendance of students from our three Catholic Schools of Jowai, those of the Don Bosco College Myndihati, the Salesian Cooperators of Jowai and Khliehriat, members of the Catholic women Association and that of the Catholic men Association, a good representative from the youth of Jowai. The film fest concluded at 4.30 pm and all went home happy and satisfied not only because Don Bosco was honoured but also because they had learnt a lot on how to view film critically.

Closing of DB Bicentenary

The heavy rains which poured down in torrents, nonstop from 14th night, all through the 15th and 16th August did not dampen our enthusiasm for the 200th birthday of our Father and Founder. At 12 noon we solemnly wished our Father A Happy birthday and cut a cake in his honour and at 5.30pm began our

grand rendezvous with Don Bosco.

The whole Community gathered in the well-prepared Chapel where after a brief and lively introduction by Sr. Rosina Susngi, Sr. Sohkhet Dakyrmen



animated a very meaningful prayer service. The girls took a very active and enthusiastic part and made us really feel the joy of a family. The prayer service concluded with the veneration and kissing of the relic of Don Bosco. Soon after, the group left immediately for the courtyard where songs and acclamation to honour of the Friend of the Young filled the air. The bicentenary flag was then solemnly taken down amidst the cries of 'Long live Don Bosco! Evviva Don Bosco!' It had been raining heavily all through the day and we were grateful that there was just a drizzle during the function after which the rain poured down once again - blessings from our Father. From the courtyard the community proceeded into the hall where a special programme had been prepared to honour our Father. Besides songs, acclamation and media projection on the life of Don Bosco, there was a very meaningful choreograph in song and dance on Don Bosco's give me souls - 'for you I study, for you I work'. This number has been specially composed and prepared by Sr. Theodosia Mawniuh and the sound track was done with the help of one

of our teachers Mr. Ewanmida-u-ni Passah. The programme ended with the Community Sisters singing of the Institute anthem 'O qual sorte'. The girls were very much taken up with the song and much more with the explanation of the words given by Sr. Rosina. The evening with Don Bosco ended at 8 pm with the distribution of a special treat 'Don Bosco pudding', specially prepared at home for the occasion. It was a wonderful two and a half hour with Don Bosco and the joy and enthusiasm of the girls was most contagious as their acclamation to Don Bosco vibrated all over our hill.

Jottings from Jowai Diary

KABUGANJ

Bicentenary celebration of the birth of our father and founder

Evviva Don Bosco! Long live Don Bosco! We love you Don Bosco resounded from the community of Auxilium Kabuganj on 16th August 2015 as we celebrated the bicentennial birthday of our father and founder Don Bosco. The celebration was preceeded by a Triduum during which prayer moments of the community were well animated. Good nights on Don Bosco's early life have touched many of our children. The community began the day with a meaningful and beautiful morning prayer followed by the solemn Eucharistic sacrifice presided over by Fr. Gnana Jesu Kumar, the newly appointed Assistant Parish Priest. In his homily he highlighted three points:

1. Don Bosco was a man of 'Dreams' and 'Vision'
2. Don Bosco was a man who had a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist and the Church
3. Don Bosco was a man who had a great love for Mary Help of Christians.

Marking the significance of the day, the community gathered in front of the house for the hoisting of the Bicentenary flag of Don Bosco's birthday. Sr. Celestina Thyrniang the animator delivered a short message, inviting the children to hearken to the inner voice of God to work in His vineyard.

What acted, as an icing on the cake was the 'quiz competition' by the boarding boys and girls organized by the sisters. Indeed the participants showed their love and devotion to Don Bosco in a fitting manner. At the end of the competition the overall champion was the Don Bosco group. The day came to a close with a fraternal dinner with fathers, sisters, teachers, co-workers and the boarding boys and girls in the convent.

The first boarding girls of Auxilium Kabuganj, expressed thus on the birthday of Don Bosco

I am happy to hear about Don Bosco's life for the first time (Rosy Aimol, Cl. IV)

I love Don Bosco because he loves children (Ebashisha Phawa, Cl. III)



I like Don Bosco because he teaches us to be good children (Juliet Sumer Cl. II)

I feel privileged to be with Salesian Sisters. I thank you sisters and thank you Don Bosco for founding the Salesian family, they have given us a lot of chance to know you (Rebecca Khonglah Cl. VIII)

I am happy to know Don Bosco through the sisters (Maya Bareh Cl. VII)

I like to read Don Bosco's story. (Reshmi Khonglah, Cl. III)

Kabuganj community

MAWLAI

School Week 2015: Rise much higher

The Annual School Week of Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School Mawlai was held on June 24th – 26th. The Art and Media Club organized it with the theme "Rise much higher." Different activities were conducted for sub-juniors, juniors and seniors, during the three days' programme. Activities for sub – juniors were Poem Recitation, fancy Dress, Singing and Dancing. For juniors were Fancy Dress,

Quiz, Drawing and painting, Singing, Dancing and Spell Wizard. For seniors were Elocution, Quiz, Debate, Essay writing, Rangoli Pattern Competition, Flower arrangement, Vegetable carving, Singing and Dancing.

In the senior category, the winner for the quiz competition was the Blue House, in Singing, the Green House emerged as champions whereas in Dancing, the Blue House bagged the first prize for the group Western category and the Yellow House won the group traditional category. In the junior level, the Red House won the Quiz Competition. All the activities were held in the stage and the classrooms. The activities for the sub juniors were conducted in the English Section hall. Judges for these activities like Rangoli, Flower arrangement, Vegetable carving, Debate, Essay writing, Singing and Dancing were invited from outside. The day of the concluding ceremony was graced with the presence of Sir



Subansha CEO NCC as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, he shared his thoughts on discipline and time management. He also encouraged the

students to move forward in their lives and aspire to be someone great in the future. Sr. Lydia Pala, the principal proposed the vote of thanks. The School Week concluded on 26th June 2015 with great happiness and satisfaction to both the staff and students of the school.

Ms. Daplin Thongni

Sessions on Cyber Crime for Students

A one-day Media awareness programme on Cyber Crime was conducted for the students of the Higher Secondary Section on 29 June 2015 at Sacred Heart Theological College Mawlai. The resource person for the day was Sr. Manoda Sangma FMA. There were 338 students who participated in the programme.

We have learned of many things connected to the Social Media through the cyber crime presentation. We are living in a world where social media rules half of the society in one way or the other through different media like mobile phone, laptop, camera and many others. We as teenagers know more about Facebook, Twitter, Skype, Whatsapp and the like through the internet. The presentation on cyber crime has given us more ideas and information on how to critically use the Internet. We daily witness through the Television channels like, Crime Petrol, Savdhan India, Gumrah that shows how one mistake on the internet can ruin our lives. During the presentation, we have come to know that India ranks 3rd place in cyber crime bullying. Most of it is done against people, property, government and the society as a whole. We have also known the meaning of hacking that is "the breaking through someone's personal accounts." We as teenagers love to pose a smile and cuteness on every camera. But, there are some of these cameras, which can hurt us in the end.

The caution that sister has provided to us were very effective and helpful. Through sister's presentation we have learned to take recourse on safety measures in the use of various social media. Besides these, Sr.



Manoda encouraged us to run towards our goals no matter how hard the situation can get. She also commented that if a force comes from outside the egg, it breaks, but if a force comes from inside the egg, it gives life. Therefore we ought to choose the latter in order to achieve our goals. We are grateful to Sr. Lydia, our Principal for giving us this chance to get more information on the media through this awareness programme.

Shereen Sawkmie



Teachers' Orientation Programme

An orientation Programme for the teachers of Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School was held on the 2nd July 2015 at Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong. The teachers stepped away from their daily classroom routine to take part in an enriching programme. Besides the teachers, the sisters of the school were also present. Fr. Barnes Mawrie was the resource person. He has a deep knowledge of different cultures and traditions and their importance. The programme was divided into two sessions with a short break in between.

In the first session, he spoke on the importance and the need of culture in educating the youth of the present generation. He identified facts, which show that culture is slowly diminishing from the lives of people especially the youth, which is a sad but true scenario. He also said that culture and traditions play an important role in shaping and moulding the youth and therefore should be part of the school curriculum.

In the second session, Fr. Barnes spoke on the influence of media and the western culture on the youth of today, making them forget their roots. Media has contributed to the so-called 'culture of death' by portraying the western culture to be more attractive, trendy and modern which has been given

the topmost priority in today's world.

Different slides and presentations were shown depicting the changes in the attitude, mentality, and lifestyles of the people. Values are lost, language, dressing sense, mannerism, music; literature of one's own culture has been replaced or preferred to by the western culture. The resource person urged us to incorporate cultural events and teachings about one's own culture in the school so that culture and traditions can be preserved. Parents too should teach their children about their roots and to never forget their importance.

The programme has enriched our minds and hearts and we are convinced that there is no harm in adapting the Western culture, but as someone said, "too much of anything is never good." The enthusiasm to learn things of other cultures is not wrong but they should not be done at the expense of our traditions and cultures.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks Mrs. Mary Sun and concluded with a prayer led by Sr. Lydia Pala, the Principal.

Richmond Kharluki

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

MAWTNUM

Retreat of the Salesian Cooperators at Umden Parish

4th July 2015 was a remarkable day for us the Salesian Cooperators from Mawtnum centre who had gone to Umden Parish for a one-day retreat with the Aspirants (Salesian Cooperators) of Umden Parish and also to encourage and revive the fervour of the old members. Sr. Happyline Shadap our Local delegate took the initiative to organize this one-day retreat for us.

We reached Umden at 9 in the morning and after the registration, by 9.30 we started the day with the prayer for a Happy Death led by Sr. Happyline Shadap and after that she gave us a reflection on 'PRAYER'. She had given us a beautiful reflection and made us understand how important prayer is in each one's life and the need of surrendering everything to God. She quoted from different parts of the Bible and gave ample examples to make us go deeply and realize that life without prayer is like a fish without water. What



touched me most was the example she gave of the modern world connectivity with the use of mobile phones, internet, skype etc. she compared the connectivity we should have with God thus: "Prayer is a free outgoing call to God, no battery power off, no charging, no network problem, no sim card, always good signal and endless talk time. The line is always free never busy and without pay". After the break Fr. Henry Warbah SDB the Parish Priest gave us another reflection on "Faithfulness to Christian life". He said, "we need to long for God in our life". Many people feel unhappy and uneasy in their life because they are far away from God. He said that we must have great love and devotion to Mary Our Mother as Don Bosco himself had and he urged every Salesian Cooperator to live a holy life.

After lunch we had adoration and confession. The day concluded with the Holy Eucharistic celebration. It was a very enriching experience for each one of us; we felt happy and fulfilled having renewed our life in the Lord and to strive to live a good life. On behalf of the group, Mr. Elias Malai from Umden proposed the vote of thanks in which he thanked everyone responsible for making the day a fruitful one.

Rosana Kurbah

Day of Consecrated Life celebrated at Ri Bhoi Region

As part of the celebration of the year dedicated to Consecrated Life, on 9th July 2015 the Salesian family of Ri Bhoi Region had

a one-day programme to review their life and strengthen their commitment in their service to God and humanity at the Transformational Leadership Resource Centre, Siloam. The programme was organized by the Parish Priest of Nongpoh, Fr. Glorius Syiemlieh SDB for the Salesian Fathers, brothers, FMA Sisters and MSMHC Sisters.

The group was led into an in-depth reflection on the three aims of Consecrated life as proposed by Pope Francis by Fr. Philip Barjo SDB, Rector of Don Bosco Shillong. He stressed that each one of us has the power to **WAKE THE WORLD WITH DAWNING JOY**. While speaking on the first aim: *“Look to the past with Gratitude”* he helped us go deep into the rich history of the past. He encouraged us to capture the Spirit of the founder and co-founders, and thank God for the wonders done in each of our congregations. Secondly to *“Live the present with Passion”* calls our attention to examine our lives whether we live the Gospel way of life in our day-to-day life and mission and thirdly, *“To embrace the future with Hope”*, speaking on this point he invited everyone present to be optimistic and live our religious calling with joy despite the difficulties we may encounter in our mission field.

Fr. Barjo also shared few points from the document on Religious Life namely Vita Consecrata which reminded us to center our life on God and live our dedication to God in full measure so that the world will never be without a ray of divine beauty.

After the talk we had an hour of adoration animated by the MSMHC Sisters from Nongkharah, where we spent time with the Lord thanking Him for the gift of our vocation. The afternoon time was spent in personal prayer and reflection and at 2 pm we concluded with a meaningful celebration of the Holy Eucharist praying for each other to be strong in our religious life to serve the Lord with faithfulness. After the Holy Mass, Fr. Glorius thanked each and everyone for coming over and sharing the joy of our religious vocation together as one family.

Sr. Happyline Mary Shadap

Children's Retreat at Jyntru Village

The Children of the age group of 7-14 belonging to Nongkharai sub district of Nongpoh Parish were given a two day Retreat from 18th to 19th July 2015 by Sr. Happyline Mary Shadap and the Salesian Cooperators at Jyntru village. The children numbered 271 both boys and girls from the fourteen villages of the sub-district.

On the first day the Animating team and the children were welcomed by the Church Leader of the village, Mr. Aron Syngkli. The theme of the retreat was taken from the Gospel of St. Mathew 19 : 14 “Let the little children come to me and do not stop them because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”. Sr. Happyline gave the children a common introductory talk and later they were divided into different groups according to their age for the better follow up of faith instruction. During the two days the children were taught the daily prayers, some practices of piety,

catechism and action songs. The children were helped in the preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and all of them with great fervour took this opportunity to renew the life of grace within them. On the second day the children woke up to the tune of lively music and a little exercise to begin the day well. During the course of the day they had the animated rosary and singing practice. Finally at three in the afternoon the climax of the retreat was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Glorius Syiemlieh, Parish Priest. The children were very happy and went back home joyfully.



It was a successful retreat for the children and especially for us the Salesian Cooperators that we were able to help the children to come closer to God in our little way.

The Salesian Cooperators took the full responsibility and shared in all the works right from cooking, serving food,

staying for the night and teaching them. It was a good experience in which we were able to involve other members from the sub district who also helped us for the smooth running of the retreat. We are grateful to Sr. Happyline Shadap for motivating us and for taking all the pain to see to all that was needed.

*Jasmine Maiong & Shidaline Syiemlieh
(Aspirant of Salesian Cooperators)*



Long Live Don Bosco! Father and friend of Youth

With great joy and happiness, the management, Staff and Students of Auxilium Umpohliw Jingstad Secondary School celebrated the 200th birthday of Don Bosco on 18th August 2015. The day began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr.

George Maliekal SDB, Provincial of Silchar Province and concelebrated by five priests. Sisters of the neighbouring communities and other friends and well-wishers were also invited for this occasion. Recalling the words of Don Bosco "A grateful boy is a noble boy", the bicentenary celebration was combined with the celebration of Gratitude day. Introduction to the Holy Eucharist was read by Junias Kshiar, which gave the tone for the day. The liturgy was well animated with melodious singing, prayer of the faithful and offertory procession. The hall was packed with the students from classes V to XII. Though belonging to different religions all of them joined together to praise and thank God for the gift of Don Bosco.

After the Holy Mass light refreshment was served for the invitees while the students got ready for the programme. The children put up a meaningful and colourful programme with songs and dances. The students through a short skit depicted a brief history on the life of Don Bosco. Both in the homily and in the speech as the chief Guest, Fr. George recalled

the early life of Don Bosco and he compared the humble beginning of the early life of Don Bosco with the humble beginning of the mission at Mawtnum. He expressed his joy to see so much of development that has taken place within few years. He reminded the young people of the words of Don Bosco which he often said. 'It's enough that you are young for me to love you very much'. As true children

of Don Bosco the children made use of all their gifts and talents and the stage programme was well done to the joy and satisfaction of everyone. Thanks to the hard work of all the sisters and teachers under the leadership and guidance of Sr. Mary Lamare, the Headmistress. After the vote of thanks, which was proposed by Sir Bhim Bahadur, we concluded the programme by singing the Bicentenary anthem of Don Bosco. May Don Bosco continue to live on in our hearts, in our life and in our mission. Long live Don Bosco!

Sr. Banteisha Warshong

NANDAN NAGAR

Community Day Celebration: "Be a little flame of goodness, love and joy"

The 18th July 2015 was a day that will go unforgettable in the life of the community of Auxilium Nandan Nagar as we celebrated the gratitude day of this grace-filled year. The theme of the celebration was "Be a little flame of goodness, love and joy", which was the clarion call of our beloved Mother General in her circular letter No. 952.

The day began with the hallmark of all its celebration; the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Joseph Pulinthanath SDB, Director of Peace Centre. The entrance procession was led by Sr. Celine D' Cunha the animator and all the members of the community followed carrying a lighted lamp in their hands a symbol of a little flame of goodness, love and joy. The homily of the day was a very



simple but a heart captivating message "*Little step is a great start for a big achievement*" which is based on the theme to be little flame of goodness, love and joy. We were therefore exhorted to live this theme by starting in a little way, which would gradually lead us to living it to the full. The enchanting hymns sang by the boarders added grandeur and created an ambience of prayer for the whole community.

One of the most excited events of the day was the Basketball match between the boarders and the sisters. It was a thrilling event much more because of the involvement of all the Sisters beginning from Sr. Celine, the animator of our community as one of the team member. During the match it was amazing to see the joy and fun of the boarders who enjoyed to the full to see the sisters at play. Finally the sisters

won the match and all were so satisfied to share the happiness with everyone.

At 1.00 p. m we gathered in the hall for a sumptuous lunch prepared with much love by Sr. Philomena Maloth and our house girls. The hall, donned with little lamps everywhere created a very special atmosphere for the celebration.

The day concluded with the whole community watching one of the most inspiring and motivating movie "The pursuit of Happiness". In the evening, after the movie the sisters gathered together as one family to adore and thank the Lord for the marvelous day which was preceded by a month long preparation. We have benefitted by the in depth

study of the Constitutions and the sharing of the vocational journey of each sister. Thanks to the initiative taken by Sr. Celine and Sr. Rihun to make our preparation an enriching one and to live our community life enthusiastically. A million thanks to the Sisters and each member of our community who made the day a very unique and memorable one. Longlive Auxilium Agartala!

Sr. Margreth Kharmuti

Salesian Family celebrates Don Bosco at Agartala

August 15 and 16 were thrilling days for the youth of Tripura especially for the whole Salesian family where around a thousand young people gathered for the Bicentenary celebration of the birth of Don Bosco our Father and Founder.

The celebration started with the inaugural function, which was followed by input sessions animated by Sr. Celine D' Cunha and Mr. Tarun Debberma, Salesian co-operator on 'The SYM and its spirituality' and 'The Youth and challenges of Today' respectively. The sessions urged the youth to live the daily life joyfully and responsibly as wanted by Don Bosco. The sessions helped the youngsters to participate in the Holy Eucharist meaningfully that evening with lots of joy and enthusiasm. The day concluded with a cultural programme, performed by the different parishes and institutions. The different dances depicted the affluence of the culture and tribes of Tripura where everyone tried to honour Don Bosco through their cultural dance and customs.

The grand finale August 16 opened with the moment with God where all the participants thanked and praised God for the gift of Don Bosco the Father of the young. After the Morning Prayer the youth in one voice sang a birthday song to Don Bosco with love and



gratitude. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rt. Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC Bishop of Agartala Diocese along with many other concelebrants. During the Holy sacrifice we witnessed the solemn promise made by the eight Salesian Cooperators where they pledged before God to serve Him in a Salesian way while living in their family. This too added more grandeur, devotion and inspiration to the gathering. In his homily, the Bishop exhorted

everyone to follow the example of Don Bosco the great lover and devotee to the Holy Eucharist and Mary Help of Christians.

After the Holy Eucharist there followed a short cultural programme, messages from the representatives of the members of the Salesian family and releasing of the Bi-centenary Souvenir by Rt. Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC. We congratulate Sr. Celine D' Cunha who took the full responsibility

and worked might and main for the publishing and printing of the same putting into records the History of the Salesian Family in Tripura. The day concluded with a Lucky Draw and the Basketball friendly match between the Salesian Co-operators and the students at Auxilium School Basketball court where the Salesian Co-operators won the match.

The festivity was indeed a joyful moment for everyone and a time to renew ourselves to live the legacy handed down to us by our Founder and Father Don Bosco. Eviva Don Bosco!!!!

Sr. Merciful Nongsiej

Triple Celebrations Solemnized Auxilium Campus

Triple celebrations solemnized Auxilium Campus on 29th August 2015 – The solemn Closing ceremony of the Bicentennial Birth of Don Bosco, the releasing of the 4th issue of our School Magazine 'AUXILIANS 2015' and the inauguration of our New School Auditorium. The day was bright and beautiful with cool breeze and the waves of enthusiasm striking our hearts and minds as a premonition of the resonance of a rich and unforgettable experience that flooded the campus of Auxilium.

The august gathering was graced with the presence of Prof. Mihir Kanti Deb, President, Tripura Board of School Education as our Chief Guest and Shri Tarun Philip Debbarma, TCS, Grade 1, Officer in-charge of Land Acquisition as the Guest of honour. Many other eminent persons graced the auspicious occasions, like, Fr. Joseph Palamthattel SDB



(Sunny) Rector of Don Bosco School, Agartala, Sr. Elizabeth Vazhakalayil, Animator of Auxilium Convent, Bishramganj, representatives from nearby Institutions, members of School Managing Committee, good number of Salesian Cooperators, some eminent personalities and well wishers.

The NCC and Guides escorted the Guests and Invitees to the newly constructed auditorium. The colourful programme started with paying homage to the great Friend and Champion of Youth with lighted Lamps and Floral tributes by different persons as a sign of respect and admiration to this Great Saint who had touched the lives of millions of young people. The bicentenary theme song, sung enthusiastically with graceful actions, made the entire environment vibrate with the name of Don Bosco as a fountain of cheerfulness seeping through our nerves.



In her welcome speech, Sr. Celine D' Cunha, our Principal expressed the joy of the entire school community on this historic day and highlighted the significance of the day.

A resplendent pageant encompassing some colourfully and artistically displayed dances performed to perfection by students made the day gorgeous and stunning, such as a Manipuri dance depicting the lovely culture of Manipur; a riot between studies and social networking entitled 'Text Books vs. Facebook' presented by the little ones, a modern Panjabi Dance highlighting the scene of Mehendi, the bearers of Bengali attire mesmerizing the audience with their 'Megha palak chadar nolak' and an amalgamation of Kokborok and Reang dance making the entire programme colourful and graceful, highly appreciated by all the eminent guests and invitees and the entire audience.

The most awaited and heartbeat-fastening moment of the day was the releasing of our 4th issue of our school magazine. The making of the magazine, a glimpse into its pages was given by Mrs. Sumita Roy and finally the Chief Guest, Prof Mihir Kanti Deb, unfastened the knot of the sky blue magazine which was renamed from AUXILIARIES to AUXILIANS. It is a

Kaleidoscope of events, a milestone reached, a new chapter that unfolds our growth and achievement, gives wings to our imagination and gives life to our thoughts, dreams and aspirations. It focuses on issues that are important for the trinity of students, teachers and parents. The Magazine was joyfully welcomed and accepted by everyone with a loud round of applause.

The Chief Guest in his message expressed his displeasure for not visiting this prestigious school earlier and said that he would return to learn, for he said, he has not seen such a discipline anywhere as well as such a programme – a perfect combination of entertainment as well as lessons for life-time. The Guest of honour too had high praises for the excellent school – terming it to be the best of schools in the state.

The school Choir then led everyone with one accord honouring Don Bosco, the Father of the Young as they joyfully sang "Padre e Maestro" in the tongue of the Saint.

The lowering of the Bicentenary flag came as one of the most unforgettable event not only for Auxilians but also for all those who are closely associated with Don Bosco - our great Saint. The solemn clarinet played with drumbeat by the pre-Novices from Mariamnagar, the perfect rhythmic movements of the NCC and the Guides added grandeur to the closing ceremony. Sr. Celine D' Cunha, our Principal lowered the flag, which was hoisted a year-ago, while the entire school stood in rapt attention as a mark of respect and after together they sang in unison, "We thank you, O Lord for Don Bosco".

The grand finale was even more colourful and nostalgic as 200 students dressed in their colourful costumes released 200 colourful balloons coupled with a fervent prayer. As the balloons were flying high, our gratitude to God for the gift of Don Bosco resounded again with youthful songs to Don Bosco.

Thus the beautiful and memorable day came to a glorious end, never to be forgotten, with a mixed feeling of joy, cheerfulness and nostalgia, leaving an indelible mark in the life of everyone present in the solemn occasion. Long Live Don Bosco!

Mrigakshi Saha (Class IX)

NONGTHYMMAI

Students' Retreat at Auxilium Shillong

A Spiritual Retreat was organized for the Catholic students of Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School Nongthymmai Shillong from 10 – 12 July 2015 in the school campus. The girls who took part in the retreat were of the age group of 14 to 18.

It began in the evening of 10th July at 5.30 with the general instruction and reading out of the timetable by Sr. Albrida Pyngrope the Principal, Sr. Elizabeth the animator of the community gave a short welcome address followed by an inaugural prayer animation by Sr. Theresa Phawa and the prayer of the Holy Rosary. The good night message was given by Sr. Elizabeth Thannimothil. Soon after they watched a film 'The stoning of Sorayam'. The next day began with a prayer moment beautifully animated by Sr. Euginia Laloo, on the theme "How great is our God" wherein the students took part in it wholeheartedly, praising and thanking God spontaneously. Sr. Theresa Phawa and Fr. James Thyrnang Sdb took care of the morning sessions. The former spoke on "Why do we need to pray" and the latter on the theme "Learning from Nature" which was followed by the Holy Eucharistic celebration. In the afternoon Sr. Joplin Suchiang spoke on "reconciliation" and prepared the students for the sacrament of Reconciliation which followed soon after. Four priests came to help in the administration of the same. The students were happy to get this



grace of encountering the Lord having prepared themselves well through the general examination of conscience.

On the last day the Morning Prayer was animated by Sr. Albrida Pyngrope who invited everyone to thank the Lord for the opportunity to pray together and the many blessings received. Fr. Mathew Payappilly SDB animated the students for the whole day and concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. After lunch, and short recreation the students met together again in the hall to express their gratitude to the community Sisters and the teachers who helped them to have a God experience in a very tangible way during the past two days.

Sr. Joplin Suchiang

Catechism and Moral Science Day

The inaugural day of the School week on 13 July 2015 was dedicated to Catechism and Moral Science Day. This event is one of the red-letter days in the annals of Auxilium Higher Secondary School besides the many events of 2015. The chief guest of the day was Fr. Edward Sten, Director Diocesan Catechetical Commission.

The celebration began with the arrival of guests and the prayer moment led to the solemn inauguration

of the celebration with the invocation of God's grace. Songs, dances and skits were performed on 'Teaching Values' by the Catechism and Moral Science students both juniors and seniors. The singing of the school Anthem and the school week Theme Song have added grandeur and meaning to the inaugural function. All the items



were competitions and their respective teachers helped the students in the same. Fr. Edward Sten declared the School Week-2015 opened after his speech on the importance of teaching and learning about Faith. He appreciated the School for the importance given to Faith Formation by organizing the

Catechism and Moral Science Day. The Chief Guest took leave after the first competitions by the juniors in the morning. The programme resumed for the seniors after the lunch break and it was really an awesome moment to see how each group did their best to carry away the prizes in store for the winners. Each class performed exceptionally well to the extent that the judges found it tough to single out the best ones. However, judges were given a special grace to make decisions and they did their part too extraordinarily well. After the announcement of the winners, the programme ended with the theme song, *'Mind, Heart and Spirit'* composed by Miss. Nancy, Miss Meborine and Sir. Banlum Khongsdam our music teachers and School choir in charge. Kudos to them for the melodious, meaningful and inspiring theme song!



Highlights of the School Week 2015

Auxilium School wore a different look from 14 -16 July 2015 as the daily routine was interrupted by the showcasing of talents and gifts of the Auxilians. Teachers and students crossed the threshold of the school premises with immense excitement to begin the activities scheduled for the school week. Daily, after the theme song, the students dispersed to their own group and allotted places for the

various competitions. In every event they showed great interest and wonderful talents. We spare no time and place to appreciate them for the gifts and talents that God has given them and the teachers who helped them throughout the days of preparation and performance.

The final day of the school week was even more exciting as naturally as it should for every student. Its joy and luxury were enhanced by the august presence of the chief guest, Mr. Latiplang Kharkongor the MDC of Nongthymmai Constituency. The celebration began with a prayer animated by Miss. Elena Kharkongor with her colleague, Miss Candida Kharpdah. Sr. Theresa Phawa gave the welcome speech and after the theme song and two performances by the winners from the juniors' categories, the chief guest gave a short and meaningful message, which excited the children all the more to begin the remaining competitions. He appreciated the school management and the students for the zeal and enthusiasm manifested by all. The assembly was pleased with the presence of Lapdianghun Nongkhlaw and Monica Tungdim the rank holders in the last SSLC Examination. They came along with their family members and were warmly welcomed to

the School. The two Rank Holders were felicitated by the school to acknowledge and appreciate their hard work and brilliance. In their message, they inspire their fellow students to always desire for something better than the ordinary and to give their best in all their work and study.

The unbeaten competitors resumed their task after the lunch break and the most thrilling one was the Miss Auxilium Contest 2015. Unfortunately, the hall could not contain all the students, as we had to conduct the programme inside due to the bad weather. Many students had to satisfy just their ears but not their eyes. Berbandier Rimai Syiem was crowned Miss Auxilium 2015 while Emmy Lalduhawmi, the first

Runner up and Ibapynshisha Sun was the second. When all the events were performed on stage, the day ended with the announcement of the results and prize distributions after which every one returned home with a doubled and shared joy. *'The song is ended but the melody lingers on'* is an apt quotation to describe the sentiments of every one.

Bible Distribution for Co-workers

The 22nd day of July was undoubtedly indelible from the mind of our co-workers when they received a copy each of the Khasi Holy Bible. Sr. Suja Isabella our Provincial was the chief guest who after a word of appreciation to Sr. Hilda Barragan and advice to the co-workers distributed the Bible to all of them. This is the project undertaken by our beloved Sr. Hilda who has supplied good copies of the Bible to many of our houses in the province. This initiative taken by her is a commendable work and highly appreciated, as it is mainly to help our people cultivate a deep love for the Word of God. Everyone was happy and thankful for the most precious gift, which perhaps they never thought of receiving from others. Our community is



grateful to Sr. Hilda for thinking about our close collaborators and helpers. We pray for God's blessings upon her always.

Sr. Theresa Phawa

SAIDEN

New Arrivals at the Salesian Training Ground

The 7th August 2015 was a red-letter day in the chronicles of Saiden, where at 11. 30 a.m., the 22 courageous young girls arrived in our community to join the Aspirantate, accompanied by the Sisters from Bellefonte community.

We welcomed them with songs, bouquets and shouts of joy, after which all proceeded to the chapel for a short prayer moment led by Sr. Marvella Shangpliang,

our animator. This was followed by a delicious welcome lunch prepared with much love. After lunch we spent time together for some hours, sharing the joys and happiness like sisters of one family. At 2.00 p.m, the sisters returned to Shillong. All of us were overwhelmed with great joy and happiness to have the new comers in our community and to see that the house is full again after feeling the void left

by the Postulants who departed for the Novitiate. We expressed our gratitude to God for the gift of each one of them and for the gift of their vocation. We pray that God may guide them

as they journey ahead to discern His holy call and that Mother Mary may accompany them in their vocational journey.

Theresia Kongwang – Aspirant

Laying of the Foundation Stone

The 13th of August was a historical day for our community of Auxilium Saiden where the foundation stone of the extension of the building was laid. The presence of Sr. Isabella Suja, our Provincial; Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, the vice provincial who is also the Animator of the community; Sr. Marcellina Sangma, Provincial Economer; Sr. Elizabeth Thannimootil, Provincial Councilor; our sisters from Auxilium Mawtnum; Auxilium Nongthymmai; the elderly sisters - Sr. Hilda Barragan and Sr. Mary Kadicheeny, the Aspirants and sisters of the community added joy and support for the new construction to begin.

After the Holy Mass, all gathered at the site for the new construction. A beautiful short prayer service was animated wherein Fr. T. A Jose the Assistant Parish Priest of the



Assumption Church Nongpoh Parish blessed the foundation stone. A symbolic gesture of burying the time capsule was done and followed by the placing of cement mixture by Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial along with some representatives of Sisters.

With one voice as a community we raise our praises and thanksgiving to God for His love to us and to the Province at large. He has blessed us with many vocations and above all with His Divine Providence through which the Province foresees the needs of all our candidates and to make their journey smooth and pleasant with appropriate and comfortable dwelling that would cater for their physical and spiritual well-being. Special thanks to Sr. Vilma Tallone, Economer General who with much love and generosity support the province in this venture.

Sr. Iahunlang Kyrasian

"Originality will always catch the attention of a good critic whether you're striving for success or living proof of success. Be yourself! Stay Original!"
- *Leiby Acosta*

TURA

Jubilee bells ring at Auxilium Tura

On 29 August 2015, the Campus of Auxilium Tura resonated with one voice "Come let us celebrate". The reason for the celebration was the Silver Jubilee of the Auxilium Girls' Hostel, Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr. Monica T. Sangma and the 200th birthday of Don Bosco. This triple celebration brought vibrations of thanksgiving and jubilation in the hearts of all.

The true act of thanksgiving for such great milestones in the history of our community was expressed through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Rt. Rev. Bishop Andrew R. Marak, Bishop of Tura Diocese was the main celebrant and concelebrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop George Mamalassery, Bishop Emeritus of Tura Diocese, Rev. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma Vice Provincial of Guwahati Province and many other priests. During his homily Bishop Marak highlighted the significance of the celebration and quoted from the scripture that Jubilees call for a celebration; most of all acknowledging God's blessings bestowed on us human beings. A host of religious men and women and the relations of Sr. Monica Sangma filled the Auxilium Hall to its capacity. The angelic voices of the Sisters and the young people echoed



forth the notes of thanksgiving through the well-prepared liturgy and choir. As a mark of felicitation, Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial donned a silver crown on Sr. Monica for the twenty-five years of life lived as an FMA. Soon after Mass, followed the felicitation programme.

It was admirable to see that all the guests remained for the felicitation programme and joined us in our joy. At the outset, Sr. Phyllis Bamon, the Animator welcomed everyone to the gathering and felicitated Sr. Monica and eminent guests among who was Fr. Battista Busolin SDB a veteran missionary who celebrates his 75 years of religious profession and the Sisters who have lived in Auxilium Tura. The afternoon programme was coloured with beautiful and meaningful presentation of the Boarders and Hostel girls, which was apt for the celebration and that enthralled the guests and the audience. Short speeches were also given by Bishop George Mamalassery, Fr. Januarius Sangma, Sr. Rosina Susngi, former Animator of the community and Fr. Theodore T. Sangma, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church Tura who is also the uncle of Sr. Monica. On this occasion the past pupils too expressed their gratitude for all the past superiors and sisters through a song "Carry your candle" which symbolizes all the knowledge and values they have received while in the hostel and which they carry forth in their daily life's situations. The afternoon extravaganza concluded with a melodious rendition of the FMA Anthem "O Qual Sorte" by all the Sisters present for the jubilee celebration. The long days and months of preparation has brought a successful celebration.

Sr. Sabina Mawrie

Don Bosco: Education is a matter of the Heart

Continuation

Sr. Celine D'Cunha fma
Don Bosco's Pedagogy is the
Pedagogy of the Heart

Don Bosco conceived and imparted a pedagogy intended for young people – ‘a method or way of life,’ to use his expression that bears a typically Bosconian Stamp. He invited the young people who lived with him to choose certain values, to adopt and act by certain standards, to organize their life as children of God. He desired and guided the young people to live in accordance with a spirituality that was simple but was designed to train the young people into complete human beings.

Don Bosco's heart never stopped loving to the very end. His pedagogy is identified with all his activity; all his action is identified with his personality and all of Don Bosco's personality is definitively summed up in one word: **HEART!**

To understand the method of Don Bosco is to understand Don Bosco himself. His first principle of education was to conquer the heart of the young people. As we know in our educative work, if we want to have a lasting effect on any young person, we must first of all have to win that person. It means we must conquer the heart of the young people. This is the most important element

Don Bosco understood heart as the central part of our being. The heart wants, the heart desires, the heart comprehends, the heart understands, the heart listens, the heart feels, the heart pains, the heart rejoices, etc. We need to reach the hearts of young people by demonstrating that we are genuinely concerned with their welfare. With confidence in the transforming power of love we must foster ‘heart-to-heart’ communication and affirm them in their struggle to grow and mature. Scattered throughout the writings, we find expressions such as this: ‘Education is a matter of the heart.’ ‘Friendly counsels which appeal to the heart of the young people and win over the heart.’ ‘The educator must speak in the language of the heart.’ ‘I will do all I can if only I can win over the hearts of the young.’ ‘After winning the heart of a pupil, the educator can exercise great influence over that person.’ ‘Let us make ourselves loved, and we shall possess their hearts.’

He knew perfectly well, that if the heart is not touched and transformed, nothing will ever change. No number of degrees, no amount of instruction will ever be able to make a person a better human being without the heart being touched.

Don Bosco was a man with a great heart. This can be perceived intuitively from the thousands of expressions which emerge from his attitudes, words and writings, and particularly from his correspondence, often overflowing with nostalgic barely restrained feelings, affectionate recollections, concern for others, willingness to be always present.

The thought insistently expressed in Don Bosco's letter is that of wanting to hear news about his young people, their teachers and to reassure them, one by one, that he keeps them in his mind and heart.

Here are some of the heartfelt expressions found in his letters: “Give me plenty of detailed news about my dear children and tell them that at every Church I visited I never failed to pray for them...” “Even



though, I cannot be exclusively concerned for the well-being of the Oratory and our youngsters there while here in Rome, my thoughts always fly to where my treasure is, in Jesus Christ namely, to my dear children at the Oratory. Several times during the day I'm paying them a visit..." "Next Thursday, God willing, I will be back in Turin. I feel a strong need to get there. I live here in body, but my heart, my thoughts and even my words are always at the Oratory in your midst. This is one of my weaknesses and I cannot overcome it ..." "Tell all our dear youngsters that I willingly work for them and that my life to my last breath shall be for them. But they should pray for me; they should be good, and avoid sin, so that, we may all reach heaven for all eternity." "Extend my most cordial greetings to all our dear youngsters and tell them that I love them very much, that I love them in the Lord and that I bless them."

As we can see, Don Bosco's love was shown equally for the young people and

their teachers who were also 'his children.'

His methods centered on persuasion, authentic spirituality, and an unconditional love for young people. He was an enlightened educator and innovator. He loved in a manner that made each person feel special.

Some particular characteristics of his pedagogy are:

- **Creativity of an Artist** - One thing that led Don Bosco to act as a true artist was his approach of loving-kindness: building trust, familiarity and friendship. His passionate and incomparable love for young people. His capacity of 'making oneself loved.' He would say: "It is not enough to love the young people. They need to know that they are loved."
- **Relationship that matters** – Taking the first step in going to meet the young person is the first and fundamental need in the field of education. The young person is the active agent in educational practice and should feel personally involved in what one is trying to achieve. Don Bosco did not act in a dictatorial fashion but shared responsibility with them and made them integral part of his educative process.
- **Home for every young person** – Don Bosco wanted that every one of his institutions to be like a home and people living there to relate to one another as members of a family. Familiarity for Don Bosco was family-like relationship and home-like atmosphere. We call it the 'Family Spirit.' Don Bosco would say "Every young person who comes to any one of our houses should regard his companions as brothers/sisters and his educators as those who take the place of his parents."

- **Trust begets trust** – Don Bosco was convinced that only when the young people trust their educators they will open themselves to them. Trust is gained by eliminating whatever barrier that alienates them from the educators and also from the environment. Don Bosco would say: ‘It is not possible to educate young people if they have no trust in their educators.’ The educator can build trust by going to meet them first, adapting their tastes, identifying with them and sharing their world.
- **An atmosphere of spontaneity, Joy and Cheerfulness** - One of the special characteristics of Don Bosco’s system of education is an atmosphere of spontaneity, joy and happiness. Don Bosco maintained that, joy and happiness, spontaneity and cheer, music and singing, amusements and entertainments, outing and picnics, theatre and recitals etc. were the secrets of the good and serene running of his house. ‘Serve the Lord in gladness’ could be called the 11th commandment in Don Bosco’s house.
- **Accompaniment** – Don Bosco placed great emphasis on the presence of the educator with the young people especially during their free times, games and recreations, their study moments. It is the presence, availability and educational accompaniment of the educator that enables young people to establish a rapport of love and friendship.
- **Respect for every person** – Don Bosco was convinced that human beings are

created in the image and likeness of God. For this reason they are endowed with intelligence, will power and the capacity to love one another and to relate to God. He would tell the educators: “Let us treat young people as we would treat Jesus if he were a pupil in one of our schools. Let us treat them with love and they will learn to love in return. Let us treat them with respect and they will learn to respect one another...”

Don Bosco’s thinking was always accompanied by the particular tone of his educative love, cheerfulness and an emphasised cheerfulness for the sake of the young people who came from poor families, often underfed, and often attracted by the promise of festivities in the dining room, the theatre and the playground. Amongst many, the following example will be proof enough: “Speak like this to your children: Don Bosco loves you always, with all his heart, in the Lord. Don Bosco will remember you in a special way during his Mass...”

Perhaps no one in history loved young people as deeply as Don Bosco did. His love for them found its best expression in an educative system geared to their total development. In his words: *“My dear friends, I love you with all my heart, and your being young, is reason enough for me to love you very much. You will certainly find books written by persons much more virtuous and much more learned than myself; but, I assure you, you will find it difficult to find anyone who has a greater love for you in Jesus Christ, or who cares more about your true happiness”.*

“Don’t give up because things are hard, but work harder, when you think of giving up.”- Anthony Liccione

Glossary of Academic Information Technology Terms

A/D Converter: A device used to convert analog data to digital data. Analog data is continuously variable, while digital data contains discrete steps.

Bandwidth: The capacity of the transmission medium stated in bits per second or as a frequency. The bandwidth of optical fiber is in the gigabit or billion bits per second range, while ethernet coaxial cable is in the megabit or million bits per second range.

CCD: Charge-coupled device. An integrated, micro-electrical light sensing device built into some image capturing devices.

Cyberspace : A term used to refer to the electronic universe of information available through the Internet.

DNS: Domain Name System. A general purpose distributed, replicated, data query service. Its principal use is the lookup of host IP addresses based on host names. The host names are also known as domain names. Some important domains are: .COM (commercial), .EDU (educational), .NET (network operations), .GOV (U.S. government), and .MIL (U.S. military). Most countries also have a domain. For example, .US (United States), .UK (United Kingdom), .AU (Australia).

External viewer: Program used for presenting graphics, audio and movies while browsing World Wide Web pages via a Web client program. Helper applications is another term for these external programs.

Firewall: A mechanism that isolates a network from the rest of the Internet, permitting only specific traffic to pass in and out.

Flatbed Scanner : Any scanning device that incorporates a flat transparent plate, on which



original images are placed for scanning. The scanning process is linear rather than rotational.

FTP: File Transfer Protocol. The Internet standard high-level protocol for transferring files from one computer to another across the network.

Home Page: The document that is displayed when you first open a web client program. Also, commonly used to refer to the first document you come to in a collection of documents on a Web site.

Information Technology: Includes matters concerned with the furtherance of computer science and technology, design, development, installation and implementation of information systems and applications.

JPEG: Joint Photographic Experts Group is a graphic file format that has a sophisticated technique for compressing full-color bit mapped graphics, such as photographs.

LAN: Local Area Network. A network of directly-connected machines (located in close proximity), providing high speed communication over physical media such as fiber

optics, coaxial cable, or twisted pair wiring.

Multimedia: Any presentation or software program that combines several media, such as graphics, sound, video, animation, and/or text.

NIC: Network Information Center. A organization that provides information, assistance and services to network users.

Pixel: Picture element. Digital images are composed of touching pixels, each having a specific color or tone. The eye merges differently colored pixels into continuous tones.

Resolution: In general, this refers to how sharp and clear an image looks on screen or on paper, and how much detail you can see. It's usually determined by the number of dots (or pixels) per square inch (the more there

are, the higher the resolution) and is used to describe printers, monitors, and scanners.

TIFF: Tag Image File Format. A graphic file format, TIFF files are also bit maps, but they can be any size, resolution, or color depth. It is the most versatile, reliable, and widely supported bit-mapped format and is the standard format for saving scanned images. However, the format does have several variations which means that occasionally an application may have trouble opening a TIFF file created by another program.

URL: Uniform Resource Locator, a string of characters that represents the location or address of a resource on the Internet and how that resource should be accessed. World Wide Web pages are assigned a unique URL. Each hyperlink on a web page contains the URL of the page to be linked to. <http://rohan.sdsu.edu/glossary.shtml> is the URL for this page.

Wide Area Network (WAN) : Network spanning multiple geographic distances, usually connected by telephone lines, microwave, or satellite links.

<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/glossary2.shtml#E>

The Patient Little Girl

Once a famine broke out in a country. Everyday the children of the city flocked at a rich man's house to get loaves of bread.

As soon as the servants brought out loaves, they fought among themselves and struggled hard to get them. One little girl did not fight. She waited pa-tiently for her turn and got the smallest loaf last of all.

One day as usual, she brought the smallest loaf. When she cut it, she found two rupees in it. She went back at once to return the money.

The rich man was pleased at her honesty. He gave her not only those two rupees, but two rupees more as a reward.

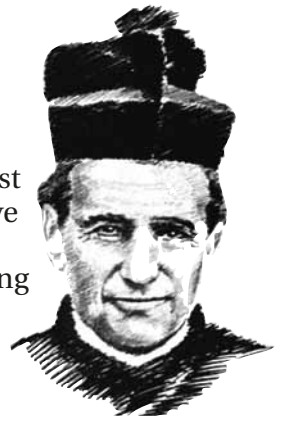
Moral: Patience brings its own reward.



DON BOSCO A man from A to Z

A : At the outset, at
 B : Becchi born of Johnny Bosco on 16th August 1815
 C : Cradled and nurtured by Mama Margareth, God called him he became
 D : Don Bosco, Died on 31st January 1888
 E : Early life, orphaned and poor
 F : Firm in faith, strenuous and tending the cows
 G : God called him and bestowed him a
 H : Heart as large as the sand on the seashore
 I : Inseparable with God and indefatigable in hardship always
 J : Joyful
 K : Kind in
 L : Living his
 M : Motto "Give me souls take away the rest" and
 N : Never neglect God
 O : Or over preoccupied the tomorrow in living his

P : Profession as a priest using the Preventive System to fulfill the
 Q : Quest of the young based on
 R : Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness as a
 S : Shepherd of
 T : Thousand and thousands of poor and abandoned youth
 U : Unflinching in his determination he
 V : Vowed his life to be Father and Friend of the young
 W : When he said, "For you I live for you I work, for you I study and for you even I'm ready to die" so he
 X : X-ray their problems and shouldered their
 Y : Yoke together and able to turn them from
 Z : ZERO into HERO



Sr. Catherine Sutnga

A CONVERSATION OF TWO RED ROSES

Two red roses were growing together in the same garden, one on either side of the bed.

"What makes you so beautiful, so sweet and so fragrant?", asked the first.

"What makes you think and say so about me?", said the other.

The first answered, "Whenever I turn to you, I see beauty; whenever the soft wind blows, I receive a nice smell and fragrance from you."

"Oh! That is wonderful. I have never known that. I always think you are the one having such wonderful beauty and producing such sweet fragrance replied the other".

Moral: Each of these roses sees beauty and finds the good in each other, while forgetting oneself totally.

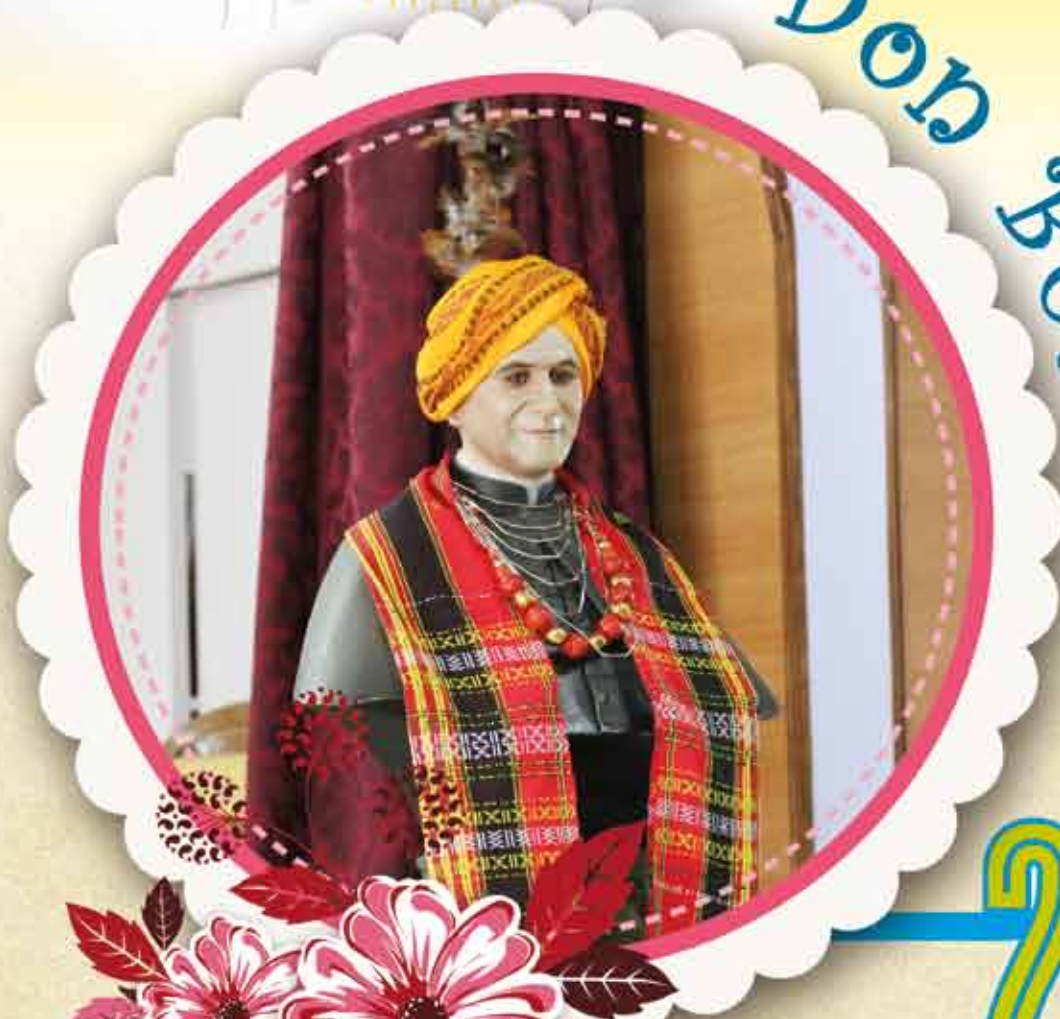
*Concocted by Sir. Paulinus Kharmudai (Teacher)
 St. Mary Mazzarello Jowai*



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Don
Pescio



2000

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Aspirants

