The ASCENSION of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 1: 1-11
28.05.17
Rev. Fr. Obed Yimchungri was ordained a Priest on 18th March, 2017 at St. Paul's Parish, Pungro.

Northeast Bishops’ Conference Held at Jowai from 7-10 February 2017

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting Held at Mt. Tabor, Kohima on 24 February 2017

Meeting of the Conference of Diocesan Priests of India at Kolkata, 16 - 17 March 2017
Dear Friends,

We are at the threshold of celebrating the great feast of Easter, the feast of all feasts. We have been preparing ourselves for it spiritually and physically, materially and morally during these days of Lent, that invites us towards sincere conversion and repentance. “Rent your hearts not your garments” was the clarion call of the Prophet Joel, as we began the season of Lent. The observance of the Lent is not an end in itself but a preparation for the celebration of the great feast of Easter.

Easter is the celebration of the ultimate victory of Jesus over all forms of evils. The resurrection of Jesus is the reason and basis of Christian faith and hope. To the people, represented by the Corinthian community, who doubted the bodily resurrection of Jesus St. Paul wrote: “But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised then our preaching is in vain and your faith is vain...If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied...If Christ has not been raised, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.’ Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals’. Come to our right mind and sin no more” (cfr. 1 Cor. 15: 13-34).

St. Paul gives the best theology on resurrection. It is the most fundamental and ultimate reason for a Christian to live in this world. It gives hope to overcome even the most hopeless and desperate problems of life. Resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate and final answer to all evils in the world. Though sin reigns in the lives of all people, yet it will not have the final victory. It is the goodness and love of God, manifest and vindicated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that will have the ultimate and final victory. Resurrection of Jesus is the final seal on the reign of sin.

Therefore let us live in this world as people of hope, though weighed by sin and its consequences. Let us not be seduced by the snares of evils, but stand for truth, stand for God. At the end of our earthly journey we carry nothing but the fruit of our faith in Jesus. Let us not be defeated by evils, but live in hope, a hope that will never let us down. Resurrection of Jesus is the final word in the battle between good and evil. Human sins are washed clean by the blood of Christ and humans can begin a new life in the friendship and fellowship of Christ.

When Mr. Graham Stains, the Christian missionary and his two little sons were burnt alive in Orissa on January 23, 1999, his widowed wife and his daughter who had to live with this colossal tragedy expressed their faith in the resurrection of Jesus thus, when they sang in a memorial celebration: “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future and life is worth living – just because He lives”. Let our prayer always be that we come out of the tombs of our sins and evil habits and that Jesus will let us share in the power of his resurrection.

I wish you all a happy Easter and implore God’s choicest blessings.

Bishop James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland

Sharing: April - May 2017
Dear Readers,

We are approaching the Holy Week, a time when we commemorate the Paschal Mystery (Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ). The entire Easter celebration culminates in the feast of Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Let me focus my note on this great feast in the Church. The Ascension of Christ is an important theme in Christian art, the ascending Jesus often shown blessing an earthly group below him to signify his blessing the entire Church. I would like to enter into a deeper reflection on the this very important mystery of our faith.

**In the first place, ascension established Jesus as the supreme king over all powers in all ages.** Ephesians 1:20-21 says God “raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.” Ephesians 2:6-7 brings us into the picture, saying “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” Mathewson adds, “It’s the Lord’s power that makes this possible (Eph. 6:10)—a power we can access as believers seated in the heavenly realms with our ascended King.”

**Secondly Ascension gives us access to God’s throne of mercy and grace.** In Jesus “we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens” (Heb. 4:14),” Jesus passed through the heavens (ascension) to be seated at the Father’s right hand (Heb. 1:3). What’s the result? We can now “draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).

**Thirdly, Ascension provides us an Advocate on earth with unlimited blessings.** Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit to his disciples & believers “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” John 14:15-17. His empowering presence is available to all Jesus’ followers.

**Fourthly, Ascension gives us the rewards of Christ’s victory— gifted leaders and spiritual gifts.** “In Ephesians 4:7–12, Paul connects the grace we’ve received with the ascension,” “This grace refers to spiritual gifts Paul describes elsewhere (see 1 Cor. 12) and to the gifted ministers of the Word (Eph. 4:11).”

**Fifthly, ascension keeps us longing for his return.** “The ascension creates a longing for Jesus’ return,” (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7). “It reminds us his reign is “already” but “not yet.” When Jesus descends in the way he ascended, the bad times will be over for good, the darkness will lift, and everything sad will at last come untrue.”

On this Ascension Day, we are reminded how the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of our Savior Jesus Christ changed the whole course of our lives and changed our world forever. May we celebrate that our Lord is reigning from heaven as the one true King, and may we rejoice that we have the Holy Spirit as our ever-present advocate. May we eagerly await His return and fervently share the Gospel until He does. May the forthcoming Holy week (9th -16th April, 2017) benefit us Spiritually, Mentally and physically.

There are a few important reasons which call for our prayers. The students who have appeared in the exams are eagerly waiting for their result with anxiety. We pray for their good result. St. Paul reminds us, no matter whether you feel it or not, no matter what problems knock at your door, the first step to possessing God’s peace is to rejoice in the Lord always, (Phil. 4:4.) knowing, this too shall pass. With God’s help we can rise above our circumstances, knowing, the Lord is near and all things will be made right.

On May 3rd the Church commemorates the feast of Sts. Philip and James, the Apostles. We remember all those who bear their names. We shall specially remember Bishop James Thoppil and other fathers and pray for them that they may be under the protection and inspiration of their patron saints.

On the Second Sunday 14 May, 2017 also commonly keep ‘Mother’s Day’. It is a day specially set aside to express our love for our dear mothers. We specially remember them and express our love tangibly for bringing us into this world and always seeing the best in us.

I, on behalf of the editorial board, a very fruitful Holy Week and a grace-filled Easter. I thank you sincerely for all your support and assistant.
### BISHOP’S PROGRAMME

**April - September 2017**

#### April 2017

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<td>10</td>
<td>Kohima: Consulars’ meeting (10.30 am, BH, Kohima) Priests’ meeting (2.00 pm, Mt. Tabor), DF meeting</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Recollection (9.00 am – 12.30 Noon, Mt. Tabor) Chrism Mass and Priesthood Day (3.00 pm, Cathedral)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>Kohima: Holy Thursday; Collection for the maintenance of the Holy See</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Kohima: Good Friday; Collection for Holy Land</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Kohima: Vigil Mass; Cathedral</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Dimapur: Easter Sunday Day Mass (Holy Cross, Dimapur) Chumukedima: Blessing of the Church at Razaphe village</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Dimapur: St. Joseph University Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Dimapur: UFC Profession (9.30am) : To Seyochung</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Seyochung: Phisami Church Blessing</td>
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<td>21-23</td>
<td>Tuensang: Golden Jubilee</td>
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<td>Kerala: Fiat Mission Exhibition</td>
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<td>Dimapur: Vestition at GSS</td>
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<td>07</td>
<td>Vocation Sunday – Collection for St. Peter the Apostles</td>
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<td>08-12</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>Dimapur: NEISSR GB meeting</td>
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<td>14-23</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>19-23</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit: SFS Parish, Medziphema</td>
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<td>CMC Silver Jubilee</td>
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<td>Kohima: Feast of Mary Help of Christians</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>Kohima: Regional Catechetical Meeting (Mt. Tabor, Kohima)</td>
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<td>Recollection for Sisters</td>
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<td>Sisterhood Day celebration-cum-Cathedral Feast</td>
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<td>29-30</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>St. Joseph College, Jakhama</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-07</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit: Razeba</td>
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<td>08-09</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>Jakhama: GB Meeting – SJC</td>
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<td>11-13</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Kohima – Consulars’ meeting (9.30 am, BH, Kohima)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dimapur – Mass at SABS Provincial House (6.30 pm)</td>
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<td>16-18</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>19-21</td>
<td>Bangalore: Meeting of the CCBI commission for Catechetics</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Kohima – Meeting with Catechists</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Kohima-Jotsoma: Feast of the Sacred Heart</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Kohima (FC meeting at 2.30 pm BH, Kohima)</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>First Vocation Camp (Meluri)</td>
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<td>26-30</td>
<td>Retreat for Sisters (Bishop Ignatius D’Souza, Bishop of Bareilly)</td>
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#### July 2017

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<tr>
<td>01-02</td>
<td>Shillong – Silver Jubilee, Syro-Malabar Community</td>
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<td>03</td>
<td>Tinsukia – MSMHC Chapter - Mass</td>
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<td>04-22</td>
<td>Kerala – Medical Check up</td>
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<td>23-29</td>
<td>Retreat - Attapadi</td>
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#### August 2017

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<td>01-02</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Kohima, Senate meeting (10.30 am) Consulters meeting (2.00 pm)</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>Jakhama – Vianney Day Celebrations</td>
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<td>05</td>
<td>Kohima – FMA Profession</td>
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<td>06-07</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<td>08-31</td>
<td>USA – MCP</td>
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#### September 2017

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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Return from USA</td>
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<td>21-22</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kohima – FC meeting (2.30 pm, Bishop House Kohima)</td>
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<td>24-30</td>
<td>Kohima</td>
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Educational Empowerment and Training at Chessore

Educational Empowerment and Training program held at St. Christopher School, Chessore on March 23-25, was a milestone for 37 govt. and private teachers from Chessore and Shamator area. International Leadership in Education Programme (ILEP) Alumni of Nagaland - Ms. Christina, Little Star HSS, Dimapur, Mdm. Tonika Yepthomi, Govt. High School, Diphupar B and Rev. Dr. Francis Yimso, St. Christopher School, Chessore, – animated the lessons on Principles of Teaching, Student Engagement and Using Rubrics to link Instruction and Assessment. Earlier on 23rd March, Adv.H. Mukam Yimchunger, speaking at the inaugural function inspired the gathering of teachers, parents, dignitaries and students on the ‘noble role and responsibility of teachers’.

The program was sponsored by International Research & Exchanges Board, (IREX, Washington, USA), through a competitive win from the hundreds of project-proposals from across 22 countries. “It was first of such opportunity created and facilitated for the teachers of the area; a great learning and eye-opener for the participants, which was depicted in the increase of participants on the second and third day,” said Mr. Aruthong, one of the participants. Impact was immediately seen as when the teachers decided not only to use the newly learned teaching skills in the classroom, but also bring together the students of their schools for a day of ‘Students’ Fest.’ In the concluding the session, the participants and resource persons exchanged ‘thankful greetings for ‘triple-days renewal’ while Sir. Mukam, Headmaster, Govt. High School, Chessore handed over the Certificate of Participation to the attendants.

- Mr. Throngji

SPHSS Annual Games and Sports Meet 2017 Held

The annual games and sports meet of St. Paul Higher Secondary School (SPHSS) was held on Wednesday 29 March 2017 at the school campus under the motto “Excellence through sports.” O.T.Chingmak Chang, Commissioner, Parliamentary Affairs and Dr. Neiviselie Simon Dzuvichu, president CAN, graced the occasion as the chief guest and guest of honour respectively.

Speaking at the programme, Chingmak Chang said that sports and games not only teach students about obedience and discipline but also to work as a team with a sense of belongingness. It also helped the students towards becoming responsible and productive members of society by making them develop social skills, he added. He also encouraged the students to play in the true spirit of game.

Dr. Neiviselie in his speech said that sports not only play an important role in imparting character and co-operation and help in generating healthy competitive spirit and interest but also teach leadership, and teamwork.

Also speaking on the occasion, Rev. Mother Sibia, provincial superior, SABS said school plays a vital role not only in imparting education but also give opportunity to bring out the talents. Quoting Einstein’s words “Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school,” she encouraged the students to do well and couple education with skill and talents. Earlier the programme commenced with invocation prayer by Rev. Sr. Tessy, vice principal, SPHSS, followed by an action song and welcome song by the students of SPHSS.

Welcome speech was delivered by Rev.Sr. Ranit, principal SPHSS while the chief guest took the guard of honour and unfurled the school flag.
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Drill display by the junior students, Naga cultural dance, choreography, martial arts and butterfly dance were the other highlights of the day. The inaugural programme was hosted by Suman and Kiran.

- Correspondent

Games and Sports Meet Held at St. John School Razeba

The annual games and sports meet of St. John School, Razeba was organised on March 28 with Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Charalel, secretary, Education Commission Diocese of Kohima as the chief guest. In his speech, the chief guest exhorted the students to uphold and support each other to win the race of life. He also encouraged the students to play in team spirit. Earlier, prayer dance was presented by the Class 7 students and the welcome speech was delivered by head of the school, Fr. James T. Sangtam. Other highlights of the programmes were March Past, Aerobic Dance and Choreography. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks which was proposed by Pelevonuo Krocha.

– Fr. James Thsipongkii

ACID Observes Women’s Day

Assisi Centre for Integrated Development (ACID) celebrated the International Women’s Day along with domestic workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) from Dimapur district and Karbi Anglong district of Assam under the wings of Ursuline Franciscan Sisters on the theme “Be Bold for Change” at Assisi Hall, Lakeview Colony, Dimapur, on March 25. The programme was inaugurated symbolically by lighting the lamp. The rationale behind the celebration was to motivate women for change and to acknowledge the contributions made by the women in the family and society at large.

Delivering the welcome address, Sr. Pramila Lobo, Director of ACID, said that women are the architects of the society, a change maker, builder of the family. She also urged the women to be bold for change and to see for themselves how great things happen when women work together as one family.

The chief guest Mrs Liangsi, advocate, spoke on the “Role of Women in the Family and Society.” Urging upon the women to be role models, she enlightened that women have power to bring changes in the society. She also motivated the women to promote education of their children.

Ms. Nikita Engheepi, Programme Officer, TISS made aware of the legal provisions available for women and promoted knowledge on Sexual Harassment Act.

Guest of honour Rev. Sr. Mary CJ, Provincial Superior of Ursuline Franciscan Sisters of NE Province, encouraged the women to work hand in hand to promote their rights and to stand by themselves in order to be empowered women.

– Correspondent

‘Peer Mediation Helps In Solving Students’ Problems’

Wokha chapter of the Peace Channel organised one-day inter-school seminar on peer mediation as a tool to peace building at Don Bosco Youth Centre, Wokha, on March 25.

Speaking on the occasion as resource person to over one hundred and forty six students from seven different schools of Wokha town, Mr. Janthuiyang RK John, Project coordinator Peace Channel, said peer mediation is problem solving technique within the circle of friends. According to him, it is a process by which two or more persons involved in a dispute meet in a private, safe and confidential setting to work out problems focusing primarily upon the needs, rights and interest and is party centered.
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The role of peer mediation, as a whole, is to help students solve problems on their own. Students encountered different problems in their daily lives starting from among their siblings to teachers and peers in the schools. Thus, knowing the steps and techniques of peer mediation will enhance their relationship, studies and social lives, he added.

While sharing some benefits of peer mediation, he said it will effectively solve students’ conflict for good. He said that by practicing peer mediation, students will improve their life skills like effective communication, conflict resolution skills, increase their self-esteem and give greater insight through participation.

In the later part of the session, role play was conducted among the participants on how they can put their learning into practice. - Correspondent

Two-day Seminar on the Best Practices in Higher Education at SJC, Jakham

Two-day national seminar on ‘The best practices in higher education for quality management’ was organized by IQAC St. Joseph’s College, Jakham and Sponsored by UGC-NAAC on March 24 -25.

The keynote speaker for the seminar Dr. B.S. Madhukar, Advisor NAAC, Bangalore presented his presentation stating that ‘quality is non-negotiable’ and how a teacher plays a vital role towards achieving quality education and how autonomy leads to employability.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Medonuo Piemyu, HoD, Sociology Department, welcomed the gathering and Dr. B.S. Madhukar gave the keynote address. It was followed by lighting of the lamp by Dr. B.S. Madhukar, Rev. Fr. Sebastian, Fr. Anthony Dukru, Mr. Saju, HOD of Economics Department and Mr. Yanphong Konyak, Students’ council president.

The convener of the seminar Fr. Anthony Dukru, Vice – Principal, St. Joseph College, Jakham presented a prelude of the college where he quoted that ‘education is an indication of human development.’ ‘to implement higher education, quality education is needed’ and said that the students should demand for higher education.

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil, Principal of the college delivered the presidential address where he threw light upon the need of quality education in this century. He also highlighted some characteristics in working towards quality education. He further quoted that ‘implementation of quality education is the Achilles heel of best practice.’

A dance was also performed by Kalivi and friends before Mr. James H.K, Head, Department of English, delivered the vote of thanks. The master of ceremony was Mr. Zeineikho Pfukha, Head, Department of History. The cultural association of St. Joseph’s College presented an ethnic cultural...
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A fusion dance signifying the cultural unity despite cultural diversity. A special number was presented by Moa.

The first technical session of the day followed after the lunch break where Fr. Dr. Anand SJ, Local Representative, IQAC member was the Chairperson; and that there will be two more sessions on March 25. It is attended by various dignitaries and faculty members from different colleges in and around Nagaland.

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Gangtok Tour

Mr. Kaushik Dey, the proprietor of Voyages Tours and Travels offered an opportunity to the priests and nuns of the Diocese of Kohima for a tour to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim from 21st to 25th March, 2017. The nine fathers and the eight sisters responded to that invitation. They were: Rev. Frs. Mathew Thuniampral, Richard Fernandes, Philip Magh, Manoj Manuel, Charles Phom, Kusum Toppo, MSFS, Panii Paul, MSFS, Brayan D’Souza, OFM Cap, Stephen D’Souza, OFM Cap, and Rev. Srs. Linda, FCC, Veronica, FCC, Jessy Jose, FCC, Benny Romana, UFC, Sunitha Miranda, UFC, Benisha Thomas, UFC, Jobina Varghese, UFC, Lolita D’Souza, UFC. They visited places in Gangtok City, where they saw a flower show of unique and beautiful flowers, Ganesh Temple, Buddhist Monastery, the emporium of handicrafts.

On the next day they proceeded towards Tsomgo Lake (Snow Point). There they were able to have the view of the snow capped mountains. They could walk and play on the snow on both the sides of the road. It was an amazing experience for many since they saw the snow for the first time in their life.

They were fortunate to make a visit to St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Gangtok and had the Eucharistic Celebration. The Eucharistic celebration was an enriching experience for all.

It was a good tour. The fathers and the sisters are grateful to Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil for approving the tour, Fr. Jacob Charalel for passing on the information of the tour, Mr. Kaushik Dey for meeting all the expenses, Mr. Kitu Dey and Miss Kim who were the guides of the tour along with Mr. Kaushik Dey.

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NEISSR Commemorated International Social Workers’ Day

Celebrating the theme, ‘Promoting community and environmental sustainability’, North East Institute of Social Science & Research, (NEISSR) commemorated International Social Workers’ Day on March 21, at the institute’s Conference Hall.

The event was celebrated in all parts of the globe with social workers marking the achievements of the profession and promoting social justice by taking messages to their governments, employers, communities and partner organisations.

Explaining the concept of social work as a helping profession, Rev. Dr. C.P. Anto, principal asked the social work trainees to develop “the skills of teaching a man to fish which will help him to feed for his life”. “To help somebody, we need to develop our intellect, our skills and our attitude so as to reorient ourselves towards helping every individuals that we come across to experience the same transformation”, he said.

Fr. Anto also gave a brief narration on the growth of social work profession from a charity based approach towards a right based approach. Highlighting the theme of the day, he opined that social work trainees should think beyond their own community or tribal affinity and move towards a broader horizon where they can help and empower individuals irrespective of their tribes, colour, status, and belief etc.

He stated that diversity should not be considered as a liability but as strength and resource
and added that social workers can become the real agent of change.

Short play on the concept of social work as ‘teaching a man to fish, rather than giving fish’ which epitomized the value of social work profession was presented by the students of Youth Development and Peace & Conflict Transformation Studies specializations.

Other highlight of the programme included a play on the importance of environmental conservation by students of Community Development and a song by the students of 2nd semester MSW.

– Fr. C.P. Anto

SJC, Jakhama Organises 4th Spring Fest

The season of growth was celebrated in the form of Spring Fest, the fourth of its kind, at St. Joseph’s College (SJC), Jakhama with an ardent desire to achieve unity among the various Naga tribes on March 18 and 20 under the theme “Retrospecting Roots”.

The programme witnessed a fusion of cultural troups with their elegant and captivating steps which once again rejuvenated the thoughts to the roots of the beginning. The loud drumbeats echoed the messages of our ancestors to the present time and one could feel the call for integrity.

Rev. Fr. Anthony R. Dukru, Vice-Principal in his welcome address introduced the 4th Spring Fest and its importance. The Chief Guest Dr. Vilhousa Seleyi president, Angami Public Organisation in his message said that the culture of Nagas is the strength of the Nagas. He said that the culture from outside should be discouraged, we need to acknowledge our own culture and should not try to imitate from Hollywood or Bollywood. He also said that to grow as a society we need to have a very strong hold in our roots i.e. Naga Culture, if root is weak we will fall.

He thanked the college management for giving wonderful opportunity to the students to value and preserve the unique Naga Culture through Spring Fest and motivated to organise it as an Inter Collegiate Competition from the next year.

The Fest was declared open by the Dr. Vilhousa. The highlights of the Fest included a series of competitions including Folk dance, Modern Dance, Snail Eating Competition and special appearances by Alobo Naga, Virie and Stark of River. On the March 20 Ethnic Fashion Show and Beat Contest were held and a special number was presented by The Exhibit.

- Correspondent

Peace Channel Organises Inter School Peace Activities - cum- ‘Earth Day’ Programme

Peace channel in collaboration with Earth day Network, North East Diocesan Social Service Society and Centre for Environment Education observed Earth day cum Inter-school peace activities on March 18 at Peace Channel Conference Hall, Dimapur.

Speaking on the occasion resource person Martha Caceres from University of Liverpool called upon the participants as a builder of peace and asked them to contribute in the process of bringing peace in their community. She stated that in order to contribute peace we need to be in a moment of clarity, relaxation and connect our mind to have inner peace. She said that to give peace to the society we need to give peace to ourselves first. She challenged the participants how each individual can contribute
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towards earth and how to heal mother earth. She also stressed on the damages done to our mother earth by human activities and highlighted steps to make peace, to protect and save the earth.

Rev Dr. C.P Anto, founder and director of Peace Channel spoke on Peer Mediation. He stressed on various behavioural disorders of students and how to handle them systematically. He highlighted on the importance of peer mediation, its steps, its relevance among the young people and emergence of peer mediation in the context of the State where young people could take initiatives to resolve issues in educational institute and community respectively. A drawing competition on preservation of mother earth was also held to mark the occasion. The program was attended by thirty-eight peace club leaders from different institutions in Dimapur. - Correspondent

Spiritual Convention held at Holy Cross, Dimapur

A Three-Day Spiritual Convention was held at Holy Cross, Dimapur from 17th - 19th March 2017. Rev. Fr. Biju Koonan VC & Tabor Team, Mumbai animated the convention, with the theme “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Ps. 37). The first day was spent in Praise & Worship Sessions on God’s Love, Jesus the Saviour and Healing Mass. On Saturday 18th March there was Praise & Worship, Counseling, Deliverance Adoration, Confession and Healing Mass. Twenty priests sat for confession and hundreds went to the sacrament of Confession and experienced God’s unlimited and bountiful forgiveness, and deliverance. Jesus gave to the Apostles the power to bind and lose and to forgive the sins by the power of the Spirit, a power that is handed on from generation to generation by the gift of priestly ordination. On Sunday, the concluding day, the first part was spent in Praise and worship and Healing Mass. In the afternoon thousands lined up to be touched by Fr. Biju, while others prayed and worshiped Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar. Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima concluded the retreat with a prayer and final blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. The healing and deliverance sessions continued late into the evening. Fr. Biju was accompanied by his team that consisted of Sr. Paulina Beena, CA, Linda, Mr. Joseph Philomena Fernandez, Mr. Brunell Fernandez Milton, and Mr. Joseph Joy Kunjuvarkey. Thousands of faithful from different denomination benefited from the healings spiritual convention and are grateful to Rev. Fr. Thomas P. J., the Parish Priest, Fr. Philip Magh, the Assistant Priest and Principal, the Bethany Sisters, Parish Council members and volunteers, who organized and assisted during the convention. The participants requested and look forward to another convention. May God be praised for his marvels in our midst.

- Fr. Philip Magh

The Feast of St. Joseph celebrated at Chumukedima Parish

The feast of St. Joseph was celebrated at Chumukedima parish on Sunday 19 March 2017, with the Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the main celebrant and a very large gathering of the people. 14 priests concelebrated with the Bishop. The Solemn Eucharistic procession, in a float in the shape of a dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, started soon after the Holy Mass and concluded with solemn blessing with the most holy Eucharist at St. Anthony’s campus, Tenyiphe. During the celebration 56 faithful and 30 Children received the sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy communion respectively.

Rev. Fr. Sajan, Parish Priest, Chumukedima accorded the words of welcome to the Bishop, Priests, sisters, people from the sub-centres such as St. Anthony’s Church, Tenyiphe, Holy family church, Nagaland police, Christ the King church, Seloupe, St. Mary’s Church, Singrijang, St Mary’s Church, Deizephe, St. Paul Church, Razaphe, Holy Spirit Church, Vidima, St. Thomas Church, Zutovi, Infant Jesus church, Seithekema and St. Joseph Parish, Chumukedima, and to all the invited guests and faithful from other parishes.

Bishop, in the introduction wished the parish
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community a very happy feast of their patron saint, St. Joseph. In his homily Bishop referring to the reading of the day said that by taking saint’s name at baptism one is linked spiritually with the saint, who not only intercedes for the person but also becomes a model to be imitated. Thus St. Joseph is given to us by the Church not only as an intercessor but also as a model to be imitated. Three virtues that we can highlight in St. Joseph are his docility to God’s plan, sensitivity to people’s feeling and readiness to undergo hardships to carry out God’s plan. Bishop highlighted these virtues taking clue from the gospel of Mathew. St. Joseph could have publicly disowned Mary since she was with child as prescribed by the Jewish tradition, instead he decided to divorce her secretly because he did not want Mary to be shamed publicly. He followed the principle that St. Paul would set later, everything may be lawful but not helpful. St. Joseph carried out the plan of God for him revealed by the angel although it entailed sufferings and hardship. Nothing should deter us to carry out God’s plan. Through obedience to God’s will we bring about salvation as did Joseph.

Rev. Fr. Mathew Rhanben, Priest in-charge, Longsa, in his message at the end of the Eucharistic procession said that St. Joseph, was a just, faithful and humble foster father of Jesus who carried out the will and plan of God in happiness. He urged the faithful to trust totally in God and do God’s will. St. Joseph was an open person and before him any type of “ism” will stand no ground and “ism” should not be a hindrance to our growth towards Christ. The Catholic Church promotes universality and brotherhood of all people and all are invited to it to worship God in oneness and fellowship. The most significant element in our Christian life is faithfulness to God ‘for the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones’ Psalm 37:28.

The hymns for the day were sung by the Choir of St. Joseph’s Chumukedima, GSS brothers and novices. The band by the students of Don Bosco Hr. Sec. School, Diphu added variety and gaiety to the Eucharistic procession. During the Eucharistic procession prayer of blessing was said and holy water sprinkled on every houses on the way side, decorated with lighted candles, Crucifix, and bible placed at the table. At the end of the celebration, vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Ashuli Joseph, Secretary, Parish Pastoral Council, St. Joseph’s Parish, Chumukedima. Rev. Fr. Mathew Thuniampral, Director Shalom, graced the meal and which was shared by all.

BCTE Celebrates its 15th Foundation Day

Bosco College of Teacher Education (BCTE) – Bosco B. Ed College, Dimapur, celebrated its 15th foundation cum cultural day on March 17, with Joel N. Kath, Chairman of Against Corruption And Unabated Taxes (ACAUT) as chief guest, and Fr. Nestor Guria SDB, Salesian Provincial of Dimapur as guest of honour.

Fr. Nestor Guria, guest of honour, said teachers have the noble task of identifying the qualities and talents of students and ‘train them to fly high.’

Joel N. Kath cautioned the teacher trainees of many divergent world views – secularism, liberal thoughts, scientific naturalism, post modernism etc., which were taught in western universities and can be harmful. “The teachers have the great responsibility to mould young minds and impart correct world views into them if we want to save the future of our society from moral decay and gradual destruction,” Kath said.

Fr. Dr. Joseph Thuruthel, Principal of BCTE shared a brief history of BCTE and stressed on the need of knowing and preserving one’s culture while respecting those of the others.
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The other events of the day celebration included prayer dance, power-point presentation on the history of the college, colourful cultural dances, melodious solos and group singing and the final benediction. The day concluded with refreshments for all.

The College stated that since the B. Ed classes began in the present site and the College made rapid progress to become one of the premier B. Ed colleges in the state of Nagaland. Till date BCTE has been able to train 1300 teachers in the course of 15 years.

Though majority of the 147 students are from Nagaland, the presence of a few students from Assam, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal etc. greatly enriches and lends a pan – India colour to the Bosco College of Teacher Education, Dimapur. - Correspondent

Carmel Hr. Sec. School Holds Annual Sports Meet 2017

The Annual Sports Meet of Carmel Higher Secondary School, Dimapur kicked off on March 15 with Shri. S. Bokato Sema, Officer In-charge, Diphupar Police Station as the chief guest. The day began with a marathon race in the morning and was followed by the inaugural function later in the morning. Highlights of the day included March Past by the four different contingents, Aerobics, Flag- hoisting, etc. The Sports Meet concluded on Saturday 18th March. - Correspondent

Education A Solution To Modern Maladies, Says Police Chief

While addressing the sports meet of Holy Cross Higher Secondary School on March 15, Commissioner of Dimapur police Limasunep Jamir said that, in a world of turbulence and one where everything is changing, education is the only way to instil in people the capacity of deliberation, comprehension and interpretation.

Emphasising on education, Commissioner of Dimapur police Limasunep Jamir said that the modern generation was a generation of ‘creative destruction.’ Addressing the gathering, the police commissioner pointed to the rapid strides that the society had been experiencing. “The old is being replaced by the new in an instant, he said. This generation is an era of creative destruction,” Jamir said. “During such a turbulent and changing times, education is the only hope for the society; hope that will give power of deliberation, developing the capacity to understand, and the capacity to interpret human behaviour,” the police official said.

Also, Jamir spoke about the strength and ability of the differently-able. Every child has a gift and the school is one place where they can discover their abilities ‘by spending more time in reading, studying or participate in different curricular activities like sports,’ he said. He cited the example of Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar ‘whose eye sight
moves a little faster than any other human’ as was reported by some American scientists and football star David Beckham ‘who has the ability to deliver an accurate pass even while playing.’ Their gifts made them more unique than the others, the police officer said. Saying that unique qualities may be found among them too if they introspect, he encouraged the students to find the God-gifted talents in themselves.

The chief guest remarked, “the sum of the whole is more important than the sum in one.’ He encouraged the students to work together as a team, to be compassionate and to develop the spirit of working together.

- Correspondent

Phonetics Course Organised at St. Xavier College, Jalukie

With the aim to enhance the language skills of the students, St. Xavier College Jalukie English department organized phonetics course on March 13 and 14, at the College Hall. Rev. Fr. Dr. Mathew Thuniampral, Director Shalom, Rehabilitation Centre Dimapur was the resource person of the programme. He imparted the phonetic Script vividly to the students. He emphasised on the urgent need to articulate well the words, and to aim for rapid improvement in the art of distinctive and clear pronunciation. Rev. Thuniampral entertained and trained the participants accentuated on learning phonetic symbols, reading phonetic symbols, rapid reading techniques, and mouth and tongue twisters to exercise mouth to pronounce better.

- Fr. Shaji Mathew

“Change the way you look at things and the things you look at will change.”
~ Wayne Dyer

Easter is about new life. Keep it green

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier”. ~Mother Teresa

The annual Cross Country Race of Christ King Higher Secondary School (CKHSS), Kohima was held on Saturday, March 11. With an urgent feeling for peace in our society, the race was held under the theme “Run for peace and harmony”. The race is part of the co-curricular activities that take place along the year to help the students to have all round development. Despite the rain, participants numbering around 400 turned up for the race. The flag off was from the school ground and the route taken was school ground via Mission compound via Razhü point via Tinpati junction via DBS junction, with the finishing point at the school ground. The students were divided into four houses, Blue, Green, Red and Yellow respectively. Fr Linus, the principal of the school invoked God’s blessings and flagged off the race. Winners of the various categories are: Seniors category: Boys- Kosolo (Red House) Girls- Besine (Green House) Inter’s category: Boys- Petekhrietuo (Red House) Girls- Menuosienuo (Red House) Juniors’ category: Boys- Ruokuosatuo (Green House) Girls- Alibo (Green House) Sub-Junior’s category: Boys- Kekuosetuo (Blue House) Girls- Mhalesanuo (Green House). All the winners and participants reaching the finishing point were awarded with points which will be carried forward to be added during annual sports week to be held soon.

– Correspondent
A Fortnight Ministry in Qatar, centred around its capital city Doha, was a unique faith-experience. Thanks to Jesus Youth Movement that invited me as part of a Mission Program on the theme “Mission; Avenues and possibilities.” The major portion was a one-day Mission Conference for over 300 participants followed by series of Outreach Programs.

Doha has a typical context in terms of Christian faith. The government has allotted one particular area for all Christian groups, called, “Religious Complex.” Though, the location initially was an ‘unwanted land,’ it has grown up to be a prime region with vast developments including the new airport within 20 mints drive. The campus is well guarded by the special govt security forces in the light of recent terror threats. The spacious parking lot with a capacity for 2500 cars, seems insufficient as thousands come for each Mass specially on Friday and Sunday though at different hours a day. The main building is the Latin Rite Church which has interior closely alike to Cathedral Church, Kohima. The adjacent buildings are occupied by Syro Malabar Church, Syro Malankara Church, Coptic Church, Mar Thoma Church and many others under a common name - Inter Denominational Community Centre. The government has strict rules for registration, functioning and other administrative concerns for all religious groups. Ten Capuchin Fathers are in the campus ministering to over 1.5 lakh Catholics in the country. Friday, being the main holiday in the country, is observed like Sunday in the Church with all observances related to it.

The Catholics are mainly from India and Philippines with a sizeable number from Europe, Africa, Egypt, Syria, etc. There is a tremendous effort to practice faith and be part of religious groups. There are lots of people under the banner of different countries, movements, organizations who commit themselves to works of evangelization, charity and outreach programs. Though officially no religious gathering is permitted outside the ‘Religious Complex,’ it’s not uncommon to see small religious gatherings in houses and apartments in different names. What is admirable is the effort of the people to ‘be part of the religious practices,’ in spite of hectic work-schedule, time constraints and other difficulties. “We live with tremendous uncertainties and we feel greatly for the dependency on God,” said one of the catholic leaders during a casual chat on the fervent religious practices seen in Qatar. The sharing of many people had the same tone that ‘though God, Church and sacraments are taken for granted in their home country, the people are fervent about it here because of the demanding living conditions in Qatar.” With smile they accept that they experience God better in such hard situations of Qatar than in pleasant situations back home.” These are hard facts but it’s never to conclude that their faith is merely a utilitarian approach. It was great to see that many people, in the matter of faith, were not only busy with their own limited world. ‘Reaching out to others’ was an overarching character of the faithful of the church. Let me suitably say that their hard-earned faith experience is brighter with its ‘extended reach-out’ to the needy. Many Catholic movements are active and their ‘effort to help those in need’ is an ordinary sign of a deep experiential faith.

Jesus Youth Movement has unique faces of faith-experienced faithful disciples of Christ. I shared visits with them to ‘labour camps’ which had varied standards of living facility. The camps have numerous government/company owned residential buildings with the capacity for a few to 60000 labourers. It hosts people of different countries, faiths and types, working for different companies. Jesus Youths take extra-ordinary efforts to reach out to the Catholics in these camps and assist them for their religious practices in various ways beginning with arranging transportation for church, organizing prayer meetings, friendship gathering, etc. It’s not the rich and the hi-fi who take the option of sacrificing money,
time or energy but very many are those who live from hand to mouth. It was graceful to come across some who have chosen lower-paid jobs so that they can have more time for the works of evangelization placing their goal of life on Jesus’s mission.

It’s a story of a church in a Muslim Country with limited freedom for public practice of faith. The campus and the people in it at the onset make us feel that ‘faith is better lived and shared there in spite of a constrained and controlled situation than in a place like ours where church is freely available with all its attached facilities.’ Sounds ironic but hard truth! I feel enriched and strengthened as a priest and missionary to have been part of this church though for a short time. It’s good to be there and if you ever get it, never miss it.

**WTCYA Organises ‘Youth Pilgrimage’**

Wokha Town Catholic Youth Association (WTCYA) organised “Youth Pilgrimage” under the theme “Love your Enemies and Pray for those who persecute you- Mt. 5:43-48” on Saturday 11th March, 2017, for Parish youth at St. Paul’s Catholic Church.

The pilgrimage journey began with praise and worship led by Precila Humtsoe, followed by way of the cross, special rosary, video presentation, special number, choreography and Taize prayer presented by different youth groups. The pilgrimage concluded with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Christ King Parish Priest, Kohima Rev. Fr. Peter, SDB.

In his message, the Parish Priest urged upon the youth to show love and respect to “our” neighbours as it was a basic foundation of Christian living. The vote of thanks was delivered by WTCYA president, Wobenthung Patton. Altogether 75 youth participated in the pilgrimage.

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**Seminar for Teachers of Catholic Schools at Holy Cross**

Seminar for 6 Catholic Schools’ teachers under the theme “Becoming a Teacher Today” was held on March 10 at Holy Cross Auditorium, Dimapur. Dr. Fr. John Parankimalil, SDB, principal of Don Bosco College of Teacher Education, Tura was the resource person. In his lecture, Fr. John ignited the minds and inspired the teachers and said “If you want your name to be written among the stars, write it in the hearts of students”.

Stating that Education was to wake up the life, he quoted Nelson Mandela saying “Education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world.”

He said if the child misbehaved, there was a problem and that children were basically good but they became the product of the situation/background. One could be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration, he added.

Around three hundred and fifty teachers from Holy Cross HSS, St. Clare HSS, Assisi HSS, St. Marys HSS, Padampukhri, St. Paul HSS and Don Bosco HSS attended the seminar.

**NEISSR Organises Tobacco Awareness Programme at Seluophe Village**

Social work trainees of North East Institute of Social Science and Research (NEISSR) organized a community tobacco awareness programme at Seluophe village on Wednesday 8th March, 2017. The programme was organized in collaboration with National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) Dimapur District.

During the programme, the trainees highlighted the ill effects of tobacco consumption through a street play.

Dr. C. Tetsu of the NTCP spoke on the
rampant consumption of ‘gutkha’ especially among the Naga youths. He said people do not pay much heed to the awareness about the ill effects of tobacco consumption.

Dr. Tetso lamented that even those who are well aware and educated about the impact of tobacco on health still hold on to their habit of tobacco consumption as the immediate detrimental effect was not felt.

Stating that many young Nagas were falling prey to tobacco consumption, he said the most obvious effects are lesion, cancer of mouth and other body organs. However, he said not many were aware that tobacco has subtle effects like hypertension, fluctuation in body weight etc.

Dr. Tetso also proposed to the leaders and youth present to think and work towards making Seluophe village, a tobacco free village and set example for the other villages.

It may be mentioned that Seluophe is adopted as a model village under the “Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Scheme.”

The programme was attended by 30 youths from the village along with the social work trainees who are at Seluophe for a 10-day Rural Camp. Pamphlets and information brochures on the ill effect of tobacco were also distributed.  

—— Fr. John Poji

The newly constructed the St. Joseph School building and St. Ann’s Convent were blessed and inaugurated on 7th March 2017. Shri. N. Jacob Zhimomi, the parliamentary Secretary of Irrigation & Flood Control, Govt. of Nagaland, while inaugurating both institution said that education is the key to integral Progress. Recalling his own personal experiences in the Catholic school, and being proud of the fact that he is a product of Catholic education, he thanked the Catholic Church in Nagaland for doing a yeomen service in the education of the young and said that he admired the Church’s commitment and service with a human touch. He said that education is a joint venture and parents should not shirk their responsibility. They should also support the school in each locality by sending to the school in the place instead of sending them to far away places. He also thanked the Church for the huge investment made in the campus and informed the public that he has assigned Niuland as a special development zone and expects faster and better road connectivity to the place. Rev. Fr. Devaraj, Principal of the St. Joseph’s School, Niuland accorded words of welcome to Shri. N. Jacob Zhimomi, the chief guest, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Nagaland, Mr. Vikiye, Head GB, Viyito Village, Village Leaders, Government officials, fathers, sisters, parents of the children, invited guests.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima, blessed the buildings and while speaking on the occasion thanked Shri. Jacob Zhimomi for responding to the invitation. Bishop said that he has a nostalgic feeling on the occasion because of his close association with the place and the chief guest while being the principal at Holy Cross School in the early nineties. While thanking all present, particularly Frs. George Punnolil and Jose Sebastian in charges of the finance and construction in the diocese, Fr. Devaraj for the local supervision, Shri Vikiye, the head GB for local support, Sisters of St. Ann’s of Luzern for coming to Nagaland for sharing in the mission of the Church, he said that over one Crore sixty one lakhs have been spent for the various developmental work in the campus during the last two and a half years. The Church puts all its resources, that is generated from the state and all that can be gathered from outside the state for the development of our people because the Church is committed totally to be at the service of the people of Nagaland. Education is not only for material development but also it is the key to spiritual and moral upliftment of the people. Education must make people to stand for moral uprightness and moral values taught by Jesus.

Mr. Vikiye, Head G.B - Viyito Village also

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Fr. John Poji
spoke on the occasion and requested the general public to give their maximum cooperation for the growth and development of the school. Mr. Daniel anchored the program, during which the children of the school presented action song, traditional show and Choreography. Rev. Sr. Jeena, St. Ann’s Convent, Vijito, Niuland proposed the vote of thanks. The celebration ended with a meal served to all.

- Fr. Devraj

St. Mary’s School Inaugurated at Singrijian Village

Singrijian village and other surrounding villages are now blessed to have a Catholic school, with the inauguration and blessing of St. Mary’s School, beginning with LKG. The newly constructed school building was inaugurated by Mr. Tezu Pradhan, Head G.B., Singrijian and was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil Bishop of Kohima on Monday 6th March 2017.

Bishop James Thoppil, in his address said that Education is more than imparting knowledge. It is forming the whole person, the head and the heart. Education is also like sowing the seed, which if nurtured and cultivated will give great harvest. The students should be imparted not only information but values that will make them upright citizens. He also said that Singrijian is one of the oldest catholic communities in Nagaland and they deserved a good school. The bishop reiterated the Catholic Church’s commitment to take education at the door step of our people at an affordable cost. He also requested the GBs and leaders of the village to respond positively to the Church’s initiative for progress and development of the people.

Rev. Fr. Sajan, Principal and Parish Priest accorded words of welcome to Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil Bishop of Kohima, Mr. Tezu Pradhan, Head G.B., Singrijian, Fathers, Sisters, GBs, village leaders and invited guests,

Mr. Tezu Pradhan, Head G.B., Singrijian, thanked the Catholic Church for opening the school at Singrijian. It is a long dream of the village to have the Catholic School. He said that it is God’s blessing. He on behalf of the Village leaders assured to give full support to fathers, teaching staff of St. Mary School, Singrijian in their educational endeavor for the growth and development of the area.

- Correspondent

Seminar on Catholic Faith Held at St Francis Xavier’s Church, Kidima

St. Francis Xavier’s Catholic Church, Kidima organised a one-day seminar with Reverend Father Vemedo Joseph Kezo from St Joseph’s College, Jakhama as resource person on 5th March, 2017. Kezo in his lecture stressed on Catholic faith. He said the
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faithful who has an in sight of the Catholic faith would not denounce the faith in any situation. He emphasized on the seven sacraments of the traditional practices of Catholic Church; Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Confession, Anointing the sick with oil, Marriage and Priestly ordination. Eucharist is the most important amongst the sacraments and Rosary is the best prayer, he added. He said, Eucharist and Rosary is the treasure of the religion and soul to enrich with God.

– Correspondent

SJS Razeba Holds Parents, Teachers Programme

St. John School (SJS) Razeba conducted a seminar for the parents on March 4 on the topic, “How parents can help their children at home” with Rev. Fr. Dr. Philip Abraham SJ, principal of Nazareth Higher Secondary School, Pfutsero as the resource person.

Speaking at the programme, Rev. Fr. Philip said that every child is a precious gift of God and therefore every parent has a role to play in educating the child in collaboration with the school authority. He emphasized the importance of parents keeping constant touch with their children’s performance and give constructive feedback to the concerned authority for improvement. Altogether 80 parents participated in the seminar. Earlier, at the seminar SJS students presented a song and invocation was pronounced by Vekuyi Dozo.

In a separate programme, two-day combined teachers animation programme for teachers of St. John School, Razeba and St. Joseph School, Zhavame was conducted on March 7-8 with Rev. Fr. Felix Monteiro, SJ principal of St. Paul Institute of Education, Phesama as the resource person.

Altogether 30 Teachers participated in the animation programme. Earlier, at the programme a brief introduction and welcome note was delivered by Fr. James Sangtam on behalf of the management.

– Correspondent

Bishop Makes Pastoral Visit to GSS

Bishop James Thoppil made his Pastoral visit to Good Shepherd Seminary (GSS), Dimapur from 4th to 5th of March. Bishop officiated the Holy Mass on Sunday, 5th March. In his introduction, bishop appreciated the Staff of GSS for their commitment to the ministry entrusted to them.

In his homily he said that if Christ was raised from the dead, to live a new and glorified life, so are we invited to live to his call.

Bishop met the staff, students respectively. It may be mentioned that the seminary gives shelter to seminarians from 13 dioceses Viz., Kolkata, Cuttack, Nongstoin, Dibrugarh, Jowai, Tezpur, Guwahati, Diphu, Kohima, Imphal, Agartala, Itanagar, and Miao.

Bishop while addressing the 76 Brothers at GSS said “happiness is our birth right. Therefore, life is to keep happy and that everyone longs for it. The core of the life is to be happy and all others we live with will gradually purify our intention.” Bishop appreciated brothers for their innovative ways of organising oratory. Further, he also exhorted the brothers to accept the reality of difficulties, struggles, inconvenience, in one’s life because they all contribute to one’s growth.

– Fr. Philip

New School Building Inaugurated at Noklak

The newly constructed school building for St. Paul School was inaugurated by Shri C. Phoniang, EAC, Noklak and was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima on Friday 3rd March 2017.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Lukka, Principal and In-charge of the Centre accorded the warm welcome to Shri. Phoniang, EAC, Noklak, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil Bishop of Kohima, Fathers from Kohima,
Tuensang, Kiphire, Angangba, Shamator, President Thang Range Public organization, office bearers of Khiamniungan Tribal Council, office bearers of Khiamniungan Students Union, Heads of Schools, members of the school managing board, Shri. P. Beshim, Advisor KTC, Council members of Kusong, Noklak, Nokyan A & B Villages, Head DBs and Gaon Burahs from Noklak, Sector Chairman from High School A & B Sector, public leaders, teachers, parents of the students and invited guests.

ADC in his address thanked the Catholic Church for coming to the remotest places and putting its resources for the betterment of the people. The Fathers and Sisters make a lot of sacrifice in their mission and forego their legitimate comforts of life. He urged the public leaders and people of Noklak area to give full support to the fathers, teaching staff of St. Paul School, Naklak in their work. Further he also said to the students to work hard and learn more.

Bishop James Thoppil, in his address said that while the Catholic Church is committed to bring the best education and at the lowest level to the people at their door steps, including places as far as Noklak because of its commitment to God and His people. It is the fruit of their hard work and commitment that they enjoy and hoped that the tree that produces such good fruit will be cultivated and appreciated. He appreciated and congratulated Fr. Lukka and the Staff for the great work that is being carried out and particularly for the construction of the new school building. He also exhorted the people to remove the tag of backward tribe because they are forward in many ways particularly in their intelligence and IQ. Education makes them to bring out the best in them and make difference in the life, society, economic life. Bishop requested all to give full support and co-operation to Fr. Lukka and to the institution. Teachers are here because of their commitment and teaching is not a profession but a vocation. He also urged all the students to take advantage of the facilities provided and be a catalyst of change and progress in the society.

Others who spoke on the occasion are Shri Ngon, the president TRPO, Shri P. Beshim, advisor to KTC, Shri Menya, member of the school managing board. The school children presented a variety show with songs, dance, choreography, skit and action song. Mr. Mathew, the headmaster proposed the vote of thanks and the whole programme ended with a community meal.

-- Fr. Joseph Lukka

**The Catholic Church Begins the Season of Lent With Celebration of Ash Wednesday**

The celebration of Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a season in which Christians are invited to prepare spiritually for the great mysteries of Christian faith – the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. At the Cathedral, Kohima Holy Mass with the imposition of ashes was presided over by Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General of the diocese of Kohima. In his homily he spoke of the three traditional pillars or tablets of Lenten observance, namely, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Church focuses on these three aspects to help us grow inwardly and the transformation of the external profession of faith and action into living relationship with God. Just like some tablets that are bitter in taste but good for our body so also Lent is a time for us to change our lives and grow in holiness. Fr. Neisalhou further explained the meaning of Ash Wednesday saying that the Catholic Church of the Latin Rite uses this service to prepare the members to better appreciate the death and resurrection of Christ through self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial. Ashes from the burned palms
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of the preceding year’s Palm Sunday are blessed. With these ashes, the priest marks a cross on the foreheads.

A second Mass was held at the Cathedral in the evening presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima. During the homily he stressed the perennial teaching of the Church that God is a loving and merciful Father who invites and waits for his children, the human beings, to return to Him. God’s love and human disobedience meet in the person of Jesus, who began his ministry with the clarion call for repentance and return. Jesus himself spoke of the three pillars of repentance highlighted in the Old Testament (cf. Joel 2:12-18; Mt 6:1-6,1-18). During both the Masses ashes were blessed and put on the foreheads of the faithful with the antiphon: “Remember you are from dust and unto dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19

- Fr. John P.M.

NCYM Central Executive Committee Meeting Concludes

The meeting cum seminar of the Central Executive Committee of Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) came to a close on February 27, 2017. The meeting, which began on February 24, was held at Mount Tabor Retreat House, Kohima. It was attended by presidents and secretaries of NCYM units from the centres of the Diocese of Kohima and also the presidents and secretaries of affiliated tribal youth associations.

The programme began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. In his homily, through an analogy of pineapple, he invited the leaders to root themselves with the values of the gospel and shining example of witness.

Different resource persons were roped in to address the youth as well as to challenge them at the programme. Johnny Ruangmei, OSD, NSDMA, spoke on the theme, ‘Catholic youth facing the challenges today.’ He began the session with a portrayal of the explosion of media. He touched upon the vast possibilities for a progress as well as danger attached to it, according to the release. He highlighted the array of challenges the present society is facing. Johnny further asked the participants to venture out on anything with an end in mind always. He also exhorted the young people to establish a new culture for NCYM, a culture of love, peace, entrepreneurship, farsightedness etc. Meanwhile, the youth leaders were challenged to play prophetic role in the society by raising out voice for truth and standing for justice.

Fr. Richard Fernandes took a session on “Youth and Liturgy”, where he emphasized the need to know the Holy Eucharist for a meaningful participation in it.

The participant of the World Youth Day, Limasungla, participant of Convention of Indian, Catholic Youth Movement, Noel Mego, participant of Global Peace Summit, Benedict took the stage to share their experiences.

Meanwhile, Rev. Fr. Sojan Xavier, Youth Director of the Diocese of Kohima, invited the participants to be part of the Pope Francis’ dream of having a million young Christians or even the whole generation who are for their contemporaries “walking, talking social doctrine.” He began his session stating that the purpose of every faith formation effort in the Church is oriented towards enabling people to be disciples of Jesus, who are ready to witness him in the world. He then explained the origin, content and purpose of catechism. He particularly focused on the recently published catechism ‘DOCAT’, which he said is the “popular adaptation of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church that draws on Scripture, YOUCAT, the Catechism and the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching.” Referring to Pope Benedict XVI, he said every youth must put effort to know what the church teaches in order to resist the temptations of the present time and witness Jesus.

On February 26, the participants went on a pilgrimage to Puliebadze and had the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Sojan Xavier.
was followed by a meeting at the base camp of the Puliebadze peak, during which report of the NCYM and its units were presented, and action plans were choked out. Among the agendas, the most important was the upcoming NCYM Convention at Holy Redeemer, Tobu and Diocesan Level Bible Quiz, the release added.

After their return from Puliebadze, the participants had “meaningful” interactive question-hour session. Fr. Mathew Keemattam, the parish priest of St. Dominic Church, Chiephobozou, Fr. Richard Fernades from Bishop’s House, Kohima and Fr. Sojan Xavier, clarified the queries and doubts of the participants.

In the evening, a team led by Rev. Dr. Anto CP, Richard Korn, and Madeleine Trichel from Columbus, USA addressed the participants. Fr. Anto CP, a well-known peace activist and founder and the director of Peace Channel, triggered the participants to work for peace, while Richard Korn invited them to be practitioners of Gospel in their life. Madeleine Trichel, a renowned person specialized in conflict resolution and working among prisoners, shared her inspiration of working among the prisoners and also shared some mode of addressing conflict situation.

The different sessions were chaired by Zeneikho Benedict, Male Rep. to NERYC, K. Catherine Zumvu, Treasurer, NCYM, Josephine, Editor, Vibes, Regina Kithan, Spokesperson, NCYM, Limasungla Jamir, Female Rep. to NERYC. The programme officially came to close with a campfire.

- Regina Kithan

Angami Catholic Youth Association (ACYA) undertook a mission tour to Kidima village bordering with Manipur with parish priest Reverend Father Thomas Muttathil as the main celebrant on Sunday 26, 2017.

During the tour, Reverend Father Thomas Muttathil expressed gratitude to ACYA leaders for coming from “a long distance to the last part of Nagaland” to meet the community.

Father Muttathil asked the faithful to seek pardon and mercy from God before celebration of Eucharist. He emphasised the Gospel reading of the day, saying that people cannot serve both wealth and God.

ACYA President, Medoneisa Marcus also conveyed Central Executives Committee (CEC) at St Francis Xavier’s Church Kidima on the day of mission tour. ACYA CEC consists of five regions namely, Chakro (Dimapur district), Kohima Town, Northern, Southern and Western Angami.

ACYA general secretary Kekhrieneino Regina read out the meeting minutes, Pechovinu

Career Guidance Programme Held at St. Joseph College

A career guidance programme was held at St Joseph’s College, Jakhama for the 6th Semester students of Political Science, History and Sociology departments on Monday February 27.

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Richard Dick Korn, a faculty member from Franklin University, USA, Madeline Trichel Glin a facilitator for community building programme from America, Dr. C.P Anto, Principal, NEISSR and Imli Akum, Peace Channel Coordinator, Kohima, were the animators for the programme.

The objective of the programme was to impart the prospects of a career after the End Semester. They highlighted on the passion, interest, ability and personality required for choosing a career. They also spoke on oriented professional jobs and programmes and the role of youth in involving themselves in the process of peace building for the society and the nation at large.

- Correspondent

ACYA Organises Mission Tour To Kidima Village

- Regina Kithan
Veronica and friends presented welcome song. ACYA leaders enthralled the special number and KCU president, Keyolevo Augustine pronounced words of gratitude. Franciscan Sisters of Saint Mary of the Angels (FSMA) also joined the sacred ceremony.

- Correspondent

**Skill Training for Unemployed Youth was Inaugurated at Don Bosco Tech AIDA Centre**

Dr. Lanunsangla Tzudir, Chief Editor and Proprietor of Heritage Publishing House, graced the occasion as the chief guest of the 20th Skill training for unemployed Youth at Don Bosco Tech AIDA Centre. In her address, Dr. Lanunsangla said, “Unemployment and unemployability are the major problems that we face today. I always feel that skill based education is the only way to address the issue of unemployment problem.” She further added, “To run business or industry we need good policy makers, honest civil servants and good politicians; but it is skilled people who support the major part of the economy.”

Dr. Lanunsangla encouraged the trainees to take the training seriously. She also appreciated the parents for sending their wards to attend the skill training.

Father CT Varghese, Rector of Don Bosco Dimapur, reminded the trainees that they are “undergoing a transition from indiscipline to disciplined life, laziness to hard work.” He advised them to move away from addiction to bad habits to addiction to self discipline.

Amos Ekka, State coordinator for Don Bosco Tech operations, shared on the work of Don Bosco Tech in India and in Dimapur region. He said Don Bosco Tech is committed to train the youth taking advantage of the opportunities available currently. As India is going to be the skill capital of the world, he said youth, particularly from Northeast, do not miss the bus. Stating that youth from Northeast are second to none, he said Don Bosco Tech wants them to compete and excel with their counterparts in mainland India.

Ms. Jessica Sumi welcomed the gathering, while Ganesh shared his life testimony. The audiences were enthralled by Konyak and Yimchunger folk dances, Sumi and Chakesang folk songs performed by trainees. Ms Ajano delivered the vote of thanks.

Batch 20 of skill training for unemployed youth of Nagaland started on January 23 with 96 trainees from 17 different tribes of Northeast. Training is imparted in domains such as hospitality – food and beverage service, hospitality – hair dressing and hospitality – beauty and wellness. Don Bosco Tech AIDA centre has trained 1381 and placed 1300 in the last 6 years.

- Correspondent

**Peace Channel Peren Chapter Organizes One-Day Seminar**

One day seminar cum induction of new members was organized by Peace Channel Peren Chapter at All Saints Higher Secondary School hall, Peren town on February 25 with Martha Caceres and Mohit Nahar from Liverpool Hope University UK as the resource persons.

In her address Martha Caceres said peace was not only an absence of direct violence but peace should also represent a scenario where individuals or communities were not harmed by any other kinds of violence.

She quoted, John Paul Lederach, a recognized peace builder and scholar and said that relationships were main essence in peace.

In her concluding remark she called upon the participants and said when “we give skills to our children, teachers and leaders on how to manage an
emotion and respond to conflict”, the conflict is transformed into learning.

Speaking on ‘Inner peace,’ Mohit Nahar quoted the words of Sydney Madwed, “Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves.” He further added to become an agent of peace it was necessary to start feeling peace inside of self. He also mentioned that when “we transform our self, it would give us more awareness and more love towards our self”. In the programme, concept and functioning of peace coordination committee was covered by project coordinator peace channel, Janthuiyang RK John and multi-media presentation and introduction to Peace Channel was given by district coordinator Peren, David Ndang.

Earlier at the programme, welcome address was delivered by principal, All Saints Higher Secondary School (ASHSS), Rev. Fr. Philip Mhonchumo.

Thirty-four new club members from All Saints Higher Secondary Schools (ASHSS), Baptist High School (BHS) and Government Middle School Peren (GMSP) were inducted into the Peace Club by Mr. George, Teacher animator (ASHSS).

The program began with God’s blessing by the chairman, Pastor’s Fellowship Peren town, Dr. Hiazuheing and concluded the programme with peace anthem by the congregation.

- Correspondent

Child Right Movement Celebrates ‘Day of Hope’

Assisi Centre for Integrated Development (ACID) and National Domestic Workers Movement – Child Right Movement celebrated ‘Day of Hope’ on February 25 in Assisi hall, Lakeview colony with the aim of “bringing justice to children, domestic workers and labourers and those children who have no hope or platform.” The day was celebrated with the theme “There is a voice within” and it is celebrated in ACID and NDWM-Child Right Movement since 2013.

“It was created to help break the silence surrounding the death of babies and children,” said a press release received here. The day also marks to celebrate and to “bring hope to the hopeless, voice to the voiceless, love to the loveless, care for the uncared, and to become the channels of love, peace and joy to the people around and specially to those children who are deprived of all these.”

Rev. Sr. Benny Fernandes, Vice Provincial of Ursuline Franciscan Congregation who was the chief guest of the programme in her inaugural message said, “We are in the 21st century and we have reached to a world that is ‘Right based.’ To receive rights and justice there is a continuous struggle for freedom. We need to defend the basic human rights for all children, the right to survival, to develop to the fullest, protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation and to participate fully in the family.”

Sr. Pramila, State coordinator for NDWM and Director of Assisi Centre for Integrated Development told the participants that it is time to change our attitude, to bring hope and guidance for children who are in domestic work and ensure every child below the age of 18 to maintain the rights to enjoy the childhood happiness regardless of creed, color, race and religious status in her welcome speech.

Resource person Loza, Coordinator for CHILDLINE explained in detail the rights of the children and informed that in Nagaland 60 to 70 children are reported in a year as per Dimapur Childline.

Nikita, District Legal Panelist highlighted mainly on the legal provisions that are available for the children. She pressed upon the importance of education till the age of 14 and also the need to be aware of Child Helpline No 1098 and also Women Helpline 181.

Child Right Movement representative, Vicky Sharma put forward the plight of children in Nagaland- “To express the concern, dreams, voice and wishes for the safety and protection. To raise voice that is within them hidden, against all kinds of abuses and exploitation towards the little ones in the society.”

Sharing: April - May 2017
It was also informed that CRM Coordinator Sr. Jobina till today has formed 20 Child Participation groups in and around Dimapur with the aim of identifying those children who are deprived of their rights and to promote a platform to bring forth the hidden capacities and abilities.

GB of Lake View Colony, I Meren Jamir expressed gratitude for organising the programme and called upon the parents, children and likeminded people to work together for the betterment of the society. He also said, “Our Children are our Hope so we need to give them Hope for the future.”

- Correspondent

Salesian College Holds Annual Alumni Meet

Salesian College of Higher Education (SCHE) observed its annual alumni meet on February 25 at Fr. Paul Bernick auditorium with the additional secretary, Municipal Affairs and director Bamboo Resource Centre, Peter Lichamo as chief guest.

Fr. Dr. C.P. Anto, principal of North East Institute of Social Science and Research and Founder director of Peace Channel and Fr. Dr. T.C. Joseph, principal of Bosco B.Ed College were other dignitaries present for the programme. In his address, Lichamo encouraged the students to use all the available resources to equip intellectually, mentally, spiritually and emotionally so as to become good and responsible citizens.

Fr. Anto while sharing his experience acknowledged that he learned how to organize things and work them out effectively from his teachers.

Salesian College of Higher Education principal Fr. Dr. Policarp Xalxo in his welcome speech mentioned that the college is headed and run by most of its alumni.

At the programme meritorious certificates for the 2016 toppers in English and Philosophy honours were awarded to Sr. Joram Yajo and Br. Robin respectively. New officer bearers were also elected, Fr. Policarp as president and Innocent Gangmei as secretary.

Earlier at the programme, rector of Salesian College of Higher Education Fr. Tom Karthik, enthralled the gathering with a song. Vote of thanks was delivered by assistant professor Ashuli Kaisa, Assistant Professor Kevirienuo Angela co-ordinated the programme.

- Correspondent

Governor Acharya Stresses on Change in Education System

Governor of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, Shri. PB Acharya, on Saturday 25, 2017 challenged the educationists and scholars to change the education system keeping in mind employability opportunities for the students after studies.

The governor was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day National Seminar on “Going beyond the ‘Monolith North East’: Understanding the Varying Dimensions” at St. Joseph’s College Jakama.

Shri. Acharya seemed to infer that Nagaland has a great asset in the three lakh graduates among a population of 20 lakh. He said that people ought not to suffer or live in poverty and have insurgency problem when Nagaland has potential to become a developed state.

He also asked why people from Nagaland and North East states should always go outside to mainland India for education, employment and medical facilities when they could have all these facilities in their own place. Sharing about the potential of North East India to the guest educationists, the governor said the region has great potential in hydro, petroleum, coal and solar energy. He called upon the various universities in the country to wake up and do something beneficial and make the country proud.

The governor expressed hope that the seminar would bring out some actions and not merely analyze the problems. Head of Geopolitics and International Relations Department, Manipal University, Prof. Arvind Kumar, in his address on overview of the
seminar, said the team from Manipal University were attending the seminar to know more about the rich culture and nature of Nagaland and North East.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) Kolkata director, Dr. Sreeradha Datta, shared the overview of the institute.

The programme was chaired by Dr. Narayana Sabhahit, registrar Manipal University, Vice Principal of St. Joseph’s college, Jakhama shared overview of St. Josoph’s college, Rongmei students performed traditional dance, while vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Monish Tourangbam, assistant professor, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations coordinator, North East studies centre Manipal University.

The seminar was organized by North East Studies Centre, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal University in collaboration with Maulan Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian studies (MAKAIAS) Kolkata and St. Joseph’s College, Jakhama, Nagaland.

It may be mentioned that the primary objective of the seminar is to critically analyse the political, socio-economic, cultural and developmental issues in the states of Northeast region.

- Correspondent

**CFC: 4th National Conference Echo Held At Kohima**

Couples for Christ (CFC), 4th National Conference was held at SIRD Auditorium, Kohima on Saturday, 25th February 2017 with the theme “Be Strong & Faithful.” Representatives from St. Luke’s Church, New Secretariat, Kohima, St. Stephen Church, Rüsumo, Mary Help of Christians, Cathedral, Kohima, St. Francis de Sales Church, Kohima, St. Maria Goretti Church, Zubza, St. Peter’s Church, Kiphire, St. Paul Church, Pungro, St. Francis Church, Lazami, Holy Cross Church, Dimapur and six CFC office bearers from Philippines, totaling 110 members took part in the programme.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima while exhorting said that “What we eat, so we become” Eating of junk and genetically modified food leads to obesity and bad health. Natural and organic food keeps one healthy. The food one eats has a bearing on one’s state of mind and health. So also in our spiritual, mental, emotional life and family life when one is fed with healthy thought, positive thinking, wholesome relationship, one builds integral and wholesome personality and family life. CFC is a movement that promotes healthy habits and positive values to be lived in individual and family circles. When a family is fed with Word of God, personal and community prayer, the sacraments, open and frank sharing and communication, time spent together chatting, relaxing and sharing, we build up healthy family, which in turn build up healthy society.

Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General of the diocese of Kohima officiated at the Holy Eucharistic celebration. During his homily he said that fidelity gives strength of family life. Fidelity means holding on to God, who revealed Himself in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Holding on to God is made possible through one’s parents, who are created in the image and likeness of God and who continue to transmit the same image and likeness to their children by the power of God. Couples’ life is distinguished by love, which in turn produces its fruits: joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, even in the midst of unbearable circumstances that family faces. These fruits make family life joyful and healthy.

The special Rosary prayer, Worship songs were conducted during the programme. Relevant topics such as ‘A New Spring Time’, ‘Keep Alert’, ‘Stand Firm in the Faith’, ‘Be Strong & Courageous’, ‘Exuberant Love’, etc. were dealt with by the different resource persons from Philippine and India: Bro. Luis Dela Cruz, Bro. Cesar Cardenas, Rico Gamogamo, Steve Maningat and Hector Poppen.

- Bro. Hector Poppen

“Learn from Yesterday, live for Today, hope for Tomorrow.”
- Albert Einstein
The annual Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) meeting of the diocese of Kohima was held at Mt. Tabor, Kohima with the theme ‘Family in today’s context’. It was a study on the post synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris laetitia* (Joy of love) of Pope Francis. DPC is the forum that brings together all sections of the people of God: the bishop, priests, religious and laity. 123 representatives from all the eleven districts of Nagaland took part in the meeting.

*Amoris laetitia* (Joy of Love) is the fruit of two synods held in Rome: the extra ordinary synod held in 2014 and the ordinary synod held in 2015. It was released on 8 April 2016. The document focuses on several of the issues of contemporary morality and church practice and suggests ways to make family in the modern times strong and vibrant, reflecting the image of the family as indented by God from the beginning of creation.

Rev. Dr. Joy KD, from the Archdiocese of Imphal, who is also the Secretary of the Family Commission of the North East Bishop’s Council, gave a summary of the whole document, emphasising the fact the Pope reaffirms the traditional doctrine and practices of the Church and inviting and giving space for pastoral discernment in each particular and concrete situations.

“Families in Nagaland: Challenges and Opportunities; Problems and Remedies” was the theme dealt by Mrs Liangsi Niumai John, a social worker and lawyer from Dimapur. She shared her experience as a social worker. As a social worker she had the opportunity to come very close to many families and the many challenges the families face. From her experience she has found that there are many dysfunctional families and pointed out the cause and suggested ways and means to make families functional and healthy. “If the family is in order, the state is in order; if the state is in order the great community of humanity will be in order” she said.

In the afternoon session the house discussed and came to some concrete plans and programs to strengthen the family life and uphold the sacredness of the sacrament of marriage.

Earlier, the report of the DPC 2016 was read by Mrs. Marina, Secretary, DPC. Rev. Fr. Solomon Vizo, Parish Priest, Khonoma and Rev. Fr. Chacko Karithiyal, Rector, Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur, were the moderators of DPC 2017.

- Fr. Anthony Kalathil

**The Newly Built San Domiano Novitiate House Inaugurated at Medziphema**

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the bishop of Kohima, blessed the newly built San Domiano Novitiate house on 20th February 2017 at Medziphema. Rev. Fr. Thomas, MSFS, Parish Priest Medziphema unveiled the plaque while Rev. Sr. Lilly Maria, FCC, the Provincial Superior of Clare Province cut the ribbon and inaugurated the building. The Provincial, Sr. Lilly Maria, FCC, welcomed Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Nagaland, Fathers Thomas, MSFS, Parish priest, George, MSFS, Augustine, MSFS, Rector of the Seminary, other fathers, Sisters, Novices and others for the ceremony.

Sr. Lilly Maria said that after 50 years of stay and ministry in Northeast, today the FCC is privileged to have a novitiate house by the divine providence and prayers and through generosity of very many good persons. She thanked Bishop, fathers, sisters, building contractor, laborers and all who contributed materially and spiritually to complete the building. Franciscan Clarist Congregation, is a congregation that follows the spirituality and missionary spirit of St. Francis of Assissi and St. Clare. They came to Northeast 51
The Sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SABS), Corpus Christi Province, Dimapur celebrated the Golden and Silver Jubilees of the Sisters at SABS Provincial House, Chumukedima with the Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the main celebrant and concelebrated by Most Rev. Paul Mattekat, the Bishop of Diphu, and 45 priests. “Almighty has done great things for me” (Lk.1.19) was the theme of the celebration.

Mother Sibia, SABS, was the golden Jubilarian and the Silver Jubilarians were Sisters Nirmala Muthirakalayil, SABS, Vineetha Eranackal, SABS, Rose Kannakal, SABS, Elaize Muthirakalayil, SABS, Ancy Mullenkuzhiyil, SABS, Amala Puthiyadeth, SABS, Rose Mary Kochtharayil, SABS, Lizabeth Vellilamthadam, SABS and Flowerlit Thenamkuzhiyil, SABS.

Bishop in his homily thanked them in the name of the diocese for the great apostolate carried out, despite many odds and difficulties in various missions in Nagaland in particular and the entire NE in general. In fact they were one of the first congregations to take up the mission in the farthest place in the diocese – Tuensang. Not only did they carry out the mission with great tenacity, perseverance and faithfulness they continued to spread their wings in and around – to Kiphire, Tobu, Mokokchung, Pungro, etc. which are really hard and far places. And God has blessed them and fructified their apostolate. That is why we were able to expand and spread our presence from Tuensang to other places.

Referring to Pope Francis’ teaching that religious life helps the Church to grow through the way of attraction without bothering to proselytize. The religious life of our Sisters have been a way of attraction and the tangible proof of it is the large number of vocations they have from Northeast. Not only did they attract others to their religious congregation by their commitment as religious they have built up the mission, the Church by their active work and prayer life. True to their charism to make known the Eucharistic Lord, they have carried out their work by promoting and living Eucharistic devotion and the gospel values.

The reading that they chose for this celebration exemplifies their vocation and mission. The first reading taken from the book of Leviticus that is often taken for jubilee celebration is the description of the jubilee among the Israelites. The reading is an invitation to celebrate jubilee as a time for retrospection, restoration, renewal and rededication. The second reading taken from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians speaks of the manner in which every religious, for that matter, every Christian must live his/her life. Everyone is specially chosen one as beloved and holy, and so they must put on or live those qualities that befit their vocations – compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, above all love virtues that need to be lived particularly in a religious community. Paul in fact sums up the religious life by saying, what one does, in word or deed, must be done in the name of Jesus. When one lives one’s religious life in such a way, one will have the joy and blessedness of the beatitude, spoken by Jesus in the Gospel. Beatitudes are religious life in action.

Bishop referred again to the words of Pope Francis who said that Jesus did not come to teach a philosophy, or an ideology, but rather a ‘way’, a journey to be undertaken with him. Christianity, at its beginning was called “the way”. We learn the way as we go, by walking. And that is what these Sisters have done during the last 50 and 25 years. There is our joy: joy to walk with Jesus, although it is not easy, or comfortable, because the way that Jesus chose was the way of the Cross. The way of the cross purifies inwardly; it enlightens the consciences.
uniting one with Jesus totally. Thinking and acting as the world thinks and acts leads to “rivalry, jealousy, factions, and dissatisfaction. Bishop urged people of God to pray for them as they celebrate their jubilees.

The celebration began with the words of welcome by Sr. Catherine SABS, the Vice Provincial and Sr. Cecilia Paumai, SABS was the compere for the celebration. There were congratulation songs and speeches after the Holy Mass. The programme ended with the meal shared by all. — Sr. Joyce, SABS

Fifth Priest from Yimchungrü Tribe
Ordained at Pungro

“Make Disciples of Christ” (cf. Mt. 28:19) is the motto of Rev. Fr. Obed Yimchungrü, the fifth Yimchungrü priest from St. Paul Parish, Pungro, Kiphire district, who was ordained on Saturday 18th February, 2017 by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. Over forty Priests concelebrated with the Bishop in the solemn ceremony. Deacon Obed dressed in the traditional attire was led to the ordination hall by the parents and relatives. Before the ordination ceremony proper, after the homily of the Bishop, the parents prayed over him and removed the traditional attire symbolizing him being set apart for God’s work. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, the Vicar General, presented the candidate for ordination while Rev. Fr. Sajimon, the Parish Priest, called out the candidate and accorded the words of welcome to the Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Mr. John Tselise, ADC, Meluri, government officials, Village Leaders, dignitaries, priests and sisters from different parishes, Leaders of CAN, NCYM, NCWA, catechists, the invited guests, and other participants from far and near.

Bishop in his homily shared few thoughts of Pope Francis, given at various priestly ordinations. The Pope said that the Holy Order along with marriage correspond to the two vocations through which Christians can make their life a gift of love. Holy Order, marked in three degrees of episcopate, presbyterate and diaconate, is the sacrament which enables the exercise of ministry from the Lord Jesus to the Apostles, as reflected in the gospel passage chosen for the day (cf. Jn. 20: 19-23). In virtue of the Holy Order, a priest dedicates his whole self to the community and loves it with his whole heart, reflecting Christ’s love for the Church. The love is manifested in service as St. Peter exhorts, “tend the flock of God in your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge, but being example to the flock” (1 Peter 5:1-4). A priest needs to be imbued with Christ through the sacraments he celebrates, without which his ministry becomes shallow. Rootedness in sacramental life of the church brings forth passionate love for Christ and the Church. The bishop also stressed that vocation of priesthood is not a ticket sold and bought but the fruit of Lord’s call.

Bishop also urged Deacon Obed to share with all people the word of God, sanctify them through the celebration of the sacraments, following the example of Christ who came not be served but to serve and seek out the lost and the least.

Rev. Fr. Obed Yimchungrü, is the second of the five sons of Mr. Shahoto Abraham and Lt. Youngtsachi Anne. He was born on 27th June 1985 at Pungro. He did his schooling at Little Flower School, Pungro. At the age of fifteen he had a desire to become priest and joined the seminary at Jalukie in the year 2000. He did the Spiritual orientation course at Chabua, Assam, Philosophy and B.A, at Salesian College, Dimapur, Regency at Meluri and Seyochung, Masters of Philosophy and Theology at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeet, Pune, and Diaconate at Lakhuti.

Rev. Fr. John Lichoi, a priest from the same parish and Mr. David Deshelen anchored the program. Congratulation song and Choreography were presented during the short felicitation programme. There were short speeches from Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Mr. James Tsethrongli, Vice President of CAN, and Mr. Shahoto, father of newly ordained priest. The Newly ordained priest expressed the words of gratitude after which many friends and well wishers congratulated him with gifts. The auspicious day ended with the community banquet.

- Fr. Sajimon Joseph
**NEWS - Diocese**

**CEDOK Appeals for Smooth Conduct of Examinations**

The commission for Education of the Diocese of Kohima (CEDOK) on behalf of all the catholic schools of Nagaland had appealed to all concerned to create a peaceful atmosphere for the thousands of students who would be appearing their HSLC and HSSLC examinations from 14 February 2017. The students have been burning their night lamps to prepare themselves for Board exams which are very crucial to their career. Any disruption, and inconvenience in appearing for exams will lay waste the hard work they have been putting in and adversely affect the entire student community.

While praying for an honorable and peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis in the state, at that time CEDOK earnestly appealed to all organizations and associations to allow smooth movement of all students and persons on examination duty and all establishments connected to examination to function peaceful for the better future of our children.

- Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Charalel

**Digital Financial Literacy Campaign Held At NEISSR**

To actively engage the students of Higher Education institutions and to encourage and motivate all payers and payees to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of funds, North East Institute of Social Science & Research, (NEISSR) organised an awareness programme for MSW trainees on VISAKA – Vittiya Saksharta Abhiyan, a digital financial literacy campaign at its Conference Hall, Dimapur.

The programme was animated by Tesin Mathai, Assistany Branch Manager, South Indian Bank, Dimapur branch and his colleagues.

Mathai highlighted the existing digital cashless payment platforms such as ATM, POS machines, internet banking and different e-wallets. He said a cashless economy will pave for a transparent, efficient and time saving transactions for all. While lauding the efforts taken by NEISSR to create awareness, he called upon the students to be the agent of change.

He also said the campaign is a particular effort of the government and is an opportunity to bring about the change in the fight against corruption and black money.

The students of Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies presented a play, depicting the benefits of digital cashless transactions in everyday situations like shopping, transfer of money, paying medical bills etc.

Principal, NEISSR, Dr. Fr. Anto, in his concluding remarks affirmed the commitment of the institute to promote digital cashless transactions in the campus. He also encouraged the students to speak and Educate their family members about the benefits and importance of a digital cashless economy. ‘It is our desire and our duty to create awareness about cashless economy in the business establishments around the institute. It is also our plan to introduce this concept in the communities where the students are going for their fieldwork and the communities should be made aware so that they become advocates for cashless economy’, he added. The programme was attended by both First and Second year MSW students.

- Fr. C.P. Anto

**Don Bosco Forum for Young at Risk Governing Body Meeting Held**

The Don Bosco Forum for the Young at Risk held the governing body meeting on February 7 and 8 at Institute for Development and Leadership (IDL), Don Bosco Campus, Dimapur. The Provincial of Hyderabad, all Province Young at Risk (YaR)
Coordinators and the National Team members were present.

The students of Don Bosco School Dimapur and Don Bosco Tech Trainees at AIDA led the gathering into a prayer song and a cultural performance.

Rev. Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB, Provincial of Dimapur in his welcome address noted the key theme of the meeting was ‘Concerns and Challenges in Young at Ministry Today’ and hoped that the meeting would lead to an action plan and reflect on the works we have done so far.

The first day’s sessions were led by Munish Kaushik, who currently works as a volunteer with the government of Delhi. Earlier, he had served as country head of Cordaid, and other national and international organizations. The YaR Commission members of Dimapur province were invited to participate in the day’s sessions.

The ‘Statement’ drawn up at the end of the day’s discussions will be taken up for study and implementation by all provinces of India.

The second day was devoted to review and planning of various activities in the provinces: 18+ YaR ministry, YaR in prisons, 3rd Gender and Migrants Ministry. National level activities of the Forum were presented by the National team, including Homelink, YaR Day 2017, Participatory Action Research, Child Friendly Cities Initiative, Five-days Orientation Programme in July in Delhi for Directors and senior staff of YaR centres, and the AGM and Annual YaR Seminar on Restorative Justice and Practices, scheduled for mid-September at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati.

According to a press release published in the Don Bosco India information service, two books were released by Father Nestor Guria: the second edition of the YaR Handbook, and a research study conducted by Father Sebastian Jose SDB and Jyoti Ahuja on ‘Street Children in Chandigarh, The City Beautiful.’

Father Thattireddy Vijaya Bhaskar, the Provincial of Hyderabad and President of DB YaR Forum in his concluding words expressed appreciation for the excellent work being carried out in the Young at Risk sector, a ministry that is so close to the heart of Don Bosco and so integral to our mission. He wished that the works develop further and reach other critical and emerging areas where young people today are at risk.

Vote of thanks was proposed by Father Thomas Koshy, Secretary of DB YaR Forum, who specially highlighted the Governing Body’s appreciation and thanks to Father Joseph Pampackal, Province YaR Cordinator Dimapur, the community of Don Bosco Dimapur, and Provincial House, Dimapur, for the arrangements and warm hospitality accorded.

Bishop Requests for Prayers

In a statement issued from the Bishop’s House, Kohima, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima, joining the clarion call of NBCC, requested that prayers be said in all Churches, communities and houses for peace and serenity in Nagaland specially on Sunday, 12th February 2017 as the faithful gather in large numbers in the Churches. St. Paul urges us, “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way ... I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling” (1 Tim 2: 1-2, 8 RSV version). The bishop said that at this critical juncture we need the grace and blessing of God to take right and meaningful decision that will usher in peace and prosperity for our people. He requested all leaders at this moment to cultivate and cherish the spirit of calmness and patience, discussion and dialogue, sharing and caring and give and take keeping in mind the common good and goal of peace and progress. Let us remain united and resolve our difference in the true Christian spirit of love and reconciliation.
The Peace Channel Family, promoting peace and harmonious living among people, has appealed to the Government of Nagaland, all the tribal apex bodies and the Civil organizations to settle the issue amicably by respecting and recognizing views and opinions, on 9th February, 2017.

“Let the peaceful dialogue between government and civil society organizations may bring lasting solution to the existing issue and promote peaceful co-existence among all,” it said and expressed deep sorrow to the families of late Thejaviza Metha and late Bendangningsang who were killed on 31st January, 2017. - Correspondent

St. Luke School Inaugurated in Kohima

With an aim to provide quality, education at the foundation level,- St. Luke Church, Phezoucha Yasogei, New Secretariat area in Kohima has established a primary school for children from classes A to 1.

The newly constructed school building just below the road near NPSC was formally dedicated by parish priest of Christ King Parish, Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter Salew, SDB and inaugurated by Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) treasurer; Mezhii-o Marcus Solo 6th February, 2017. Around 60 students have already enrolled for the academic session.

In his inaugural address, Solo expressed the hope that the school educating the primary level would grow bigger in the years and provide quality education at high school and higher secondary levels; He also called upon the teachers, students and their parents of the school to equally share the responsibility of moulding the children to be better citizens.

He encouraged the teachers to be sincere and dedicated in imparting quality education while also urging parents to play the role of directing their children. He also appealed the students not to wait for the last hour of exam to study but be hard working from the beginning of the academic session.

The school is housed at the land freely donated by Roko Paul and would be administered by Catholic Union St. Luke Church, informed the union president Mengukhrietuo Marcus Dzuvichti while delivering the welcome address.

The programme was chaired by Catholic Union St. Luke Church general secretary, Kelhoungnyii Joseph Vizo while vice president Mhasimhalie Mathew Yhome gave the vote of thanks. - Correspondent

Cathedral Parish Celebrates 25 Years of Blessing in the Life of Fr. Solomon

Fr. Solomon Vizo, the parish priest of St. John the Evangelist, Church, Khonoma celebrated the Silver Jubilee year of his service to God at Mary Help of Christians, Cathedral on Sunday, 5 February, 2017.

Fr. Carolus Neisalhou welcomed the gathering and thanked them for the coming over to the church to pray for Fr. Solomon, Vizo. He further mentioned that this year three diocesan fathers are celebrating their silver Jubilee, viz. Frs Alex, Vizo, Mariadoss and Solomon Vizo. He requested the congregation to pray for them.

Fr. Solomon, Vizo during the homily said that the Bible describes the Jubilee year as that of the fiftieth “liberty” year, a year of sacredness it is a time of freedom and of celebration when everyone will receive back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families.

Theologically, the jubilee affirms that the Lord is not only the God who owns Israel’s land; he is sovereign over all time and nature. His act of redeeming his people from Egypt committed him to provide for them on every level because they were his own. Therefore, Israel’s observance of the Sabbath day and year and the year of jubilee was a function of obedience and trust. In practical terms, the jubilee year embodies the trust all Israelites could have that God would provide for their immediate needs.
NCYM Ventures Out in Search of the Poor and the Needy

The NCYM executive members along with the Director Fr. Sojan Xavier visited Tangkhao, a remote village under Tobu parish and interacted with the people there. They were touched by the poverty and lack of basic necessities of life. They are now embarking on a mission of assisting the children with basic necessities of life and also of their education. The Executive members are enthusiastically sharing their experience with youth of the diocese so that they can extend their helping hand to the least disadvantaged children of the remote area. In this connection, in the meeting held at Tobu parish, finalizing the programme for convention, it was suggested that every delegate would be requested to carry something to share with the poor people and children of the area. It may be noted that the next NCYM convention would be held on 5-8 January 2018.

- Ms. Catherine

Therefore, he celebrates the 25 years of blessing and committed service to God. He acknowledged the limited span of life depends on God nevertheless it's the celebration of God’s fidelity on him. After the holy Mass there was presentation of gifts. A special song by the cathedral youth was presented.

- Bridgit

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE

Mr. Thomas Ousseparambil (75) brother and Mrs Eizetham Mammen Ousseparambil (85) sister in law of Rev. Fr. Sebastian Ousseparambil (principal, Jakhama) passed away on 24th February 2017.

Mrs Aleyamma (79) Aunty of Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, passed away on 8th March, 2017.

Ms Teresa (72) sister of Sr. Elsy, PDDM (Superior, Mt. Tabor, Kohima) passed away on 9th March, 2017.

Mr. Joseph Kunnappally (81) brother in law of Sr. Philo Mylady, MMS, (Medical Mission Sisters, Chumukedima), passed away on 15th March, 2017.

Mrs Barbara Yanthan, the eldest sister of Sr. Aloysia, MSMHC and aunty of Fr. John Ntonse (Kiphire) passed away on 27th March, 2017.

Sr. Berlinda, BS, Christ King Kohima (Bethany Convent) passed away on 24th February, 2017.
Born: 02.11.1949
Professed: 06.05.1970

Born: 01.11.1931
Ordained: 29.06.1962

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- 2 Tim 4:7

Jesus is alive and death could not hold him.
- John 11:25
“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” (Luke 10:2)

Dear Fathers, Sisters & Vocation Promoters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am glad to inform you that the Diocesan Vocation Camp for the Boys and Girls will be held in two places. Kindly take note of the following information regarding the camp.

FIRST CAMP:
Venue : St. Xavier’s Church, Meluri
Arrival : 23rd (Friday) June 2017, 5.00pm
Departure : 26th (Monday) June 2017

SECOND CAMP:
Venue : St. Joseph Church, Chumukedima 7th Mile
Arrival : 29th (Friday) September 2017, 5.00pm
Departure : 2nd (Monday) October 2017

Eligibility of Candidates for Participation:
1. Candidate should be from class VII & VIII for Boys & Girls: VII-XII
2. He/She should be from a good practising Catholic family.
3. He/She should be regular for catechism classes
4. As far as possible only one son/daughter in the family may not be encouraged for the camp.
5. He/She should be sound physically, morally and spiritually.
6. He/She should be bright and at least average in studies and also should have secured in the previous exams minimum 40% marks in all major subjects.
7. He/She should possess good character and be free from bad habits.
8. The candidates or family members should be free from any serious disease.

Requirements:
1. The letter of introduction and recommendation from the Parish Priest/Priest-in-charge.
2. A Conduct certificate from the school authority with the mark list of the half yearly examination of 2017.
3. A registration fee of Rs. 150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty only) per head.

NB:
· The Parish Priests/Centre in-charges are requested to submit the list of candidates, who wish to attend the Diocesan Vocation Camp to the Vocation Promoter or to the Rector of Jalukie minor Seminary for the FIRST CAMP by latest 12th June, 2017 and for the SECOND CAMP by 11th September, 2017.
· All those vocation promoters of religious congregations (Men and Women) wishing to address the campers, need to send their details (Name, Congregations name, Contact Number, email id) to me for the FIRST CAMP latest by 5th June, 2017 and for the SECOND CAMP by 4th September, 2017. Please note that only those who intimate their details will be given opportunity to address campers.

I request your prayers for the success of the vocation camp and sincerely thank you for your co-operation. Yours in Christ Jesus

Rev. Fr. Victory Rengthungo

Fr. Victory Rengthungo, Vocation Promoter
Bishop’s House Post Box No. 519,
Kohima – 797 001, Nagaland
Phone No. 9485210215,
Email: sec.kohimadiocese@gmail.com

Sharing: April - May 2017
The meeting of the North East Bishops’ Conference was held at Bishop’s House, Jowai from 7-9th of March, 2017. On the first day there was a short welcome programme which was followed by Evening prayer, supper and began the meeting at the conference hall. On March 8, 2017 the day began with the Holy Mass at the Cathedral, Jowai after which whole day there was the meeting and in the evening special adoration was held at St. Claret Parish, Mooksiang. On March 9, 2017 Bishops went to Assumption Parish, Nongbah for the Holy Mass with the parish community. The rest of the day was spent in meeting. The Fruitful meeting concluded on March 10, with the breakfast.

Correspondent

Kerala Bishop’s Dress Diktat: Girls Should not Wear Short Dresses in Church

The letter insists Christian women to follow the practice of retaining exclusive dresses for attending church services.

The Bishop also says in his letter that the names chosen by parents for their new born child are often senseless. The names do not reflect Christian spirit or influence. Each family should care to give names that reflect the Christian faith and model.

The bishop further advised parents against criticizing priests and monks in the presence of children. Further, he asked parents to restrict the use of mobile phones among children as he found a good lot of children going astray due to mobile phones. He also suggested regulated use of social media such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

- UCAN News

Rani Maria Cleared for Beatification

Ossister Rani Maria, Franciscan Clarist nun who was assassinated in central India 22 years ago, has been cleared for beatification by the Vatican on Mar 23.

Beatification is the penultimate stage in the four-phased canonization process in the Catholic Church. Rani Maria’s cause of canonization began in 2003 and she was declared a Servant of God four years later.

Rani Maria was 41 when Samandar Singh stabbed her inside a bus on February 25, 1995. Singh was hired by some landlords who were upset with the nun’s fighting for just wages and other rights of the laborers.

She was attacked while travelling to Indore on her way to her native place in Kerala. The attacker followed her when she ran out of the crowded bus and continued to stab her. She died of 54 stab wounds on the roadside at Nachanbore Hill near Indore.

She was buried at Udaingar in Dewas district where she had worked among poor landless agricultural laborers.

As part of her beatification process, on November 18, 2016 Bishop Chacko Thottumarikal of Indore supervised the opening of the slain nun’s tomb and shifted the mortal remains to a church.

- UCAN News
On Sunday 2nd April, 2017, Pope Francis said that each of us carries some kind of tomb inside our heart, whether from sin or suffering, and we can either stay bogged down in misery, focusing only on ourselves, or we can allow Jesus to come into that place and heal it.

“In front of the big ‘why’ of life we have two paths,” the Pope said, “to stay to watch gloomily the tombs of yesterday and of today, or to bring Jesus to our tombs.”

“Yes, because each of us has a small tomb, some area that is a little bit dead inside the heart: a wound, an injury suffered or done (to us), a bitterness that does not let up, remorse that returns, a sin that you cannot overcome.”

“We identify these today, our little tombs we have inside and invite Jesus there,” he said.

Francis presided over Mass Sunday in the northern Italian town of Carpi, where he was making a day trip.

Often, the Pope said, we can be tempted to hide our weaknesses and sins from God, dwelling on them. “It’s strange, but often we prefer to be alone in the dark caves that we have inside,” he said.

“Instead, invite Jesus; we are tempted to always look to ourselves, brooding and sinking in anguish, licking our wounds, rather than going to him, who says, ‘Come to me you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’”

Pope Francis reflected on the day’s Gospel which tells the story of Lazarus’ death, the sorrow of Jesus, and the miracle of Lazarus’ raising.

“Even Jesus is shaken by the dramatic mystery of the loss of a loved one,” he said. But in the midst of this suffering, he also shows us how to act. “Despite suffering himself, Jesus was not carried away by anxiety.”

Jesus didn’t try to escape the suffering, but he also didn’t get bogged down in pessimism or gloom, Francis said. Instead, he brings hope, proclaiming: “I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in me, though he die, shall live.”

“So he says: ‘Take away the stone’ and to Lazarus shouts loudly: ‘Come out!’”. This is what Jesus also says to us: “Get up, get up!” the Pope said.

“In following Jesus we learn not to tie our lives close to the problems that tangle: there will always be problems always, and, when we solve one, promptly another one arrives,” he pointed out.

What we can do, however, is tie ourselves to the one thing that is stable and unchanging – Jesus, he continued. “With him joy dwells in the heart, hope is reborn, pain is transformed into peace, fear into confidence, proof of the gift of love.”

We have to decide which path to take, he said: “the side of the tomb or the side of Jesus.” It doesn’t matter how heavy our past sins, shame or hurt may be, with Christ’s grace, we can roll away the stone that is keeping him from our hearts. “This is a favorable time to remove our sin, our attachment to worldly vanity, the pride that stops us the soul,” he said.

“Visited and freed by Jesus, we ask for the grace to be witnesses of life in this world that is thirsty, witnesses that arouse and raise the hope of God in hearts weary and weighed down by sadness.”

He concluded: “Our announcement is the joy of the living Lord, who still says, as in Ezekiel: ‘Behold, I will open your graves, I will make you get up out of your graves, O my people.” — CNA

Love Must be Core of Family Life, Pope says Ahead of World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis issued a message ahead of the 2018 World Meeting of Families (WMOF), saying couples and families should root their relationships in the love of God, which then propels them to joyfully share it with others.

“I wish to underline how important it is for families to ask themselves often if they live based on love, for love and in love,” the Pope said in his message.
In practice, “this means giving oneself, forgiving, not losing patience, anticipating the other, respecting,” as well as living and repeating daily the phrases “please,” “thank you” and “I’m sorry.”

Because of the daily experience we have of weakness and fragility, both families and pastors need a “renewed humility” that will allow them to learn and educate, to help, accompany, discern and educate people from all backgrounds and situations.

“I dream of an outbound Church, not a self-referential one, a Church that does not pass by far from man’s wounds, a merciful Church that proclaims the heart of the revelation of God as Love, which is mercy,” he said, adding that “it is this very mercy that makes us new in love.”

“We know how much Christian families are a place of mercy and witnesses of mercy, and even more so after the extraordinary Jubilee,” he said, adding that “the Dublin meeting will be able to offer concrete signs of this.”

Published March 30 and dated March 25, the Pope’s letter was addressed to Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the mega-dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

The cardinal was present alongside Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, the diocese hosting the event, for the March 30 presentation of the letter at the Vatican’s Press Office.

The World Meeting of Families will take place Aug. 22-26, 2018, in Dublin and will follow the theme “The Gospel of family, joy for the world.”

Given the theme, catechesis for the event will focus specifically on the content of the Pope’s 2016 post-synodal apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia.”

In his letter, the Pope said organizers have “the task of translating in a special way the teaching of Amoris Laetitia, with which the Church wishes families always to be in step, in that inner pilgrimage that is the manifestation of authentic life.”

While discussion on the document is often reduced to footnote 351 of Chapter 8 on communion for divorced and remarried couples, both Cardinal Farrell and Archbishop Martin said there’s much more to the document, which they hope to convey to the families that come.

In comments to CNA, Cardinal Farrell said “we seem to focus on just one small aspect of the apostolic exhortation, however I think many times we overlook the great teaching that exists in Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this document.”

“Naturally most of our emphasis in this gathering of families will deal with family life as it is,” he said, explaining that the bulk of the conversation will deal with Chapters 2, 3, and 4, which focus on the vocation of marriage and family life, and their challenges.

“It is so important when we live in a world where family comes under attack from many different sources and many different ideologies, that we explain what we believe as Catholics, as Christians, in married life,” Cardinal Farrell said, explaining that many times the Church fails to teach what marriage is about.

“We fail to do that many times in the Church in our programs of preparation for married life, we fail to do that in continuing to help young couples after they’ve been married,” he said, stressing the need to accompany couples in the path of marriage, which is dealt with in Chapters 1-7 of Amoris Laetitia.

Similarly, Archbishop Martin told CNA that while the family “is under attack from ideologies” pushed by modern secular society, if they were to ask families how they are being “attacked,” the answers would overwhelmingly center on the day-to-day struggles of how to make ends meet and troubles they might be facing in raising their children.

“These are the challenges that parents need to be supported in so they can carry out their essential role in society and that people really give them the support and confidence to do that,” he said, explaining that Chapter 4 of Amoris Laetitia will likely be a key focal point for the event’s catechesis.

So while the ideologies are certainly present, “it’s the day-to-day realities that parents have to face...”
with their children (and) this is where the Church has to be accompanying, not just accompanying them in problems.”

Speaking to journalists, Cardinal Farrell stressed the importance of the role of the laity and local parishes in preparing for the World Meeting of Families, specifically when it comes to reaching out to those who might have abandoned the Church or no longer attend for a variety of reasons.

“We need to be a Church that goes out to the peripheries of society, to those people who don’t listen to us at the present moment, to those families many times that have lost their way or don’t go to church anymore,” he said.

The catechesis done by individual dioceses in the lead-up to the international gathering will be especially important, he said, adding that “it’s imperative” that this preparation take place in parishes since they are the ones who can better reach families that are far off.

“It’s very important that this take place. It’s not just a gathering of three days, this is an effort of the whole Church,” he said, noting that media also play a crucial role.

Laity must also embrace this task, he said, noting that the Church is currently celebrating 50 years since the Second Vatican Council and 30 years since the publication of St. John Paul II’s 1988 apostolic exhortation “Christifideles laici” on the vocation of laity.

Both of these “spoke to the mission of lay people and the co-responsibility of laity in the Church,” the cardinal said. “Its not just a question of a few priests or a few sisters or a few people engaged in the pastoral life of (their parish), but we need to reach out, we are the communicators.”

And it’s married couples themselves who, in their different parishes and communities, “should be the ones who are responsible for communicating this love that we would hope to re-instil in the lives of so many people, that they would go and communicate it to other couples.” - CNA

Pope Francis said Lent is a key time to open ourselves to the light of Christ and let go of all the “false lights” that lead us away from him, taking us instead down a path of darkness marked by our own selfishness.

“If now I were to ask you, do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe that he can change your heart? Do you think you can see reality as he sees it, not as we do? Do you believe that he is light, that he gives us the true light?” the Pope asked March 26, telling pilgrims to respond in silence.

The walk in the light of Christ means to convert, he said, explaining that this transformation means above all “abandoning false lights.”

One of these false lights, he said, is the “cold and fatuous light of prejudice against others, because prejudice distorts reality and builds hate against those who we judge without mercy and condemn without an appeal.”

Gossip is an example of this, he said, noting that to speak badly of others leads away from light, and down the path of darkness.

Another false light that is particularly “seductive and ambiguous,” he said, “is personal interest.”

“If we evaluate men and things based on the criteria of our profit, our pleasure, our prestige, we will not live the truth in relationships and in situations,” the Pope said. “If we go down this path of seeking only personal interests, we will walk in darkness.”

Pope Francis spoke to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for his Sunday Angelus address, focusing on the day’s Gospel reading from John which recounts the healing of man blind from birth who, after receiving his sight, recognizes and worships Jesus as the Son of God.

“With this miracle Jesus manifests himself as the light of the world,” Francis said, explaining that the blind man represents each of us, who, blinded by sin, “need a new light, that of the faith, which Jesus has given us.”
Referring to the Gospel passage, Francis noted that it was precisely by “opening to the mystery of Christ” that the man gained his sight.

Francis pointed to the line in the passage where Jesus asks the man “do you believe in the Son of Man?” and tells him that “you have seen him, it is he who is speaking with you.”

The man then prostrated himself and worshipped Jesus, the Pope observed, saying the episode serves as an invitation to reflect on our own faith in Christ, and to remember the moment we received it in our Baptism.

Baptism “is the first sacrament of the faith: the sacrament which make us ‘come to the light,’ through rebirth in water and in the Holy Spirit,” he said, noting how the blind man’s eyes were opened after bathing in the Pool of Siloam, upon Jesus’ request.

The man’s need for healing and rebirth is a sign of the times when we fail to recognize “that Jesus is the light of the world, when we look elsewhere, when we prefer to rely on small lights, when we fumble in the darkness.”

The fact that that blind man didn’t have a name, Pope Francis said, “helps us to see ourselves with our face and our name in his story.”

We have also been “illuminated” by Christ through our Baptism, he said, explaining that because of this, we, like the blind man, “are called to act like sons of light.”

But to do this “requires a radical change of mentality, a capacity to judge men and things according to a new scale of values, which comes from God,” the Pope said, adding that Baptism itself requires “a firm and decisive choice” to let go of the false lights, and live as children of the true light of Christ.

Francis concluded his address by praying that Mary, welcomed Jesus as the “light of the world,” would intercede for us in obtaining the grace needed to really welcome “the light of faith” into our lives during Lent.

“May this new illumination transform us in attitude and action, so that also we, starting from our poverty, may be bearers of a ray of the light of Christ.”

After leading pilgrims in the traditional Marian prayer, Pope Francis offered special thanks to the diocese of Milan for his March 25 pastoral visit.

He also gave a shout-out to Blessed José álavez-Benavides y de la Torre and his 114 martyr companions, who were beatified yesterday in Spain.

“These priests, religious and laity were heroic witnesses of Christ and his Gospel of fraternal peace and reconciliation,” he said, and prayed that their example and intercession would “sustain the commitment of the Church in building the civilization of love.”

- CNA
forgiveness of sins in the Catholic Church, particularly sins involving some types of grave matter which require a special form of absolution that only certain priests can administer.

Taking place March 14-17, the course is held every year in Rome and is designed to educate attendees on canon law regarding Confession, as well as what the internal forum does. It is attended by around 500 seminarians in their third year of studies and by priests who wish to participate.

In his speech, the Pope said that to be a good confessor, a priest must be a man of prayer, who is attentive to the Holy Spirit and knows how to discern well, and who also is a good evangelizer.

They must be “a true friend of Jesus the Good Shepherd,” he said, adding that without this friendship, “it will be very hard to mature that paternity which is so necessary in the ministry of Reconciliation.”

This friendship is cultivated primarily through prayer, he said, whether it’s a personal prayer “constantly asking for the gift of pastoral charity,” or a special prayer for “the exercise of the duty of confessors toward the faithful … who come to us looking for God’s mercy.”

A ministry of confession that is “wrapped in prayer” will be a “credible reflection of God’s mercy” and will help to avoid the “bitterness and misunderstandings” that can at times happen in the confessional.

Confessors must also pray for themselves, the Pope said, specifically to understand well that they themselves are sinners who have been forgiven. “One cannot forgive in the Sacrament without the knowledge of having been forgiven first,” he said, adding that prayer is “the first guarantee of avoiding every attitude of harshness, which uselessly judges the sinner and not the sin.”

Francis also stressed the need for priests to pray for the gift of “a wounded heart,” which is able to understand other wounds “and heal them with the oil of mercy,” like the Good Samaritan did to the man on the side of the road. A priest must also pray for humility and invoke the Holy Spirit, who is the spirit “of discernment and compassion” that allows him to accompany others with prudence.

A confessor must also be “a man of the Spirit, a man of discernment,” who knows how to listen to the Holy Spirit in trying to discern the will of God.

“How much harm is done to the Church from the lack of discernment! How much harm comes to souls from an act that is not rooted in humble listening to the Holy Spirit and the will of God,” he said.

“The confessor does not act according to his own will and does not teach his own doctrine. He is called always to do the will of God alone, in full communion with the Church, of whom he is the minister, that is, a servant.” Discernment, the Pope said, allows the priest to distinguish individual cases instead of generalizing and putting everyone together in the same category, which helps the penitent to open “the shrine of their own conscience” in order to receive light, peace and mercy. This discernment is necessary above all because many people who come to confession find themselves in “desperate situations.” They could also be “spiritually disturbed,” he said, explaining that these cases have to be discerned well, keeping all of “the existential, ecclesial, natural and supernatural” causes in mind.

“When the confessor becomes aware of the presence of genuine spiritual disturbances – that may be in large part psychological, and therefore must be confirmed by means of healthy collaboration with the human sciences – he must not hesitate to refer the issue to those who, in the diocese, are charged with this delicate and necessary ministry, namely, exorcists. But these must be chosen with great care and great prudence.”

Confession must also be a true place of evangelization, Pope Francis said, stressing that “there is no more authentic evangelization than the encounter with the God of mercy, with the God who is mercy.”

“The confessional is then a place of evangelization and therefore of formation,” he said, explaining that in the brief dialogue with the penitent, the confessor is called to discern “what is most useful and what is even necessary for the spiritual path of that brother or sister.”

At times this will mean re-explaining the most basic fundamentals of the faith, “the incandescent core, the kerygma,” without which the experience of God’s love and mercy would be “mute.” Other times it will mean explaining the basics of the moral life, “always in relation to the truth, to the good and to the will of the Lord.” - CNA
Although the Jubilee Year of Mercy has officially ended, Pope Francis today made a surprise “Mercy Friday” visit to a center for the blind and visually impaired in Rome – showing that he doesn’t think works of mercy are just for special occasions – or years.

Continuing his tradition of performing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy on one Friday a month during the Church’s Jubilee of Mercy in 2016, the Pope went in the afternoon of March 31 to the St. Alessio-Margherita di Savoia Regional Center for the blind in Rome.

According to a March 31 communique from the Vatican, the Pope wished to make this visit as a “follow-up” to the private visits of the Jubilee. This particular act of mercy, the communique stated, was to guests of the center, which organizes activities “aimed at social inclusion of the blind and visually impaired.”

During his visit, the Pope met with the different guests, some of whom have been blind from birth and others who have no vision or impaired vision due to a serious disease. Some of the guests have multiple disabilities.

Among the guests there are around 50 children who attend the center to receive practical training in life skills and in navigating daily activities, as well as 37 elderly people who are permanent residents of the facility.

Francis also greeted the president and director general of the center, the medical staff and volunteers.

Before leaving, he left a gift and signed a parchment for the center’s chapel, in memory of his visit. He returned to the Vatican around 6:00 p.m.

Pope Francis kicked off his monthly works of mercy in January 2016 by visiting a retirement home for the elderly, sick, and those in a vegetative state, and a month later traveled to a center for those recovering from drug addiction in Castel Gandolfo.

Other visits throughout the year included refugees, children, formerly sex-trafficked women, former priests, infants and the terminally ill. In December 2016, Pope Francis said in an interview with the official website for the Jubilee of Mercy that he would be making “different gestures” of mercy once a month on Fridays during the Holy Year.

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- CNA
Could you share with the readers something about your family?

We are newly married couple needing a lot of God’s blessing. My spouse is from a good practising Catholic family. She has two elder brothers, one elder sister and one younger brother. I am blessed to be eldest in our family. My dad passed away on 10th February, 2001 and my mother had to look after six of us (two sisters and four brothers). Today God has blessed us. My younger sister Rev. Sr. Jees Mary, is a nun in the Franciscan Clarist Congregation.

As we are wedded newly, we request you all to pray for us so that through love, patience, dedication, we may be able to live in happiness and contentment as we establish our new home, create a new family and explore the depths of our love for one another.

What is your dream for the Society?

Gandhi once said that “The Truth is far more powerful than any weapon of mass destruction.” I truly dream that one day our society to be ‘Just and peaceful society where freedom, equality, accountability are fought with non-violence.’ In every young and old the ethics and values should be practiced in their daily lives.

Share about some persons to whom you are grateful?

I am grateful to my parents, to my wife and family members and to a few persons, namely, Mr. Mhonsao Yanthan, Mr. Richard, Fr. KM Joseph, Fr. Walter, SJ, Fr. Sabu, SDB other fathers, sisters and most of all to my Amotsu Renbonthung Yanthan who inspired me to pray rosary. I affirm that the Holy Rosary is one of the most powerful weapons in our arsenal for spiritual warfare and one of the greatest aids in the pursuit of a fruitful spiritual life. Mary, who is our true spiritual Mother, always grant us what is best for us.

Any good and bad experience in your life?

Bitter sadness enveloped my life when my loving father passed away. I thought then that the road to success is not going to be easy. However, my hope and prayer strengthens me to strive in my life. There were more good people than otherwise. I am fortunate to meet such good ones, who live their faith in action, who were there to guide me in every possible way.

Write something about your prayer Life

One of the verses that captured my attention is Jeremiah 33:3 – “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” in prayer we grow in intimacy with God and there is deep joy and contentment in my life. I wish all to experience the intimacy in personal prayer.

What is your contribution to the growth of the Church?

The church is in you and me and when the Christians live well, then there we contribute to the growth of the church. I do all I can to support the church both spiritually and materially. What I am today is because of the Church. I owe much to her. Whatever is expected of me I will do from my part. Contributing to the printing of diocesan magazine is only like a drop in the ocean.
Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes to Dr. Shürhozelie Liezietsu, the New Chief Minister of Nagaland - 22.02.17

Thanks and Best Wishes to the Outgoing Shri T. R. Zeliang, Chief Minister of Nagaland - 22.02.17

Visit of NCYM Executive Members to Tangkhao Under Holy Redeemer Parish, Tobu, 12 March 2017

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