

Newsletter of the Salesian Sisters, Shillong Province

FMA-INS INFO

Vol. XXII
No. 1

April 2018

Provincial Office, Auxilium - Shillong 793014 - Meghalaya

Looking at the World with Hope

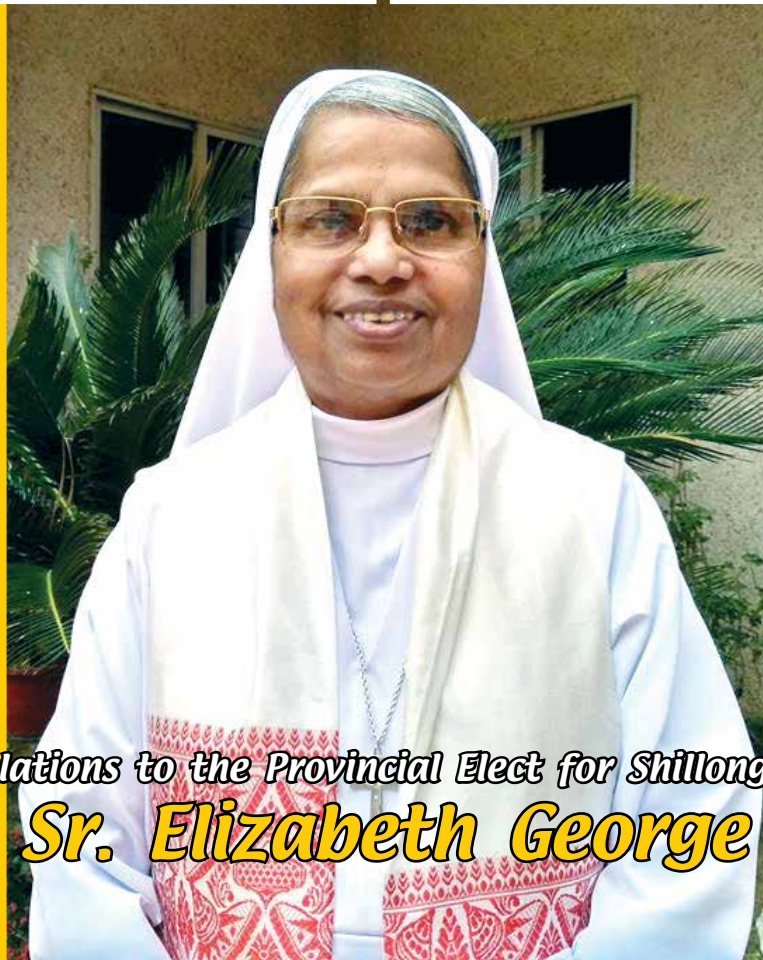


TRIENNIAL EVALUATION

FMA-PCI-2018
KOLKATA



**Triennial Evaluation for FMA Provincial Conference of India
Auxilium Dum Dum Kolkata 24 to 28 January 2018**



Congratulations to the Provincial Elect for Shillong Province

Sr. Elizabeth George



EDITORIAL



LOOK AROUND & BEYOND...

On the threshold of spring, we begin to notice a quiet awakening within; with the first pale green leaves unfolding out of the buds. Sometimes simply noticing the change of seasons is enough to facilitate an inner change, which is hard even when it is positive. As hopeful and optimistic as spring season is, there is always an element of discomfort in the world of transitions. New beginnings often spring out of painful endings.

We have witnessed something similar in the recent Legislative Assembly Election held in the North Eastern States of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya wherein attention of many in the country was drawn to these states with great suspense and concern. We are in the new phase of our journey socio-politically. What awaits us is yet a farfetched dream and wish. But we have a strong faith that God who writes straight in the crooked lines will bring out the best even in such circumstances.

The month of March also brought much anxieties, fears and uncertainties to students, young people and parents as various public exams are being conducted. In spite of much preparation most of the students feel unprepared for the final go. Struggles within them continue till the results are declared and beyond. Many young people live in complete frustration and discouragement due to failures and at the lack of opportunities. At the same time, they have a strong conviction that there is much room for growth, to dream and to look at new possibilities without losing hope. Faced with such reality, it is a big challenge for us, educators to reconsider our commitment to them and to rethink our way of being present among them today, to help them achieve their goals, realize their dreams and live their hope. But are we ready to accept the challenge?

We watch TV/ on Social Media or read the daily paper, there are stories of abuse and neglect, of children dying of hunger and disease, threats of wars, religious persecution, and the list is endless. In such chaotic situation we may often ask ourselves: how can we have hope in times like these? Or what do we still have to hope for anything better? But it is in believing that there is something new, something more beyond our human expectations. No matter what the challenges, nothing is impossible with the power and grace of God. We are invited to walk through every changing scenario with confidence, trust and hope. Therefore to be alert, to look around and beyond is the need of the hour.

For us who believe, Easter is certainly a celebration of hope and new life. In Jesus' resurrection every human aspiration finds its answer. It is a hopeful time for everyone. Let this newness of life and enthusiasm spurs us on to be living witnesses and fulfillment of God's big dream for the world, thus bringing hope to all.

FMA-INSinfo wishes all its readers a Blessed Easter and may the Risen Christ fill you with the hope of new beginnings, love, joy and happiness.

I would also like to draw your attention to the great feast ahead of us in the FMA family namely the World feast of Gratitude, which will be celebrated on 26 April 2018 in **Asunción (Paraguay) in the Province of St. Raphael Archangel**. Let the slogan proposed for the feast, **"With the young, let the chords of life vibrate, witnessing to the joy of following Christ"** be for us a guiding principle in our mission among the young.

Sr. Teresa Kamsuan
Associate Editor

THIS IS THE FIELD WHERE YOU MUST WORK

(An extract from the talk of Mother General during the Triennial Evaluation for FMA PCI at Auxilium Dum Dum, Kolkata – India on 26 January 2018)

A Synod on the Young

Sr. Yvonne Reungoat fma

On 13 January 2017, Pope Francis himself, in a letter addressed to the young, announced the Synod that will be celebrated in October 2018 on the theme: “The Young, Faith, and Vocational Discernment”.

“Depart from your land and go to a land that I will show you” (*Gen* 12:1). The Pope tells the young, “These are the words of a Father who today invites us to go out to launch ourselves toward an unknown future but that is the bearer of secure realizations that He Himself will accompany you to meet”.

Go out, leave one reality to go toward a new land, toward a more just and fraternal society according to the desires that the young themselves nourish in their heart.

However, for those who have faith in Jesus, the verb *to go out* has another meaning. It means to leave everything to **follow the Teacher there, where He leads us**. Responding to the question in every person’s heart – “Where do you live?” – He invites us to enter into His house: **sign “Come and See”**.

This invitation is also addressed to the young today to whom Jesus turns His gaze full of goodness and love (cf. *Letter* 13/01/2017).

It is the task of **the Church community to help the young to feel embraced by this gaze**, provoked by the voice of

Jesus, moved by the impulse to begin walking, not alone, but with the help of **expert guides, able to accompany, guide, support, contagion, witness**.

The **goal of the journey** is the joyful encounter with the God of life, with Jesus, who took on our fragility and suffering, our joys and our hopes, and brings our dreams of happiness to fulfillment (cf. *ibid*).

The Document in preparation for the Synod emphasizes the need to **listen to the young**. They present common characteristics on all five continents, along with many different aspects. What unites them is a context of “fluidity and uncertainty never before experienced” where few are privileged and many live in situations of vulnerability and insecurity. All of this has a major impact on their life choices.

Certainly, not all of the considerations of the Document are applicable to the contexts of the various Countries, this is why it is necessary to listen directly to the young, as the Document recommends.

In general, the Christian youth of India desire a Church that is closer to the people, more attentive to social problems, more authentic and coherent. **They live in a context that is not against Christianity, but that has millennial religious traditions that must be respected**. India is the cradle of religions such as: Hinduism,

Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, which are flanked by the Abrahamic religions. The traditional religions preach non-violence, tolerance, peace, harmony, reconciliation, even though there are fanatical groups in some areas that make co-existence more difficult.

The young live in a reality that is continually more 'hyper-connected' which tends to structure even their way of thinking, their concept of the world, and even interpersonal relationships.

They experience the provisory nature of every choice: "Today I choose this. Tomorrow, I will see." This makes a definitive choice of life more and more difficult. They are afraid of a 'yes forever'.

Vocational discernment in this context, is accompanied by a great capacity for closeness, orientation, witness. The preparatory Document explains discernment in these actions: "*Recognize, interpret, choose*".

Personal accompaniment must reach "favoring the relationship between the

person and the Lord, collaborating to remove what impedes it".

The art of accompaniment is then summarized in these three verbs: "*go out, see, call*".

"Go out" means abandoning the "schemes" that pigeon hole people and make the joy of the Gospel less credible. It also means abandoning an anachronistic language; to see is "to be" with young people to "listen to their stories"; "calling" is awakening desire, moving people from what keeps them blocked, asking questions without pretending to offer ready-made answers.

An important emphasis in the Document is that "the whole Christian community must feel responsible for the task of educating the new generations". We need "adults worthy of faith, authoritative believers, with a clear human identity, a solid ecclesial belonging". The educational role played by families and other educational agencies is "irreplaceable".

(to be continued)

MISSION Ad/Inter Gentes' Corner

My Experience in the field of Evangelization

Sr. Melina Kharbani

All through my religious life as a temporary professed Sister I was working in the school but there is something within me that urges me to go and proclaim. Obviously those experiences of being in the Sunday Oratory and visiting villages during holidays have inspired me to dedicate my life for evangelization. Therefore after my perpetual profession in 1991, I asked Mother Philomena Prabalanathan, the

then Provincial to allow me to go for direct evangelization. Again I was sent to a school, in Little Flower Imphal; here I took to heart visiting the families of non-Christians, as we know the Catholic population was very insignificant at that time. On every Sunday, along with a teacher I visited the Sangaiprou village, which takes half an hour or so walk from the Convent and was inhabited by the Rongmei tribe of Manipur. Gradually, with continuous



follow up in making known to them about Jesus and the Catholic faith they embraced the faith and received Baptism. In this way I found such joy in sharing my faith with others, which in turn strengthens my own. After the bifurcation of the Guwahati from Shillong Province I got a chance of being in the direct evangelization in Rangblang Parish for six years, in Nongstoin for two years and in Mawkyndeng for four years. During these twelve years of my experience in the field of direct evangelization I found that collaboration with others in order to reach to more people is an effective way of evangelization. Mingling with the Catholic Women's Association (*Seng Longkmie*), Salesian Cooperators, the Youth groups and teachers of the villages have helped me in the apostolate of teaching Catechism, family visits and organizing various activities. It is also one of the means where the laity is empowered and is able to dedicate their time and energy for Church activities making them as shared partners in the work of evangelization. Sharing the real life of the people; staying with them in their homes, going to their fields and meeting them at their work place have at times edified me in the way they take the events of life in faith and most of all their simplicity of life and joy of living gives me courage to sow the seed of the Word of God in them.

Some of the activities that we usually carry out are systematic family visits

especially the sick and lapse Catholics, conducting Seminars, Retreats, Sunday Class, Oratory, and preparation for the various Sacraments namely Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Confession and Matrimony. I also had the fortune of attending many Training Programs on Small Christian Communities in which I have come to understand better its goals. In whichever village I visited I encourage the faithful to form SCC groups wherein the new way of being Church by using the seven steps of reading the Word of God is encouraged. It also emphasized on to know, to love and to live the Word of God. At present in my mission at Mawkyndeng I am given the responsibility of being the Chairperson of the Catechetical Committee. Hence various Competitions involving all the villages in the Parish like Quiz on Catechism, Preaching, Singing from the Catholic Hymn Book (*Ka Lynti Bneng*) and Bible Skits. Another field of my interest is to promote vocations to the Association of the Salesian Cooperators. My special joy is that within these four years I have been able to guide and encourage forty-eight members who have taken their promise as full-fledged Salesian Cooperators. Another milestone in my mission was the great joy of being able to initiate eight Oratory centers at Mawkyndeng and other big villages of the Parish in collaboration with the Salesian Cooperators on 16 August

2014 marking the inauguration of the bi-centenary birth of Don Bosco. Hence from then on, once a year on 31 of January in honour of Don Bosco an Oratory Day is organized for the three Parishes of Mawkyndeng, Barato and Sahnsiang run by the Salesian Cooperators.

There have been varied experiences in these years but I would like to narrate just two very significant ones. In 2014 several times I have attempted to visit a family of Nida-emki Biam a new convert from Raliang village who was preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony at that time but since her family belongs to the traditional religion I was not able to do so. The family was so staunch that no religious could enter the family. The girl on her marriage day was not allowed to come home and so all the needful was done in her God mother's house and she went to the Church for the Sacrament of matrimony and to tie the knot with Mr. Edmon Phawa from Mawpasi. The marriage scene turned into a tearful gathering on witnessing this marriage unprecedented in the Khasi culture that a girl has to go to the boy's house on the day of her wedding. It was beautiful on the other hand to see the faithful of Raliang village who contributed to making the day a memorable one by

giving a tea party to all present and most importantly shouldered the responsibility of being family to her by taking care of all the necessities for the smooth running of the celebration. In another incident, which happened at Mooshrot village, there was a certain family who lost their child but was not happy with the way they were treated for the funeral of the same by the Presbyterian Church where they belonged. No prayer service was conducted; the child was just buried without any formal rites, which saddened the family to the core. This was due to their poverty they could not give the church contribution. Unhappy with all that happened they associated themselves to the Catholic faithful where I had the joy of instructing them to the faith and it was a joyful event on 24 December 2015 that the whole family became Catholic. Another striking thing that happened was that they managed to obtain permission from the Headman to exhume the body of the child from the Presbyterian cemetery and brought it to the Catholic cemetery.

Having shared so much, not all is smooth sailing but I do encounter some problems in making known Jesus and the Gospel values. These are accepted in the light of faith and always striving





Come and See Programme 2017

As part of the vocation recruitment process a three-day Come and See Programme was conducted for the girls who opted to join the FMA Salesian life from the various vocation Camps conducted at Diocese levels. The programme was held at Sacred Heart

to overcome any inconveniences and problems with the strength that comes from prayer and love of God.

Finally I would like to encourage all our Sisters to take to heart the Catechism class in order to strengthen the faith of the children, help them taste the beauty of being a Catholic, to grow in grace and remain faithful to their Baptismal promises. Let us try our best to be God's messenger of goodness to the people we meet in our day-to-day life and He will surely bestow His blessings on us because it is His own work. I would conclude with the quotation from John 15:16: You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear much fruit, fruit that will last.



Convent, Mawlai – Shillong on 18 to 20 December 2017 with 150 girls who have come from the two states of Meghalaya and Assam. The theme that has guided the gathering was “Come follow me to be Missionaries of hope and joy.”

The programme was officially inaugurated in the presence of Sr. Isabella Suja Provincial, Sr. Marvella Shangpliang, Vice Provincial and coordinator of the programme and Sisters from the nearby communities. The day was solemnized with the presence of the Novices from

Bellefonte who creatively presented in gist about the mission or the charism of our Institute. In her speech, Sr. Isabella Suja encouraged the young girls to listen to God's call and follow it diligently despite all odds. During the course of the programme the girls were helped to reflect on the mission of Don Bosco and to discover their own vocation. Some group activities, action songs and games made the gathering interactive and enjoyable at the same time. The Sisters belonging to the Vocation Pastoral team made the entire programme a very enriching one with the various animations. The Sisters from Bangalore and Guwahati Provinces too came and addressed the girls if they would like to join their respective Provinces.

Sr. Alphonsa Latam

Training on Tailoring cum Fashion Design

From 28 August, 2017 to 14 December, 2017 Sr. Rosalin Warbah, Sr. Hamdiaw Suchiang and Sr. Roslina Phangchopi attended the three months Training on Tailoring and Fashion Design at District Industry Centre, Nongrimbah, Shillong (DIC) organized by the Central Government of India in collaboration with the State Industry.

The three months course under the supervision of adept Teachers was a new learning of a more profession skills in the field of Tailoring and Fashion Design. The systematic methods of imparting and the appropriate syllabus have enabled us to ascertain other related details and knowledge.



On 14 December 2017 we were also given the opportunity to take part in the inaugural function of the "9th Himalayas Expo" that was held at the State Central Library, Shillong. This was another occasion of discovering new ideas and arts and we can proudly say that it has enhanced our creativity in this field. We are grateful to Sr. Isabella Suja, our Provincial and her Council for this opportunity given to us, which has improved our skills, and broaden our knowledge in this particular field.

Sr. Rosalin Warbah, Sr. Roslina Phangchopi & Sr. Hamdiaw Suchiang



Boarding Assistants Meet

The Boarding Assistants from the different communities of the Province met together for an orientation Programme on 8 January 2018 at FMA Outreach, Lumshyap. The Programme was organized by the Sisters in-charge of the Boarding Houses under the big umbrella of Youth Pastoral.

The day began with a prayer service led by Sr. Aprilda Pasi. Sr. Madonna Lytep, the Boarding Assistant coordinator of the Province welcomed everyone to the day's programme. In her Inaugural message, Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Provincial Councillor and Animator of FMA Outreach stressed on being alert and up-to-date with what is going on in the society these days. Sr. Christina Kharkongor elucidated the theme "Characteristics of Salesian Assistance" to the participants. She exhorted them to always seek for the Integral formation of the young people entrusted to their care. She also reminded everyone to be present always with a cheerful attitude and an open heart. The second theme dealt was "A home that evangelizes" by Sr. Maristella Rynghkhem, where she highlighted on the theme through the different tips as Salesian assistance. In the afternoon



the participants had sharing, discussion and planning for the programme and activities in the boarding. It was decided that "Leadership Training Programme" would be conducted region wise and phonetic classes to be taken seriously in the different boardings.

Sr. Merciful Nongsiej

Two-day Seminar for Children at Don Bosco Shrine Sohra



Around one thousand children from the various villages of St. John's Parish Sohra gathered for a two-day seminar on 20 – 21 January 2018 at the Don Bosco Shrine, Sohra. Heeding to the invitation of Fr. Anthony Roy SDB, the Parish Priest, Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang, Sr. Bergita Lyngkhoi and Sr. Monica Kharkongor animated the children.

The main topic dealt with during the seminar was on the Sacraments coupled



with instruction on Christian values. The children took an active part in every session with a great sense of eagerness and interest to learn. They enjoyed every moment spent together; they prayed fervently and were delighted with the various games and activities at recreation time too. The seminar concluded with a short Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, 21 January. It was a beautiful scene to behold these little children praying with great devotion and joy. Before leaving for their homes, they greeted and thanked the Fathers, Sisters and Helpers for the enriching days they had.

Sr. Bernadeth Sangriang

Triennial Evaluation for the Provincial Conference of India

The representatives of the seven FMA Indian Provinces gathered together at Auxilium Dum Dum Kolkata from 24 - 28 January 2018 for the Triennial Evaluation, a mid-term evaluation after the General Chapter. There were 42 participants including Mother Yvonne Reungoat, Superior General, Sr. Alaide Deretti – General Councillor for Mission, Sr. Runita Borja - General Councillor for Youth Pastoral, Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and Sr. Phyllis Neves - the visiting Councillors,

seven Provincials of India, 2 FMA delegates, a laity and a youth representatives from the seven Provinces of India.

Sr. Isabella Suja, Sr. Rosa Pyngrope, Sr. Gemima Pohrmen, Ms. Elena Kharkongor and Ms. Meboreen Mary Thongni represented Shillong Province. The five-day meeting saw the presentation of the consolidated study of the whole nation namely on the three choices of Pastoral of Conversion, how the renewed Constitutions are lived and the other questions. The gathering also put forth the proposed themes for General Chapter 24. The laity and young people present for the gathering have also pointed out their views and suggestions in order to make the Salesian spirit vibrant and respond adequately to the needs of young people. All the days of the meeting, Mother Yvonne has been a source of spiritual wealth; she has enriched the gathering with her talks titled, In Memory of the Call, Community in continual Conversion Capable of Prophetic Gestures, To be Together the Prophecy of Hope and This is the Field where you must work. The participants have experienced deeply the hospitality typical of the Salesian family spirit and have together sought out ways to make the charism relevant in today's context through the various discussions, planning and deliberations.

FMAinsinfo Correspondent





Workshop on Thinking School

The workshop on Thinking School was organized for the teachers of Auxilium and Sacred Heart Girls' at Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School, Nongthymmai on 9 February 2018. Sixty teachers participated in the workshop.

The workshop began with a moment dedicated to God, which was then followed by a message from Sr. Elizabeth Thannimootil Animator of Auxilium Convent and Secretary of Auxilium Girls' Higher Sec School. The workshop was a

platform for the teachers to refresh and practice the seven pillars of Thinking School by Dr. David Paige. Sr. Joplin Suchiang, Principal of Auxilium and Sr. Lydia Pala Principal of Sacred Heart Girls' Hr. Sec School were the animators of the workshop. The teachers were divided into groups based on the subjects they teach and each teacher was asked to do a lesson demonstration to their group using the seven pillars after which a teacher representative from each group had to do the same during the common sharing. After lunch the teachers worked in group to prepare a lesson plan for each subject incorporating the seven pillars in the plan. Sr. Lydia Pala wrapped up the workshop by giving the final finishing touches of Thinking School to everyone present there. The teachers left the hall with a new and fresh attitude towards education and values, teaching and imparting knowledge to the students.

Miss Elena Kharkongor

SIGNIS National Assembly 2018 held at DBI, Guwahati

The Indian Chapter of the Catholic Association for Communication, SIGNIS INDIA held its National Assembly at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati from 21-24 February 2018 with the theme "Media: Current Trends and Emerging Challenges". Sr. Euginia Laloo and Sr. Teresa



Kamsuan of the Social Communication Team represented the Province. The assembly saw about 130 participants from all over the country including representatives of the dioceses, institutions and individual members. The days were dedicated for Study Sessions based on the theme and the Business Session in which the Election of the

new office bearers was an important schedule.

Rt. Rev. George Palliparampil SDB, Chairman for Social Communication Northeast Region and Bishop of Miao Diocese inaugurated the Assembly with a Holy Eucharistic celebration, which was followed by a solemn and colourful Inaugural function at the amphitheater. The Keynote address was delivered by Shri R. S. Mooshahary, Former Governor of Meghalaya. Eminent resource persons have touched various topics during the Study days such as Ms. Charu Soni (Media Landscape in India Today: Truth, Secularism versus Political Patronage and Silencing Dissent), Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil (Social & Political Responsibility & Quest for Truth), Dr. J. Alexander IAS, (Has the political ideologies and vested interests hijacked media space? A review of current media scenario in India) Ms. Reshma NC Shah (Media in India today: Commercialization, Political allegiance Visa-vis Public service and RTI) and Dr. Fr. George Plathottam SDB, Former Secretary of CBCI Office of Social Communications, (Challenges to Christian communicators in India today). A Panel Discussion where, Ms. Iban Mawrie, (Fake News), Fr. C. M. Paul (Social Media), Ms. Neha Gupta (Internet Trolling & Dark web) and Mr. Michael Peria (Cyber Crimes) formed part of knowledge sharing, interaction and enrichment. During the Business Sessions reports were presented and discussions particularly on the amendments of the Constitutions were taken up seriously and



successfully. Finally, the assembly emerged with the new Office Bearers as follows: President : Fr. Stanley Kozhichira, Vice-President: Fr. Norbert Herman SVD, Secretary – Treasurer : Fr. Victor Vijay Lobo, Members of project Screening Committee: Mr. Nirmal Raj and Sr. Joeyanna D' Souza FSP.

Sr. Euginia Laloo

Local Media Coordinators Meet 2018

Twenty-four Sisters took part in a one day Orientation Programme for the Local Media Coordinators of the Province on 10 March 2018 at Auxilium Convent, Nongthymmai – Shillong. **Media: Its Blessings and Challenges** was the theme that guided the Sisters. Sr. Euginia Laloo, Provincial Coordinator for Social Communication was the resource person for the day.

The day began by invoking God's presence and blessings through a short Prayer. Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoottil,



Animator and Provincial Councillor gave words of welcome and the message for the day. At the outset, the Sisters reflected on the Message of the Holy Father Pope Francis for the World Communications Day scheduled for 10 May 2018. Fake news and Journalism for Peace based on the Scripture verse, "The truth will set you free (Jn. 8:32)" is the theme suggested by His Holiness, Pope Francis. Soon after the input sessions followed wherein the participants were guided into topics such as "Internet – Its, USE, ABUSE and ADDICTION" and "Ethics in

Internet – Whose Responsibility?" The afternoon session was spent in sharing, planning, clarification of some doubts and future activities. At the end of the programme the Sisters expressed their joy in being part of the programme. Sr. Bisilda lawphniaw, one of the participants said, "Today I have gained more knowledge which I will in turn pass on to the young people in my community".

Fmainsinfo Correspondent



*Hope for the best
and prepare for
the worst. - Thomas
Norton & Thomas
Sackville*



ECHOES FROM THE HOUSES



Experiencing Life in the Communities

Fulfilling the requirements of their formation, the Second year Novices left for the different mission Centres on 30 December 2017 for a Community Experience.

- **MAWKYNDENG COMMUNITY**

A community, which is build on three tables; table of the Holy Eucharist, the dining table and the table of dialogue runs smoothly no matter how much obstacles of life are. Having shared our life in the community of Mawkyndeng, we can tell that these three tables were not missing. We were impressed by the exemplary life of the Sisters, who contributed to the good community living, through different fields of work and sacrifices. During the village touring and family visits, we were inspired by the simplicity of the people and by the simple lifestyle that they lived. Interacting with them and listening to them has increased our desire to serve God better and to prepare ourselves well in order to be able to help them.

**Sr. Theresia Kongwang and
Sr. Risalin Lyngdoh Marshillong (Novices)**

- **GAROBADHA COMMUNITY**

We were indeed grateful to God for the privilege granted us in many ways especially to experience the life in the mission at Garobadha with our Sisters who worked very hard for the betterment of the people. We experienced their love and concern for our vocational journey through their actions and exemplary life. It has helped us to be more aware of the demands of our future mission. We had chances to strengthen our spiritual growth through our encounter with many spiritual people starting from our Sisters, Fathers and the faithful over there. The experience in the villages has re-enchanted in us the great enthusiasm of our missionary pioneers, helped us to re-focus our goal and made us prompt to move out from our comfort zone. The experience with the boarders was a learning educative experience for us.

**Sr. Rakhel Thongni and
Sr. Tengme Sangma (Novices)**

- **UMDANG COMMUNITY**

Touring the villages and visiting the families of Umdang Parish have enriched our missionary experiences. The simplicity and generosity of the people is very inspiring and the community living has offered the taste of how beautiful religious life is and especially community communion. Working together with the sisters who are full of zeal and enthusiasm, in spite of all the challenges of this

modern world, we are encouraged to forge ahead in our vocational journey. We are strengthened and feel more committed to the mission in the future.

**Sr. Crecencia Sangma and
Sr. Krisphin Syiem (Novices)**

- **RANGBLANG COMMUNITY**

The welcoming hearts and hospitality of the Sisters and girls made us feel at home the very day we reached the community. The following day we were given the timetable and the different activities of the month. We were indeed very privileged to experience various activities in a short period of time which vary from visiting families in the villages, teaching Catechism, assisting the boarders and took part in the Church celebrations too. This mission center consists of enthusiastic and energetic sisters who work very hard fulfilling the mission entrusted to them. Their dedication towards the mission inspired and made us feel the sense of joy to belong to this family of love and communion.

**Sr. Juborlin Lyngkhoh and
Sr. Ribhalang War**

- **RAMBRAI COMMUNITY**

During our stay at Rambrai community we experienced God's love and goodness through our Sisters and all the inmates of the community. We were inspired and impressed by the simple life style of the village people during our village touring. The people though uneducated are always joyful and happy with what they have and are. We considered ourselves fortunate to have experienced community life in a very practical way. The encouraging words and guidance received from Sr. Gemma Phyllei, Animator inspired us to learn

more and to go ahead in our vocational journey.

Sr. Joycy Mary Nongbsap (Novice)

- **UMSWAI COMMUNITY**

It is a beautiful mission where we experienced the love and care from many people especially from the Sisters and Fathers who have helped us in many ways in order to make our stay meaningful and helpful for our future mission. The opportunities that the community gave us like village touring, family visits, attending the Sobha, assisting the boarders and many others have helped and strengthened us to be firm in the Lord and to go ahead in serving the people not only with physical food but much more with spiritual food so that together with them we shall go to heaven our everlasting home.

**Sr. Ribajanai Kharpor and
Sr. Lily Mary Sangriang (Novices)**

Teachers' Effective Training (TET) Program held at Bellefonte

A two-day Teachers' Effective Training (TET) Program was organized for the teachers of Bellefonte Community College and St. Anne's Mawtawar at the Bellefonte





Community Hall on 2-3 February 2018. The resource person was Sr. (Dr.) Anna Molly Thekkanal FMA, the Deputy Director of Don Bosco Institute Guwahati, Assam. Twenty-four teachers took part in the said program.

The topics dealt with during the various sessions were Qualities of a professional teacher, Effective classroom management, Teaching techniques, Tips for slow learners and Project Based Learning (PBL). The teachers who participated in the training program have gained new knowledge and practical tips particularly as they would begin the new scholastic year 2018. Mr. Ravi John one of the DBI Staff members assisted Sr. Molly in the lively recreational activities keeping the group vibrant and active throughout the sessions. Most importantly the training program facilitated the teachers to come up with some objectives and action plan to be carried out in this academic year. The teachers expressed their gratitude to Sr. Helen Puweiñ, the Principal of Bellefonte Community College for coordinating the programme.

Sr. Beltiful Kharsnar



Well of Valponasca in Memory of the Jowai Pioneers

A befitting conclusion of the 140 years of the First Missionary Expedition of the Institute was marked on 7 December 2017 with the blessing and inauguration of the Well of Valponasca at St. Mary Mazzarello Convent Jowai. The well is dedicated to the Pioneers of Jowai community namely Sr. Innocenza Vallino, Sr. Clotilde Appiano and Sr. Cecilia Da Roit also a Pioneer in the Northeast India. The seed that they have sown and the sweat that they have toiled has made Jowai to what it is now, embracing many young people of the region to be formed in the Salesian style of life.

The day began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh DD, Bishop of Jowai and concelebrated by Fr. Manbha Pakem from the Bishop's House. Soon after Mass, all gathered around the well which is





situated below the hill overlooking the Jowai Shillong Road just like the well in Valponasca where Mother Mazzarello use to fetch water. The design of the well is the replica of the well of Mornese. Sr. Dakyrmien Sohkhet guided a meaningful Prayer Service during which Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh blessed the well in the presence of Sr. Rosina Susngi, Animator, the Sisters and girls of the community, some faithful of the Parish and the Chief Guest Shri Andrew Shullai, MDC. A symbolic sign of inauguration was done by the chief Guest in which he turned on the switch and he wished that all who uses the water from the well may enjoy health and prosperity. It is also noteworthy to mention that the MDC had also given some help towards the construction of the well. After the short ceremony, all joined in for breakfast. The well has got a significant story to unfold. It was on 29 March 2016 that the work started but for more than 11 months of work there seemed to produce no result, so the community turned to St. Joseph asking him to give them the gift for his feast and right enough on the vigil of the feast of St. Joseph on 18 March 2017 at 10.30 in the morning a streak of clear water oozed out from one side and

another seeped from the opposite side. Thus the well is a miracle of St. Joseph who never turns down those who place their trust in his intercession.

New Year, New Beginning

After a long respite, the Boarding is once again bubbling with bright and happy faces of boarders who have come returned after their holidays. The new ones entered the Convent on 10 February 2018 and the old ones came back on 12 February.

The number of the girls this year is less compared to other years, but the



community is happy to have the 75 young and beautiful girls. The opening of the new Scholastic year was held on 15 February 2018 with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. At the outset three girls approached the Altar carrying a lighted lamp, which symbolizes Christ, the guiding light; a vase of Flowers stands for unity in diversity of culture and religions and School Articles to remind them that they are on a journey to plough the fields of education. Fr. Manbha Pakem, the Celebrant exhorted them to make a good and remarkable journey throughout the year and to make use of the time in the best way possible. The rest of the day was spent in the company of Mary being the first day of the Novena to Mary Help Christians.

Pledge-taking Day of School Leaders

The 22 February 2018 was a day in which St. Mary Mazzarello Girls' Higher Secondary School Jowai kept aside as a Pledge-taking day. This day was a moment of renewal for every student and even for teachers, especially for the leaders, it was a day to take up new challenges and responsibilities.

The function began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which was presided over by Rt. Rev Victor Lyngdoh DD Bishop of Jowai. Before the Holy Mass, Haphiyoorika Jyrwa the School Captain read the introduction and quoted from the book of Wisdom 7:7 "I prayed and understanding was given to me; I asked earnestly and the spirit of wisdom came to me", simultaneously Evangeline Suchiang the School Vice-Captain approached the altar with an empty vessel which symbolizes their



emptiness and their self-surrender to God; to be moulded and shaped in His hands through the instrumentality of the Sisters and teachers.

After the celebration of the paschal mystery, the students formed the respective contingent of the different houses for the March past; this was a manifestation of their readiness to forge ahead with strong determination in their journey as students, to sow the seeds of knowledge and learning. On this day, the leaders, beginning with the School Captain, the captains of the four houses and the class monitors pledged on behalf of the students, so as to remain loyal and to execute their duties in a responsible manner. They also pledge to abide by the traditions and norms of the school, come what may. Present on the occasion was Sr. Provina Lyngkhoi as the Chief Guest of the day in the company of the Sisters and the teachers. After the March Past, the Chief Guest delivered a speech through which she congratulated the different houses and encouraged each and every pupil to work hard like how the farmers keep tilling their fields for a fruitful outcome and to follow the example of their Patron saints, to be successful in life. Thanks to Sr. Albrida Pyngrope, Principal of the school, the Sisters and the teachers for the success of the day.

School Sports conducted after a Decade

St. Mary Mazzarello Girls' Higher Secondary School Jowai organized a three day Sports Meet for its students from the 8 -10 March 2018 after a gap of more than a decade since the last Annual Sports conducted in 2007. It went off smoothly with the hard work and collaboration of all the Sisters, teachers, students and non- teaching staff as well. It was a red-letter day for most of the students as some of them have said; "This is my first Sports Meet at St. Mary Mazzarello since my admission to the school".

The programme kicked off with the Inaugural Function held at the Marian Hill Playground, on the 8 March 2018 in the presence of Rev. Fr. Hilarius Lamare the Parish Priest of the Cathedral Parish, Jowai who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The Guest was escorted by the guides in the company of the Principal Sr. Albrida Pyngrope and the senior teachers of the school. Immediately after being welcomed a short prayer moment was led by Sr. Madona Lytep the Vice Principal, asking God's help and blessing upon the



school and all its students. Then the hoisting of the school flag was held amidst the gentle breeze and warm sunny day.

After hoisting the flag the school captain led the march past and took the salute before the chief guest followed by all the houses. As the girls marched to the tune of music and the beauty of the drums a commentary was read out along with the motto and patron saint of each house. When the march past was over young athletes – Sowakani Lakiang and Dakaru Pasi of Class VIII specially chosen made a round of the play ground passing the lighted torch from one another and handed it over to the chief guest where he lit the fire amidst great cheer and thunderous applause from the students and all those present. Then the oath taking ceremony took place reminding all the athletes to assume a true sportsmanship all through the Sports days. After the oath taking ceremony the chief guest declared the Annual Sports for 2018 opened.

On the 8th both track and field events were conducted for different categories. Then on the 9th after the singing competition and recitation of the Preamble of the constitution of India again some field events were conducted. Finally on the closing Day it was a glad moment for all the sisters, teachers and students to



have Shri Hering Shangpliang the District Sport Officer (DSO) West Jaiñtia Hills, Jowai who graced the occasion. In his address he encouraged the girls to take active part in sports whether they win or lose. Later the chief guest handed over the medals and trophies to the winners and the trophies to the best athlete of the year - Sowakani Lakiang from under sixteen and Dakaru Pasi from under fourteen, the red house the best Match Past Contingent, the yellow house the best Discipline and the best Team of the sports 2018.

The programme came to a conclusion with a vote of thanks from Sr. Albrida Pyngrope the principal of the school and the National Anthem and the School Anthem, "Viva Forever St. Mary Mazzarello School" were gloriously sang by the students.

Jowai Diary - Jottings



During the yearlong preparation the Sisters have taken up different responsibilities, Sr. Melina Kharbani headed the Liturgical Committee through which a daily Prayer Service was animated in the houses of the faithful in which the Sisters took part, animated and gave talk whenever possible. Bible Quiz and Skit competitions were organized in the two sub-Districts of the parish for the Sunday Class Students and Oratory children. On 20 - 21 January 2018 a Retreat for 500 First Holy Communicants was animated and twenty-six Salesian Cooperators of Mawkyndeng Unit took promise as full-fledged members of the Association. On 24 -25 January, 457 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh Bishop of Jowai diocese with the help of four other priests. The Community Sisters were in charge of the decorations under the leadership of Sr. Patricia Nongkhlaw the animator and Sr. Aitihun Lawai - lovely decorations were put up artistically by the sisters and made the whole ambient beautiful and prayerful. Sr. Aitihun Lawai prepared 125 dancers from the different villages of the Parish for the entrance and offertory procession; their performance added colour and beauty to the day.



Quasqui Centennial Jubilee Celebration at Mawkyndeng Parish

The climax of the Quasqui Centennial Jubilee Celebration of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Mawkyndeng dawned on 28 January 2018. It was a moment of thanksgiving for the wonders God worked in the life of the Church for the past 125 years. The community of St. Francis Convent was involved in every way for the fruitfulness of the celebration.



Most. Rev. Dominic Jala SDB DD of Shillong Archdiocese was present to grace and solemnize the Jubilee celebration with Rt. Rev Victor Lyngdoh Bishop of Jowai Diocese and around 60 Priests were present on this great event of the Parish. The Holy Eucharistic Procession was held in the afternoon where all the faithful participated devoutly and animated it lively with hymns of praise and adoration. The Quasqui Centennial celebration of Mawkyndeng Parish will remain ever fresh in the memories of those who witness it and the motto 'the Light of Christ we'll ever proclaim' continues to take the faithful to the next jubilee.

Sr. Aitihun Lawai



Blessing of the Divine Mercy Statue & Niche

The feast of St. John Bosco, our Father and Founder and Friend of the young was marked with the blessing and dedication of the Divine Mercy statue and the niche situated opposite to main gate of the Parish Church on 31 January 2018.

Fr. Marius Thongibah SDB Parish Priest, in his words of introduction invited the assembly to inculcate a great devotion to the Divine Mercy, which is a fountain of grace and mercy for everyone. He thanked Sr. Maristella Ryngkhlem, Animator and the community of Sacred Heart Convent, Mawlai for the initiative, which would



serve as an inspiration for the passersby. He added, such external sign would certainly encourage many devotees to elevate their hearts and minds to something divine. Present on the occasion were Fr. Gervasis Kozhuppathadam SDB, former Parish Priest of Mawlai, Fr. Alistair Marwein SDB, Asst. Parish Priest, along with the faithful, Sisters and boarders of the community.

The community is grateful to the Catholic Management Committee (CMC) of Mawlai Phudmuri and to S. Maria Mazzarello Province of Thailand for their generous contribution. The community thanks Sr. Pornphirun Teresa Chandenduang FMA who had been instrumental in realizing our dream of setting up the prayerful ambient in the campus. In gratitude, the community of Sacred Heart, Mawlai promises to pray daily for more vocations to their Province.

Sr. Teresa Kamsuan

Ushering the New Academic Year 2018

On 12 February 2018, Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School marked the first day of school with a solemn Inaugural Function. Present for the occasion were the Principal Sr. Lydia Pala, Sisters, Teachers, Students and their Parents.



Invoking God's presence and guidance for the whole year Sr. Bertina Kurbah led the assembly in a Prayer Service. Some symbolic gestures presented before the gathering were a lighted candle symbolizing Christ, a growing plant representing development and growth, a ball symbol of youthfulness of life and cheer, a book symbolizing knowledge and wisdom, a guitar, sign of joy and happiness and flowers which speaks of fragrance and beauty. These gifts were visibly placed at the Altar and set the minds of the young on the things they need to pursue in order to be truly happy and successful. Addressing the assembly Sr. Maristella Rynghlem, Secretary of the School reminded them that the School is a holy place and the school ground is a holy ground, therefore the students were exhorted to do their best and live good lives. Soon after, the students proceeded to their respective classes where their class teachers awaited them.

Furthermore, on 16 February the Sisters, teachers and Students gathered at St. Dominic Savio's Church for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist to once again plead for God's blessings on the entire School community.

Miss Shiela Lyngdoh
(Teacher)

Pledge Taking Ceremony of New Leaders

The Pledge taking ceremony of Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School was held on 20 February 2018 at the School ground. All the leaders of the academic year pledge to discharge their duties responsibly in the presence of the Chief Guest Sr. Maristella Rynghlem, Secretary of the School.

The ceremony began with a short prayer led by the Principal Sr. Lydia Pala, which was followed by the hoisting of the school flag by the Chief Guest. Beginning from the School Captain, Melarihun Diengngan, the School Vice Captain, Remarkable Thongni the pledge was pronounced before everyone present by raising their right hand and promising to fulfill their duties well and perform their studies to the best of their abilities. After which, Sr. Maristella gave out a leader's badge to each of them.

Similarly, all the Class Captains and House Captains made the pledge and were handed their badges by Sr. Maristella, Sr. Lydia and a few teachers. Following this was the rhythmic and colourful march-past performed by the four houses namely Blue, Red, Yellow and Green. The Chief Guest then delivered her speech with a message to all the students urging them to move forward for a bright and fruitful year. She reminded them to uphold the dignity and respect of the School and exhorted them to invoke the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their studies. The Principal then proposed the vote of thanks and the ceremony concluded with the School Anthem, 'Rise Up, Sacred Heart Girls, Rise Up'.

Sr. Bertina Kurbah



Annual School Sport 2018

The Annual School Sports 2018 of Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School, Mawlai, Shillong was held on the 28 February, 1 and 5 of March 2018 in the school playgrounds. The different events for juniors and seniors included spoon-marble race, three-legged race, musical chair, cockfight, sack race, volleyball, penalty shootout, basketball, cricket, table tennis, shot put, tug of war and March past. Different teachers were in charge of different events.

Day one of the sports saw the inauguration of the event by Fr. Jeevan Lakra SDB. The school flag was unfurled



as a mark of the opening of the Annual Sports. It also witnessed an enthusiastic participation of the students in the qualifying rounds. Different events were held simultaneously in the different playgrounds of the school. Day two of the sports saw another enthusiastic participation of the students in the events. Those who did not take part in any of the events were equally enthusiastic in supporting and cheering for their fellow house members. Day three of the sports witnessed the finals of all the events. Fr. George Maliekal, SDB, Provincial, Shillong Province was the chief guest on the concluding day of the Annual Sports. The students of the English Section presented the welcome song, which was followed by the march past competition. The members of the Blue House gave a western song while the members of the Yellow House presented a western dance, which was followed by a Khasi medley of songs from the members of the Red House and the Green House presented a fusion dance of the Khasi, the Pnar and the Garo tribes of Meghalaya. The school anthem was sung towards the end and the flag was lowered by the chief guest as a mark of the closing of the Annual Sports.

In the March Past competition, the Blue House was adjudged the winners and the Red House was adjudged the runners up. GCI Sharai Mawrie and Havaladar D. Velmuragan were the judges for the March Past competition.

After tallying the scores of all the events, the Blue House won the Championship Trophy whereas; the Red House came in the second place, followed by the Yellow House in third place and the Green House in fourth place. The Yellow House bagged the prize for Best Discipline.

Sir Richmond Kharlukhi (Teacher)

Orientation Programme for Teachers

On the 6 March 2018, the school management of Sacred Heart Girls' Higher Secondary School organized a short Orientation Programme on Smart Class, a former Educomp computer classes and device utilization, which is now supervised by Sir Harvestar Kharkongor and his company.



The programme started at 9.30 in the morning with a short welcome speech by Sr. Lydia Pala, Principal and was later followed with a demonstration and explanation by Shri Prakash Joshi, about the new software being implemented. Projecting simple steps on how to use the new smart class programme, design for different classes based on various chapters and topics in all subjects concerned were done. Copious notes and video clips were inserted in almost all the relevant topics of each subject and class.

The programme concluded with a bold reminder insisting on all the teachers to use the new technology for further basic information and gathering of basic sources of knowledge. In doing so, the school aims at helping both teachers and students to cater to their needs and raise up the standard of education.

Sir Andrew Lyngkhoi (Teacher)

MAWROH

Solemnity of St. John Bosco

The solemnity of St. John Bosco was celebrated in the community with a great fervour involving the faithful of Mawroh village on 31 January 2018. Special invitation was given to the youth of the village who take Don Bosco as their patron.



The climax of the day was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the evening presided over by Fr. Kevin Ward from Nonbah Parish. On this special day the youth were the choir who sang melodiously and added devotion and meaning to the day's celebration. The presence of the adults too was very encouraging and is a sign that they appreciate the presence of the Sisters in the village. Soon after Mass all joined in the family meal, Fr. Cosmos Jyrwa,

Assistant Parish Priest of Nongkasen Parish too joined in. A stage programme performed by the boarders who were in the community for holiday was like an icing on the cake. During the programme Fr. Cosmos gave a talk on the life of St John Bosco and he also encouraged the young people to follow his footsteps of sanctity being their model. At the end of the programme, Sr. Cecilia Ksoo, Animator thanked everyone for making the day such a fruitful one.

Sr. Bisilda Iawphniaw

NANDAN NAGAR

Social Commitment 2018 - Bringing Smiles

The 2018 episode of Bringing Smiles has generated greater social responsibility in the students, teachers and parents. Some activities undertaken by the community towards this project are as follows:

On the 22 December 2017 all the members of the community together with Sr. Lina Marbaniang from Bishramganj community visited Kandichera village, which falls under Bishramganj Parish. A Christmas message was shared with the village people and blankets and warm clothes were gifted to them. The day concluded with a family meal along with all the Sisters working in Tripura at Bishramganj community.



Sr. Merciful Nongsiej, Sr. Ibansara Kharkongor, Sr. Manosha L. Nonglait along with six young people of the Parish and Fr. Lawrence Darlong set out for a three-hour journey to a far flung village called Bongshipara on 3 January 2018. On reaching there, Fr. Lawrence Darlong gave a short speech and wished them for the New Year, which was followed by the distribution of blankets and clothes to each family. On this day they also visited Baktomonpara and Teliamura.



On 5 January 2018, Sr. Merciful Nongsiej, Sr. Ibansara Kharkongor, Sr. Manosha L. Nonglait together with some representatives of young people visited Bigram Molsom and Twimairang villages. On reaching there they saw some children poorly dressed and old people in a very shabby dress. Some of them as soon as they got the clothes they started using them and there was so much of joy on their faces.

In the morning hours of 2 February 2018, the students of Class VIII C visited Ferrando Rehabilitation Centre Nandan Nagar. The physically challenged children welcomed them heartily with their own sign language, which they could understand only with the language of love. Interacting with them the students learnt punctuality, discipline, joyful smile and cheerful attitude. The student distributed some useful articles like notebook, Pen, Pencil Box, eatable items like oranges, apples, grapes, Biscuits, cakes and chocolates. They were grateful to their class teacher Ms. Semiwon Khapudang and Sr. Manosha L. Nonglait for having accompanied them.



In the afternoon another group under the guidance of Sr. Rihun Sten, Sr. Merciful Nongsiej, Sr. Ibansara Kharkongor, Sir Binod Debbarma and five class XI boarders went to Budhorai village, Matha Munda Para II and I. Both the vehicles were loaded with new blankets, Mosquito nets, good second hand clothes and eatable items. On reaching these villages the people were already waiting for the Sisters. Since there was not much time, the sisters prayed and distributed the gifts to these poorest of the poor while for Murabari village twenty blankets were sent through the village Catechist.

On 12 February 2018 the Class IX students began their holy pilgrims to Apna Ghar an old age home in Barjala, under the guidance of Ms. Elizabeth John, Ms. Ankita Sengupta and Ms. Sagarika Sinha. At their arrival they were taken by surprised to see elderly and grandma ready to welcome them. The person in charge gave a short introductory talk, followed by presentation of the gifts like detergent, tooth paste, and some eatables prepared just for them. They returned to school at 10:30 am.

On the same day the students of Class XII accompanied by Mr. Rajesh Nag and Ms. Grace Darlong their class teacher visited 'Nilajyoti Sheva Ashram' an orphanage in Bhuvan Ban. 32 children aged 5 to 16 welcomed them. Later took them to a well-prepared place where they had a good chat and the students entertained them with songs and presented them some gifts like paint, buckets, water filter, money for labor charge and chocolates. They took a round of the entire orphanage and then it was time to say goodbye to the kids.

On this same day the Singing Club visited DeepJyoti Orphanage at Abhoynagar and was accompanied by Ms. Anamika Chakraborty, Ms. Arpita Bhattacharjee and Ms. Anindita Das. When they entered the orphanage they were taken by surprise as they saw more number of babies and small kids than they had imagined. The students



distributed items like Tins of Cerelac and biscuits. After spending some time with the babies, carrying and hugging them giving them love and affection they returned to the school.

The Class X students set forth on 13 February 2018 for their Social Commitment programme accompanied by Ms. Mousumi Roy, Ms. Tatum Ghosh, Ms. Sangita Devi and Mr. Manish Debnath. The students paid a visit to Apon Ghar- Abalamban Barjala a home for the aged.



The students performed a dance and sang some melodious songs for all of them and above all they spent time talking to them and listening to their story. This was followed by the distribution of gifts like detergent, medicines, agarbati and some eatables for the children. The students expressed that they have learned to value their parents and grandparents at home.

Therefore we can truly say that what gives us joy and sense of great fulfillment is the ability of involving a huge crowd of more than 2000 people to reach out towards the poor and the needy and we have also witnessed the generosity and the joy of the parents too to be part of this project of reaching out to the less privilege section of our society. We thank Sr. Celine for this great initiative taken in the school that had become part of the life and style of Auxilium family to spread Joy and Love to all.

Sr. Ibansara Kharkongor

Staff Enrichment Seminar held at AGS

The new session for Auxilium Girls' School (AGS), Agartala began with a two-day seminar held on 11–12 January 2018 in the School Hall. Sr. Celine D' Cunha, Principal animated the same.

The Seminar began with an explanation of the Strenna: "Let Us Cultivate the Art of Listening and Accompaniment". Soon after, the whole group was out in the open for some activities. These two icebreaker activities brought forward significant lessons like being vigilant in observation, time management, group work and trusting fellow mates. While speaking on commitment a video clip was shown through which four things were stressed namely Time, Age, Words, and Opportunity, which once lost, can never be regained. The teachers were helped to sort out two commitments to fulfill during the year and to be evaluated. Based on the Strenna, the teachers were guided in the accompaniment of young people and the problems they face. Some brainstorming was done on the keywords: Cultivate, Listening, Presence and Accompaniment.

Finally, a subject wise meeting was held by the teachers on how to complete and conduct their task effectively and efficiently and to enable them to give their best for the students for the last session of the academic year.

Ms. Sagarika Sinha (Staff Member)

***However long the night, the
dawn will break.***

- African Proverb - Hausa Tribe



Don Bosco Youth Film Festival of India 2018

The Don Bosco Youth Film Festival was organized on 19 January 2018 at Auxilium Girls' School coordinated by Fr. PJ Joseph, SDB, Director of Don Bosco Peace Centre. Auxilium Girls School Agartala joined the thousands of youth in India across 20 states to view the 34 short films that had been meticulously selected by a panel of experts from amongst hundreds of submissions.

The themes treated in the short films focused on eco awareness, respect for parents and teachers, Addiction to Alcoholism and to Social Media, teenage problems, peer group pressure, social responsibility, sense of God, ethics of relationships, friendship, hard-work, creativity and oppression amongst others.

Every film gave a glimpse of inspiration and motivation to carry home the message of living life joyfully as young people of this century and to seek to re-launch and rekindle positivity in our daily life. Fleeting away from the challenges of life is not the solution. The religion of love and help has only one language- the language of humanity. Greatly inspired and motivated



the students had a lot of message to carry back home. Thus, opening new vision of life for us all. Thank you Auxilium and DBYFFI for gifting us a day to learn and to acquire wisdom and pearl so awesome and remarkable that would help us to chose to live life wisely and happily.

Romita Roy (Class XI)

Boarders' Day Cum Social Commitment

The calm and delightful morning of 22 January 2018 shone brightly energizing us to celebrate the feast of Blessed Laura Vicuna, which was also celebrated as "Boarders' Day." The joy of giving was experienced truly through a social commitment activity of extending some help to the poor in a village.

Under the leadership of Sr. Merciful Nongsiej, Sr. Manosha Lyngdoh and Sr. Ibansara Kharkongor, the Boarders set out to a village called Joyramsardar Para a two-hour journey distance from the community. On reaching the village they were welcomed warmly by the village leaders. The Boarders started interacting with the senior members of the village where they learnt their problems of facing the harsh cold winter. The official function began with a Prayer Moment and followed by the distribution of blankets, mosquito nets, second hand clothes and eatables. After spending ample time with the villagers the group explored a little bit of the village as it is situated, on the Bangladesh border. Another stop of the group was at St. Andre School, Bodhujung Nagar run by Adoration Sisters where they had lunch and met the Sisters and Boarders. Concluding the day was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. P. J. Joseph Sdb, Director of Don Bosco Peace Center. Sr. Manosha Lyngdoh read the introduction for the Mass reminding everyone of the simple and saintly life of a young teenager Blessed Laura Vicuna who is the patron and model of youth. During the homily Fr. P. J. Joseph reminded all present of the opportunity to give the best of oneself whether young or old as shown by Blessed Laura Vicuna. The celebration ended with a sumptuous dinner prepared by Sr. Philo and her team.

Khumtoya Jamatia (Class XI)



69th Republic Day Celebration cum Clubs' Presentation

The 69th Republic Day was celebrated in the School on 26 January 2018 with great patriotic spirit and gaiety. The entire school and the surrounding was decorated with national flag and the tri-colour balloons. All the students from Junior to Senior classes were holding a small national flag in their hands.

The day commenced with prayer moment led by the school Vice principal Sr. Rihun Sten and all the sisters intoned a beautiful prayer song of Tagore “**Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake**” The song, the lovely music and the wonderful words instilled in the students a patriotic fervour as the Sisters sang the song so beautifully. Hoisting of the tri-colour National Flag by the Principal Sr. Celine D’ Cunha escorted by the NCC and Guides followed this. Then she led all auxiliaries to take a pledge; our devotion and love to our beloved Motherland India and promised to be responsible citizens. As our school’s choir group sang a patriotic song, our hearts were totally filled with the sense of pride



for the nation. Tuned to the rhythm of patriotism the students of class VI graced the celebration with their mind-blowing and eye-catching dance performance.

The occasion then headed towards the Club Demonstration wherein 15 different clubs of the school demonstrated themselves based on different importance of their own club. The most excited moment of that day was the declaration of the results for the Club Demonstration Competition. Cheers, thrills and hopes of enthusiasm were felt as the winners were declared. The republic day was celebrated with such a pomp and fun that the tiny tots of Auxilium can't control their emotion so, they danced into their rhythm of patriotism. JAI HIND!

Barsha Deb (Class VII B)



***Keep your eyes on the sun and
you will not see the shadows. -
Australian Aborigine Saying***

Fancy Dress Competition held in the School

With the aim of developing confidence in the students also to blend learning with fun a Fancy Dress Competition was held in the school on 27 January 2018. All the students from Nursery to XII took part in the event enthusiastically.



Each class was given a specific topic and the students were instructed to dress up according to their topics. The topics were Nursery-KG II whatever they liked, Class I-II was Various **professions**, for class III-IV was **North-East traditional Costumes**, for class V-VI was **Our Freedom fighters**", for class VII-VIII was **Famous Personalities**, and for class IX-XII was **Indian couples**. It was a highly awaited event, as it is always a pleasure to watch the toddlers dressed up as different characters. The competition proved to be great learning experience for the students and gave them a platform to explore their hidden talents.

Aniksha Saha (Class IX C)

Around our Father and Founder Don Bosco

Crowd of delightful students assembled before the well-decorated image of Don Bosco on 31 January 2018 and paid respect to the Saint and Friend of the Young on his solemnity.

The morning assembly was well animated by Yellow House honouring their patron saint through songs, prayers, description, narration, quiz, skits and acting out. Some representatives offered bunches of fresh flowers and garlanded the image of Don Bosco and simultaneously singing 'Don Bosco will shine today' with musical instruments led by Mr. Pohor Debbarma and Ms. Khumpui Jamatia. Similarly, the Don Bosco statue outside the school campus was given floral tribute, candles were lit and colourful balloons were put up.

In honor of Don Bosco's feast, the school got over at 11.30am for students. While the teachers and support staff remained on for the Staff Meeting. After the meeting, a short message on the life and work of Don Bosco was presented by Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Principal followed by the screening of a Don Bosco movie - Mission to Love Part I. In the evening the whole community turned towards Don Bosco Parish and actively participated in the Solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration in which the liturgy and singing was prepared by Auxilium community.

Prior to the feast the days of the triduum were well animated by the Sisters along with the Salesian Cooperators. On the first day, Mr. Dominic Jamatia, Salesian Co-Operator shared about his life-transforming event through

the intervention of Don Bosco and the Salesian in his life. On the second day Mr. Raju Daniel shared his reflection on the life of Don Bosco with the young people. The vigil of the feast saw the presence of many friends and well wishers and the nearby Institutions – Don Bosco Fathers, Ferrando Sisters with their boarders, Holy Spirit Sisters, Bethlehem Hostel, our Catholic Teachers and the Salesian Co-operators. During the Prayer Service Sr. Celine presented the Strenna of the year, **‘Let us cultivate the Art of Listening and Accompaniment’**. The celebration of the feast evoked in us a renewed spirit to be Don Bosco in our present age.

Sr. Rihun Sten

AGS honours its Students - Achievement Day

Achievement Day was celebrated on 10 February 2018 at Auxilium Girls' School Agartala. It was a day in which awards were bestowed as a symbol of appreciation to all those who excelled in various fields. Shri M. Nagaraju, IAS Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Finance and IT, Govt. of Tripura, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The whole school was brightly adorned with colourful ribbons and balloons. The awards and certificates were methodically arranged in trays and after each item prizes were handed over to the respective class captains along with few class representatives by the guests.

The program marked its beginning with a welcome song along with an instrumental prepared by the students of guitar club. Competitions being held all through the year like essay writing, poetry composition, recitation, storytelling, story

writing, reading contest, public speaking, debates, quiz, extempore speech, planned speech, singing, dancing, drawing, flower making, flower arrangement, salad preparation, clay modelling, rangoli competition, best photograph display, best PowerPoint presentation, fancy dress competitions just to name a few were awarded on that day. Students who excelled in various competitions outside the school were also acknowledged. A new award entitled **‘Student of the year’** from Class X and Class XII was started this year and the students who received the award were Akangsha Roy of Class X and Gunjan Behwal of Class XII.

One of the things that Auxilium will ever be happy and proud of their achievement is the joy of having the adopted village school at Twimairang. The teachers and Students of the adopted school were present on the occasion and the later were gifted with a school bag, T-shirt, tracksuit, notebook, and all the stationery they needed daily for their studies. The celebrations came to an end by paying homage to our motherland, India through the performance “Salute to India”.

Kritodhee Lahiri (Class XII B)



Fare thee well dear Friends

16 February 2018 came for the class XII students batch 2017-18 as an unforgettable day as the class XI students gave them a Parting Party. The auditorium was beautifully decorated with strips of multi-colored papers, balloons and fancy lights for the occasion.

There was a welcome dance performed by the class XI students followed by the ceremony of lighting the lamp which was inaugurated by our Principal, Sr. Celine D' Cunha and the students of class 12. There was a presentation of couple of dances followed by inspiring and motivating speeches of Sr. Celine, a teacher representative Mrs. Tatum Ghosh, and Vice-Principal Sr. Rihun. They all advised them to keep up the name and prestige of the school and should never forget their alma mater and her great ideals.

One of the most excited moments was none other than the crowning of Miss Auxilium 2018. Before the announcement of Miss Auxilium 2018, the different category were first crowned like Best Captain, Best Orator, Best Musician, Best Motivator, Best Debater and finally Sr. Celine announced the name of Miss Auxilium which was awarded to Miss Fancy Chakma of Class XII B. She was gifted with a small crown, a bouquet of flowers and a small token of memory from the part of the school.

To stay connected with the Alma-Mater Auxilium, we had the enrolment to the Past- Pupils Association, which would help every Auxilian to stay connected to the place where they have been moulded and formed during these past years. Sr. Rihun Sten, Vice-Principal coordinated



the programme. All of them returned with a cheerful heart and with lot of memories of their formative years in the school.

Antaralina Saha (Class XI A)



Inaugural Mass for the Academic Year 2018

Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School, Nongthymmai started the new scholastic year on February 12 with an earnest desire to achieve every set goal ahead of its Diamond Jubilee Year. To mark this fresh beginning, the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Divine Saviour Parish Church in Nongthymmai was a fitting note and the best way of expression.

A group of teachers and Sr. Theresa Phawa prepared the animation of the liturgy with the theme: **Share the Light of Jesus**. A prayerful gathering of Sisters,



Teachers and students was enhanced by the meaningful entrance procession along with symbolic gifts placed before the altar, placing at the feet of God the Almighty all the school activities and programmes of 2018. The celebrant Fr. Glorius Syiemlieh SDB, Parish Priest solemnised the Eucharistic celebration and implored God's blessings upon everyone. A special prayer was said for the outgoing students of Classes X and XII before they appear for the Board Exams (SSLC & HSSLC) and who were also present for the celebration. Mrs. Amanda Jyrwa, Class Teacher of Class X expressed a note of Thanks to Fr. Glorious on behalf of Auxilium School. She also exhorted the students to always remember that God walks with each one at every step of one's life and hence one should always be ready to encounter Him.

Investiture Ceremony held for Leaders of the School

On February 16, Auxilium Girls' Higher Secondary School had another major and significant event, namely the Pledge-taking ceremony when all the leaders of various sectors pledged themselves to responsibly carry out the work that the school management entrusted to them.

The teachers in collaboration with the Sisters have chosen these leaders. These

include the School Captain and Vice Captain, House Captains and Vice Captains and the Class Monitresses. The ceremony was held at the School Playground where Sr. Elizabeth Thannimoottil, the animator was the Chief Guest of the event. Started off with a prayerful moment led by Miss Candida Kharpdah and Miss Meborine Thongni, the ceremonial function was indeed solemn and memorable. Mrs. Hiroshi M. Basumatary and Miss Josephine Wahlang were the expert and gifted anchors of the day's event. In her message, the chief guest exhorted the students to strive growing up into good leaders for the future. The function came to an end after the vote of thanks given by Sr. Joplin Suchiang the Principal, which was followed by the School Anthem.

Sr. Theresa Phawa



RANGLANG

First Eucharistic Procession at Holy Cross Parish Mawpat

4 February 2018 was indeed a red-letter day for the new Parish of Mawpat on the occasion of its First Eucharistic Procession at Wahkaji village. The Sisters and the faithful worked very hard and collaborated very well for the smooth running of the day's programme.

The Sisters with the help of the faithful beautifully prepared the venue and the float for the Blessed Sacrament. They also prepared the children who received the First Communion on that day. Various units of the Parish took up the animation of the triduum days in preparation for the great day. The solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration was

presided over by Fr. Anselm Nonglang the Parish Priest of Kynshi Parish who is a parishioner of Mawpat Parish and concelebrated by Fr. Roy Paul CSC, Parish Priest of Holy Cross Mawpat, Fr. John PKC CSC the Assistant Parish Priest and Fr. Elingking Lyngdoh belonging to Mawpat Parish who had come from Mawthong Parish. In his homily, Fr. Anselm emphasized on the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He lauded the Holy Cross Fathers and the Salesian Sisters who worked hard for the development of the place and of the newly opened parish of Mawpat. In turn, he exhorted the people to work together for the common good and the growth of every one and especially of the faith in the area. The presence of the Don Bosco Band from Pyndengrei Nongstoiñ under the leadership of Br. Paschal Dkhar SDB added grandeur and prayerful atmosphere to the Procession. It is noteworthy to mention that the Parish was initiated on 21 March 2017 under the care of the Holy Cross Congregation.

Sr. Nildalin Kharkongor



SAIDEN

Celebration of the feast of St. John Bosco

31 January every year brings in joyful notes of thanksgiving as we celebrate the solemnity of St. John Bosco our Father and Founder. The day was well spent with various activities reminding us of the great personality exhibited by Don Bosco and the contribution he has made to the world.

Right from the Morning Prayer the Don Bosco group helped us pray better with their animation, which was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Parish Church, presided over by Fr. Bernard Pala, Parish Priest. After the Mass we all joined for a short festal programme and breakfast. Back home, a special lunch was arranged outside in the open space. The Sisters also organized various games in which



everyone took part wholeheartedly and enthusiastically. The day concluded with an evening programme in honour of Don Bosco performed by the Aspirants and Postulants.

Prior to the feast, the movie "A Mission to Love" on the life of Don Bosco was screened during the days of the triduum at spiritual reading time. On the eve of the feast Sr. Iahunlang Kyrasian conducted a vigil service, which geared everyone to the festivity of the celebration.

Monaliza Kharnaier (Postulant)



***Hope is important
because it can make the
present moment less
difficult to bear. If we
believe that tomorrow
will be better, we can
bear a hardship today.
- Thich Nhat Hanh***



Pre-Christmas Gathering for Boarders

The community of St. Mary Mazzarello, Sutnga organized a Pre-Christmas get-together for the Boarders at the close of the scholastic year on 1 December 2017 and moreover as everyone would be home for Christmas. The day's programme was well organized with different activities all through the day.

Right from Morning there was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. P. M. Mathew SDB, Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, Khliehriat. During the course of the day children were seen busy preparing for the evening programme. In the evening everyone took part in the family meal, which was prepared with so much love followed by the evening programme. The Study



Hall was transformed into a beautifully decorated stage for the academy. Each group presented their item creatively and with perfection in the form of skit, dances and songs. The Boarders also took the chance of expressing their gratitude to Sr. Victoria Saioo, Animator and the Sisters for their love and care the whole year through and presented a token of their gratitude. The community too reciprocated their greetings with a small Christmas gift for everyone.

Christmas Carol for the Local Church of Sutnga

Sr. Ephrina Rympeit conducted three days of Christmas Carol for the Sutnga Local Church from 22 to 24 December 2017 as part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas. With great enthusiasm many children and young people joined in. It was an opportunity for





them to get into the festive season with such spiritual preparation.

On all the three days the Christmas Carol started from the Convent with an opening prayer then they proceeded to every family of the faithful. Three boys were dressed as Santa Clauses; one carried Baby Jesus, the other the bell and the third one had the donation box. In every family they entered Baby Jesus was placed in a well-prepared place, a prayer was said and followed by kissing of Baby Jesus by all the inmates of the family. Having been well instructed by Sr. Ephrina all those who took part in it chanted the Christmas carols with great devotion and enthusiasm all along the by-lanes of the village. The donations received would be used for the Children's Retreat. The Church leaders and the faithful of Sutnga local Church appreciated the children, young people and Sr. Ephrina for the initiative taken. They requested Sr. Ephrina to organize it for the coming year too and to make sure that even the men and women should be part of it.

Retreat cum Seminar for Children

On 20 January 2018, Sr. Rympeit Ephrina conducted a one-day Retreat cum Seminar for the Children of Sutnga and Mookympat villages at Holy Trinity Church, Sutnga. Eighty children participated in the programme.

The day was spent in prayer, input session and other activities. Right at





the start of the day, Sr. Ephrina helped the children to maintain a prayerful atmosphere through the guided prayers and a talk on Prayer. She also spoke on Good Manners and right behavior at home, School and society. Sr. Camilia Wahlang from Lamyrsiang community took up the second session in which she highlighted the points on how to fight temptation and making the best use of one's gifts and talents. Sr. Diamond Suja who was on her home-leave too came and helped for a session on "Setting Goals in Life". In the afternoon, a Quiz competition was organized for the children. All participated with great excitement and interest. The day concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Crescent Roy Laloo, Assistant Parish Priest followed by Prize Distribution.

**Sr. Ephrina
Rympeit**

TURA

Seminar on Thinking School for Teachers

A two-day Seminar on Thinking School was organized for all the teachers of Auxilium Secondary School Tura on 5 and 6 February 2018. The resource person was Sr. Manoda T. Sangma, Principal of Auxilium School Dholai.

On the first day of the Seminar the teachers were introduced about "Seven Pillars of Knowledge" and "Classroom Management". With the help of video clips the teaching points of the day were made very clear and understandable. Through



lively activities and games the participants were made active and interested in the learning process. On the second day the teachers had the opportunity for teaching practice. Each one was given a chance to present one's lesson. Reinforcement, feedback, suggestions and remarks were given at the end of the teaching practice, which was a great help to improve the teaching skills and emerge as effective teachers. The teachers were grateful to the School management for arranging such important inputs for the teachers.

Miss Stefanni Momin (Teacher)

Inauguration of the New Scholastic year

Auxilium Secondary School Tura officially opened its scholastic year on 16 February 2018 with an inaugural function during the school assembly. Two teachers Anthony Sangma and Sarwelina Sangma guided the Prayer Moment.

Invoking God's presence and imploring his help the different representatives were invited to light the candles, which symbolized Christ the Light of the world. Attributing God as a source of wisdom and knowledge the assembly offered the year ahead of them in His hands. Mr. Anthony one of the teachers gave a message and reminded everyone to make a good start and above all to invite God to journey with them all through the year. The teachers and students also took the chance to convey their belated birthday greetings

Every cloud has a silver lining.

- D.R. Locke

to Sr. Sonitha Marak, Principal who celebrated her birthday on 14 February.

Prior to this on 12 February, the Boarders were welcomed to the boarding with a special Morning Prayer animation conducted by the Class X students under the guidance of Sr. Sabina Mawrie. Through the power point presentation, Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, our founders were made known to them especially for the new Boarders who are first timers in an FMA house. This was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist offering all the good intentions of everyone to the Lord and imploring Him to bestow on each one his gifts of wisdom and knowledge.

Simbera Sangma
(School Vice-Captain)





Various Competitions organized for Sunday School Students

On the 16 December 2017 the community along with the Salesian Co-perators organized a one-day programme for the Sunday School children in the Convent with the theme 'To Know and Love God'.

The day began with the welcome speech from Sr. Merilyn Bahun Wahlang, Animator and made all felt at home. Soon after, various competitions like singing, dancing and Gospel acting out started. The children participated whole-heartedly



in every item. Mr. Lamphrang Mawsor, one of the teachers from a nearby village and Mr. Barnabas Mawsor, a Co-operator were the judges of the day. At the end of the programme, prizes were distributed to all the winners by Sr. Angeline and the Co-operators who contributed the same. Mr. Lamphrang expressed his joy and gratitude to the Sisters and the Co-operators for the initiative taken for the spiritual growth of the children. He also encouraged the children to be regular for Sunday School. Around thirty-five children took part in the competitions.

Sr. Angeline Thongni



*Walk on with
hope in your
heart, and you'll
never walk alone
- Shah Rukh Khan*



Homage to our Father and Founder Don Bosco

The community of Auxilium Convent Umdang celebrated the solemnity of St. John Bosco with a triduum reflecting on different themes from the life of Don Bosco to deepen our knowledge about the life of this great saint.

The community anticipated the celebration of the Solemnity on 30 January with the Holy Eucharistic celebration in the evening presided over by Fr. James Syiemlieh the Assistant Parish Priest of Umdang. During the homily he spoke on “the life of saints and on consecrated life”. The presence of the Salesian Co-operators and few boarders added more festivity to the celebration.

On the following day, in honour of St. John Bosco the community sisters along with some co-operators took the Sunday

Catechism children for a picnic to one of the famous playground of Umdang, called Madan Gyllut, which is just ten minutes distance on foot from the convent. During the picnic, there were games and competitions for the children. The celebration ended with the short acting out on the first dream of Don Bosco and a message from one of the Co-operators followed by Prize Distribution.

Sr. Cresencia A. Sangma
(Second Year Novice)

***Keep your best wishes, close
to your heart and watch what
happens
- Tony DeLiso***

MEDIA MATTERS



10 ways youth can make an impact

Youth activism and engagement can bring about important social changes that are sometimes left behind. Here's a list of ideas of how youth can participate locally and globally:

1. **Know your rights:** You might not be able to vote yet, but all children and youth hold national and international rights. These rights are only of use to you if you are informed about them, so read up!
2. **Learn about local issues:** Is a roadblock affecting your commute to school? Are the new taxes affecting your family's livelihood? Whatever the case, learning the issue will help in creating solutions that will have an impact on you.
3. **Speak out:** Speaking your mind online (through social media), and/or offline (at local meetings and gatherings) helps you assert yourself and your interests. Also, you never know who might be listening. Think before posting. Social media has a long memory and things can never truly be deleted.
4. **Network:** There are many inspiring youth like you around the world. Reach out to them. Learn about their efforts and initiatives, they might also work for you!
5. **Spread the word:** If elections are taking place, spread the word! Talk to friends and family about registering to vote. If there are important issues that are going unaddressed, become the person who addresses them. You are part of a community, and have the power to educate and influence those around you.
6. **Join online campaigns:** Is there an issue you are concerned about? Global campaigns are always happening. Find one that corresponds to your issue, join in, and implement the campaign locally.
7. **Host a youth summit:** Learn and share your perspectives and views with peers as well as decision-makers. Schools and local organizations can be of great support to you in trying to create a forum for the exchange of ideas. Bring together different communities and understand what you have in common, as well as your differences in interests and perspectives.
8. **Use your creativity:** Photography, arts and crafts, dance, theatre, sports, street art. Almost anything can be turned into an activist project. What are you good at? Translate it into civic activism!
9. **Join/create a youth organization:** Local youth organizations are great places to expand your knowledge and become an active member of your society. If your community doesn't have an organization representing youth, create one. Be the trendsetter!
10. **Be an inspiration:** Believe in yourself, and follow your passion. Passionate youth will change the world.

We all care about something, why not stand up for it?

SALESIAN COOPERATORS

New Members to Mowkyndeng Centre

As part of the preparation for the Quasqui Centennial Celebration of the Immaculate Conception Parish Mowkyndeng the Association of the Salesian Cooperators on 21 January 2018 has witnessed the Promise-taking of twenty-six Aspirants as full-fledged members. The solemnity of the day was doubled with the feast day of the Oratory children wherein 400 children were present for the day.

At the entrance procession the 26 Aspirants held a lighted candle in their hands symbol of the renewal of their Baptismal promises and their willingness to live according to the teaching of the Project of Apostolic Life (PAL).

Sr. Christina Kharkongor FMA Provincial Delegate gave a fitting introduction to the celebration, which was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Philip Barjo SDB Provincial Delegate and Fr. Sylvester Synrem, Principal St. Dominic



Higher Secondary School, Mowkyndeng. In his homily Fr. Sylvester spoke on the theme, "It's Easy to make a promise but it's difficult to live it". He cited some concrete examples and brought home the message to all who listened to him. The Promise-taking was officiated by Fr. Philip Barjo and received by the Provincial coordinator Mrs. Benita Marbaniang. Each of the new members was given a certificate of membership coupled with a loud and thunderous clap of the children who filled the Church to its capacity. The liturgy of the day was made colourful with the dances at the entrance procession and offertory together with the melodious voices of the choir under the leadership of Sr. Aitihun Lawai. At the vote of thanks the souvenir of the Quasqui Centennial Celebration was presented to all who made the day a memorable one. Soon after the Holy Eucharist the gathering proceeded to St. Francis Convent, where the Parish Priest Fr. Devasia Vazhayil SDB too joined for the cake-cutting and family meal.

Prior to the day, Sr. Melina Kharbani, the local delegate and the Local office bearers prepared the Aspirants for the great day. The previous day Sr. Christina Kharkongor and Mrs. Benita Marbaniang too came from Shillong and helped in the preparation of the Aspirants through prayer, reflection and other necessary arrangements.

Sr. Euginia Laloo

Salesian Cooperators' Promise-taking at Mawlai Centre

On 31 January 2018, ten vibrant Aspirants from different walks of life pledged to live the Salesian Charism as full-fledged members of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators on the solemnity of St. John Bosco. The Holy Eucharist, which commenced at 6 in the evening, was presided over by Fr. Philip Barjo SDB, Provincial Delegate of SDB Shillong Province, concelebrated by 6 other Priests at St. Dominic Savio Church, Mawlai Parish.

At the very outset, Sr. Christina Kharkongor FMA, Provincial Delegate of FMA Shillong Province introduced briefly the life and mission of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators and welcomed the Celebrants, Provincial Council members of the Association, invitees, young people and the faithful. Fr. Marius Thongnibah, Parish Priest, in his homily



highlighted the valuable contribution made by the Salesian Cooperators in the Parish as envisaged by Don Bosco himself. He exhorted all present, especially the youth to join the association, for the Church needs more people of good will to continue the work of evangelization and catechesis. As he congratulated the courageous and committed aspirants, Fr. Marius applauded the sincere effort of the Salesian Sisters in keeping the Association alive and vibrant in the Parish.

Witnessing the Promise Taking moment of the aspirants was indeed an inspiring one for their loved ones and all present. It was carried out with such fervour similar to that of a Religious Profession that someone spontaneously exclaimed: "Oh Don Bosco's way of life is ever new and relevant even today!" Mrs. Batkynti Kharumnuid, Provincial Secretary took the Promise of the Aspirants and solemnly received them as full-fledged members of the Association.

After the Mass, Mrs. Damianty Lyngdoh, Local Co-ordinator of Mawlai Centre proposed a vote of thanks followed by a family meal at Sacred Heart Convent.

Sr. Teresa Kamsuan



***A Tribute
of Gratitude
to***

**SR. TEREZIJA MEDVESEK
(1906 – 2001)**

Beloved Sr. Medvesek Terezija,
Ardent Missionary from Slovenia.
In 1906, she was born,
the youngest daughter of Mr. John.

She professed in 1930,
At Nizza Monferato, Italy.
She came to India the following
year,
Thus, fulfilled her desire.

She was destined from eternity,
To be a zealous Missionary.
From far distant Slovenia,
She crosses over to India.

First assignment at St. Mary's
Guwahati,
Entrusted with Economer's
responsibility.
Then 1934, she moved to new
Villa,
She was sent to Jowai,
Meghalaya.

To learn languages was not her
problem,
Thus, her joy was overwhelmed.
She could catechized people
everywhere,
She preached the Good News of the
gospel.



Her Missionary zeal so evident,
Words to describe are insufficient.
Touring villages untiringly,
Bearing fruit abundantly.

All the strayed and the lost sheep,
She now made them fervent Catholics.
Sr. Teresa is remembered by everyone,
As a loveable and a simple person.

70 long years lived in India,
Out of which 19 in Jowai Meghalaya.
Her thirst for souls was remarkable,
Centered on Christ in the
Tabernacle.

We cherish her accomplishment,
May she intercede for us from Heaven.
Holiness is imitation of Christ,
Our DESTINY is Paradise.

Composed by
Sr.Roda Mary Rongrin FMA

Inspirational Stories

Tickets to Heaven

There once was a sick child named John. He had a rare and serious illness, and all the doctors confirmed that he would not live long, **though they couldn't say exactly how long it would be.** John spent long days in the hospital, saddened by not knowing what would happen, until one day a clown who was passing by saw how sad John was and came over to say: "How come you're standing there like that? Haven't they told you about the Heaven for sick children?" John shook his head, **but continued listening intently.** "Well, it's the best place you could ever imagine, much better than heaven for parents or anyone else. **They say it's like that to compensate children for having being sick.** But to enter it there is one condition." "What is it?" asked John, concerned. **"You cannot die without having filled the bag."** "The bag?" "Yes, yes. The bag. A large grey bag like this," **said the clown as he pulled one out from under his jacket and gave it to John.** "You were lucky I had one on me. You have to fill it with notes so you can buy your ticket." "Notes? It's no use then. I haven't any money." "No, not ordinary notes, my boy. Special notes: notes for good deeds, **pieces of paper on which you write every good thing you do.** At night an angel comes and checks all this paperwork, and exchanges the good ones for tickets to heaven." "Really?" "Of course! But be sure to hurry up and fill your bag. **You've been sick a long time and we don't know if you have enough time left to fill the bag.** This

No river can return to its source, yet all rivers must have a beginning.

- Native American

is a unique opportunity and you cannot die before completing it; that would be a terrible shame!" The clown was in a hurry, **and when he left the room John was pensive,** staring at the bag. What his new friend had told him seemed wonderful, and he had nothing to lose by trying. That same day, when John's mother arrived to see him, **he gave her the best of smiles,** and made an effort to be more cheerful than usual, since he knew this made her happy. Then, when he was alone, he wrote on a piece of paper: "Mum smiled today." **And he put the piece of paper in the bag.**

The next morning, as soon as he woke up, John ran to see the bag. And there it was! A real ticket to heaven! The ticket looked so magical and wonderful that it filled John with excitement, **and he spent the rest of that day doing everything he knew to cheer up the doctors and nurses,** and he was company to the children who felt most lonely. He even told jokes to his little brother and took some books to study a little. And for every one of those things he put a piece of paper in his bag.

And so it continued, **every day John woke up with the excitement of counting his new tickets to heaven,** and working on getting a lot more. He did as much as he could, because he realised it was no good just to accumulate tickets in the bag in any way he could: every night the angel arranged them in the tidiest way, taking up the least space. **And John was forced to continue doing good works at top speed,**



with the hope of filling the bag before getting too sick ...

And although he spent many days on this, he never filled the bag. John had become the most beloved child at the hospital, and he had done so in the most cheerful and helpful way... and this ended up completely healing him. Nobody knew how it happened: some said that his joy and his attitude must have cured him, others were convinced that the hospital staff loved him so much that they spent extra hours to try to find a cure and provide the best care, and some told how a couple of elderly millionaires who John had cheered up lot during their illness had paid for him to have expensive experimental treatment.

***Hope can be a powerful force.
Maybe there's no actual magic in it, but when you know what you hope for most and hold it like a light within you, you can make things happen, almost like magic.***

- Laini Taylor

The fact is that all these were true because, as the clown had seen so many times, you only have to put a bit of heaven in your old grey bag each night to transform what seems like a dying existence into the very best days of your life, however long they should last.

Johnny the Lizard

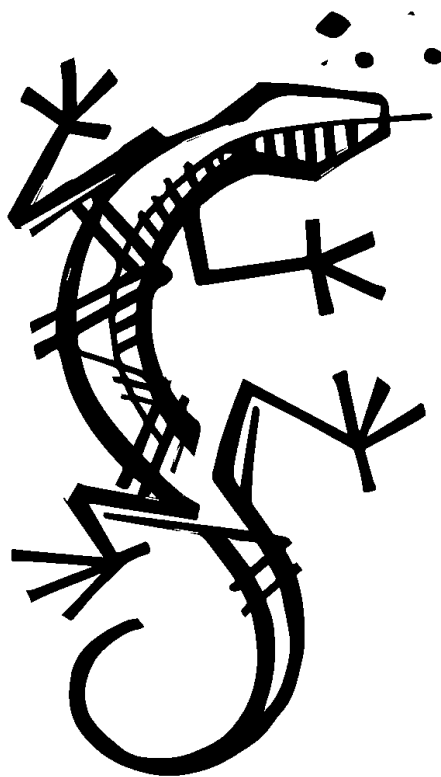
Johnny the Lizard lived between some rocks out in the country. Like all lizards he loved to quietly sunbathe, laid out on some flat stone. He felt so relaxed doing so, **that more than once he had fallen asleep**, and that's exactly what happened on the day he lost his tail: some kids caught him, and Johnny could only escape by losing his tail and running to hide.

Shocked and frightened, **he listened to how the children laughed at seeing his tail continue moving about**, even though it was no longer attached to his body. After a while they threw the tail away. When the children had gone, Johnny started looking everywhere for his tail, **wanting to reattach it to its rightful place**. However, the countryside was very big, and as much as he searched for it, Johnny could find no sign of his tail. **He left everything else in his life**, devoting himself to the search. He forgot about his home, his possessions, his friends. Days and months passed, and Johnny kept looking, **asking everyone he met whether they had seen his tail**.

One day, someone he asked surprisedly replied, "Why do you need two tails?"

Johnny turned and saw that after so much time spent searching he had grown a new tail. What's more, **his new tail looked stronger and better than his old tail**. Seeing this, he realised how silly it had been to dedicate so much time to a problem for which there was no solution. Johnny turned back and headed for home.

On his way home he found his old tail at the side of the way. It was dry and dusty, and looked really bad. However, Johnny, **having spent so much time looking for it**, was happy to find it, and he picked it up



and resumed his journey. Soon he met a frog. The frog, surprised, asked Johnny: "Why are you carrying such a horrible old tail when you already have such a lovely tail of your own?" "**Because I spent months looking for it**," replied Johnny. "You really spent months looking for something so ugly and dirty?" said the frog. "Well," Johnny explained, "previously it wasn't as ugly as this..." "Hmm, but now it is, wouldn't you agree?... How strange you lizards are!" said the frog before jumping off into the distance.

The frog was right. **Johnny still thought of his tail as though it was the same tail he used to have**, but in reality it was now disgusting. Now Johnny understood, so he decided to drop his old tail there, leaving with it all his past worries. As he continued his journey all he took with him were thoughts of the future.



*Conclusion of the
140 years
of*

***The First FMA
Missionary
Expedition***

*on 7th December 2017
St. Mary Mazzarello
Jowai*





**World Feast of
Gratitude at Asuncion
in the Province of
St. Raphael Archangel
(PAR) 26 April 2018**

with the
Young
let the **Chords**
of **Life** vibrate
witnessing to the **Joy**
of following **Christ**



*By living the response to God's call
with joy and hope, we re-awaken the
plan of God in every young person*



Chief Editor : Sr. Euginia Laloo | Associate Editor : Sr. Teresa Kamsuan,
Published by : Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai, Shillong - 793014
www.fmashillong.org | email : fmainsinfo@gmail.com | Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/fmashillong>