Create in me a Clean Heart
O God
- Psalm 51:10

Lent

Ash Wednesday (01.03.17)
Palm Sunday (09.04.17)
Holy Thursday (13.04.17)
Good Friday (14.04.17)
Easter Sunday (16.04.17)
Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you... (John 6:53)

**Rev. Fr. Vekupa George Rakho**
Ordained a Priest on 28th December, 2016 at St. Mary's School, Ground, Lozaphuha, Phek.

**Rev. Fr. Kwetrannging Dominic**
Ordained a Priest on 29th December 2016 at St. Xavier College Auditorium Hall, Jalukie Town.

**Rev. Fr. Thejhalhoulie Peter Solo**
Ordained a Priest on 4th January, 2017 at Christ King Church, Kohima.

**Rev. Fr. Zuchamo Patton Marius**
Ordained a Priest on 10th January, 2017 at St. John's Church, Akuk.

**Rev. Fr. Ngade Salas**
Ordained a Priest on 13th January, 2017 at Purul, Atongba, Manipur.

_Sisters of St. Ann of Luzern Welcomed at Nuiland_ on 29th January, 2017
Dear Friends,

We are in the year 2017, a year with hopes and anxieties, challenges and opportunities. We do not know what awaits us during the year ahead. We as Christians are always assured of Lord’s presence, guidance and inspiration. He prompts us with the assurance of faith. “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10). Whether we are swayed and moved by the Trump influence or Modi decisions, difference and diffidence in our state or local politics, let us trust in the Lord of history and make the challenges we face as an opportunities to come closer to the Lord and become more intimate with the Lord of history who guides the destiny of nations and individuals. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7).

These days we are also facing problems related to the Municipal elections and subsequent polarization among peoples. It is important that the issues connected with it must be studied in its entirety and with an open attitude and mindset in tune with the changing time, keeping in mind the preservation of traditional values without compromising progress and prospect for growth and development. The gender policy as enunciated by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India (CBCI) could be studied and applied to take forward in the given embargo and dilemma we face today. We must also cultivate and cherish an attitude of sharing and caring, give and take, discussion and dialogue, always keeping in mind the common goal of progress that benefit the future of our people. Tradition without progress is stagnation and progress without link to the past is isolation and disintegration. Jesus says, “Sabbath was made for man and not man for Sabbath” (Mk 2:27). “On the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom” (Lk 4: 16: cf. Acts 17:2). Let us develop an open attitude to progress without ignoring and discarding our great tradition that fostered values that made human life humane and God centered.

As I write this message, I am also packing my luggage to go to Bhopal for the 29th Plenary Assembly of the Conference of the Catholic Bishops’ of India (CCBI) from the 31st January to 8th February 2017. The theme of the conference is “Promoting the Joy of Love in our Families”. Family is the focus of attention of the Church because families are the backbone of the Church and society. Today the family life is going through one of the worst crisis in history. In the words of Pope Francis, “Today there is a world war to destroy marriage. Today there are ideological colonisations which destroy, not with weapons but with ideas”. The theme for our next Diocesan Pastoral Conference is also Family. Therefore I request you all to pray for all families and let love reign in all families, for God is love.

Bishop James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland
Dear Readers,

The Catholic Church celebrates its liturgical life in four cycles in tune with the four seasons of the year, such as the season of Advent and Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time after Pentecost. The purpose and focus of these seasons is to draw one’s attention to one particular aspect of the mystery of salvation.

With the celebration of the Ash Wednesday, this year on the first of March, we enter into the season of lent. During this season, the Church invites us to focus our mind on the transitory nature of human life and to pay attention to the values of eternal life. Jesus asks, “What good it is for a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul” (Matthew 16:26). I am sure that this question might have run into the minds of many of us. Wealth is an external bond which binds us to this world so much that it can cause the loss of our soul. The season of lent gives an opportunity to focus our lives on the life and action in relation to our eternal life.

This coming season of lent let us ask ourselves how we are going to rid of those things that hold us to this world. During this season, we make our own the prayer of King David, “Create in me a clean Heart, O God.” The only way we can clean our heart and create in a new spirit in us is to let God take possession of our heart and mind. It is to allow God to work wonders from within. To God it does not matter how wicked, how rotten we are now; what matters is how open are we to God now. Are we letting Him into our heart now and let him to cleanse us. It is because of God’s love for us: so pure, so holy, so clean that it scrubs our hearts clean so we can love him. He loved us first. The proof of God’s love is that he gave us his son Jesus for us on the cross even when we are sinners. He washed us in Jesus’ blood, creating a clean heart inside of you and me. Do we want river of God’s love to flow in our hearts? Do you want a symphony of thanks to resound from your heart to the heavens? Just let it flow.

Lent is the season during which the Church invites us to let the love of God flow in us and thus to create a new heart in us. The love for God doesn’t stay in us alone but it swells and flows: it will make us to get along with others, to improve our relationship with others and to get connected with others.

“O God, I have sinned against you and I have done evil things in your sight. Create in me a clean heart, and give me a right spirit.” The Psalmist reminds us that God longs to restore us to our original innocence—that God wants us to rise from the ashes of all that has enslaved us to live in the freedom of Divine love. We rise from ashes and look toward Easter resurrection. Jesus sends his Holy Spirit, with pail and scrub brush in hand to cleanse our hearts through the comforting words of Holy Scripture that we hear in worship; that we read in personal study; that we discuss with fellow Christians; through remembrance of baptismal washing and through the sacrament of the altar. That’s how your attitudes and motives change. That’s how one gets filled with the desire and power to love others selflessly, to put others as a loving, caring Christian.

Let us make our own the prayer on Ash Wednesday: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Pray once again, and pray every day, “Create in me a Clean Heart, O God,” and then listen to the Savior’s answer.
February 2017

11 Kohima: Legal Cell Meet
12 Kohima: Holy Childhood Day
13-14 Kohima
15-16 Lakhu - Sanis with Fr. Elmar Jung
17 To Pungro
18 Pungro: Priestly Ordination of Deacon Obed
19 Pungro-Dimapur – Governing Board Meeting of St. Joseph University
20 Dimapur: Jubilee of Sr. Sibia (10.30 am, Chumukedima) Medziphema: Blessing of FCC Novitiate (2.30 pm)
21 Kohima: Mass at SDB Novitiate, Secu-Zubza
22 Kohima
23 Kohima: Senate (9.00 am, BH, Kohima) Meeting of Commission Chairmen and Presidents & Gen. Secy. of CAN, NCWA, NCYM (2.00 pm, Mt. Tabor) Recollection for members of DPC (5.30 pm, Mt. Tabor, Kohima)
24 Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) Meeting (9.00 am, Mt. Tabor) Consultants’ meeting (5.30 pm, Mt. Tabor) Last day to present Budget 2017-18
25-26 Tezpur: SCC Feasta
27-28 Shillong: Oriens Theological College – Candidacy

March 2017

01 Kohima: Ash Wednesday
02-04 Noklak – Blessing of the New school building
05-06 Dimapur- Pastoral Visit to GSS
06-10 Jowai: NE Bishops’ meeting
11-12 Shillong: Oriens Theological College
13-14 Kohima
15 Meeting of provincials, Parish Priests (10.30, Mt. Tabor, Kohima) Regional Animators’ meeting (2.00 pm, Mt. Tabor, Kohima)
16-17 Kohima
18 Inauguration of St. Joseph University, Nagaland (Tentative)
19 Feast of St. Joseph: St. Joseph Parish, Chumukedima
20-24 Kohima
25 Kohima: FC meeting for Budget (9.00 am, BH, Kohima)
26-27 Pastoral visit to Tseminyu
28-31 Kohima (29th, Death anniversary of Fr. N. A. George)

April 2017

01-04 Seyochung
05-08 Kohima
09 Kohima: Palm Sunday
10 Kohima: Consultants’ meeting (10.30 am, BH, Kohima) Priests’ meeting (2.00 pm, Mt. Tabor), DF meeting Recollection (9.00 am – 12.30 Noon, Mt. Tabor) Chrism mass and Priesthood day (3.00 pm, Cathedral Church
11 Kohima
12 Kohima
13 Kohima: Holy Thursday: Collection for the maintenance of the Holy See
14 Kohima: Good Friday: Collection for Holy Land
15 Kohima: Vigil Mass: Cathedral
16 Dimapur: Easter Sunday Day Mass
17-18 Kohima
19 Dimapur: UFC Profession (9.30 am)
20 Kohima
21-23 Tuensang: Golden Jubilee
24-30 Kerala: Fiat Mission stall

May 2017

02-05 Shillong – Senior Priests’ Program
06 Dimapur: Vestition at GSS
07 Vocation Sunday – Collection for St. Peter the Apostles
08-12 Kohima
13 Dimapur: NEISSR GB meeting
14-18 Kohima
19-23 Pastoral Visit
24 Kohima: Feast of Mary Help of Christians
25-27 Kohima: Regional Catechetical Meeting (Mt. Tabor, Kohima)
27 Recollection for Sisters
28 Sisters’ Day celebration-cum-Cathedral Feast
29-30 Kohima

June 2017

01 Kohima
02-07 Pastoral Visits
08-09 Kohima
10 Jakham: GB Meeting – SJC
11-13 Kohima
14 Kohima – Consultants meeting (9.30 am, BH, Kohima)

The Sharing is published bi-monthly by the Diocese of Kohima. All the News, Articles, questions, reader-reactions etc are to be addressed to the editor. Your articles, news item could be submitted through CD, pendrive and mail attachment. Please include your name and mailing address.

(For private circulation only)
Sisters of St. Ann of Luzern Welcomed to Nagaland

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima warmly welcomed the Congregation of the Sisters of Ann of Luzern to Nagaland. Three sisters namely, Sr. Suma, Sr. Jeena and Sr. Caroline, arrived at Niuland a week ago with their provincial Sr. Daisy and on 29th January, the bishop during the Holy Eucharistic celebration welcomed them and thanked them for coming to Nagaland to share the mission of the Church. Their charism is “Live to reveal the merciful love of God” and their motto is, “For the love of God, for the love of Jesus” which is the driving force in all that they undertake. Today the Sisters of St Ann serve in various ways in different countries, giving attention to the medical, educational, social and evangelical needs of the people. The bishop also blessed and inaugurated renovated Church at Nuiland. Speaking on the occasion Bishop said that the real church, that is every Christian, is built on daily by the values proclaimed by Jesus in the beatitudes. The beatitudes that Jesus gave to his disciples are the foundation on which the Christians must build their life. Man does not live on bread alone and if one gains the whole world and looses one’s soul, what profit does one have. He urged community to live in faith, grow in love and experience God’s Kingdom here on earth.

Earlier, Rev. Fr. S. Devaraj, parish priest welcome Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, father, sisters, people of God for the celebration. During the short felicitation programme the community welcomed Sisters in the traditional way.

- Fr. S. Devaraj

Bishop James Thoppil Lays the Foundation for an Emergency Wing at HRHC Chumukedima

The Holy Redeemer Health Centre (HRHC), Chumukedima will have new emergency wing soon. The foundation for the new building was laid by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the bishop of Kohima in a simple ceremony on Sunday, 29th January 2017 at the Health Centre premises in the presence of fathers, sisters, and invited guests. The Sisters of Charity of Saints Bartholomea Capitanio and Vincenza Gerosa (SCCG) congregation look after the health centre.

While speaking on the occasion Bishop urged people to pray for doctors and nurses and all those whom God calls to share in the healing ministry of Jesus. Bishop thanked the SCCG sisters for their committed and dedicated services for the past many years at the centre. He urged all to pray for the benefactors who help to build the new wing. Fr. Charles S. the Director of DAN, the social wing of the Church will be in-charge of seeing to the completion of the building at the earliest. Once the new wing is completed the centre will have the facility to treat emergency cases, particularly the accident cases that occur often along the National Highway.

- Fr. Charles S

NEISSR Holds Orientation for MSW Students

Marking the beginning of new semesters, the North East Institute of Social Science & Research (NEISSR) organized an orientation programme for its Master of Social Work (MSW) students on January 27. Dr. A.J. Sebastian, former Professor & HoD, Department of English, Nagaland University and Mr. Johny Ruangmei, OSD, NSDMA,
Government of Nagaland were the resource persons.

Dr. Sebastian spoke on the need of developing Intelligence Quotient, Emotional Quotient and Social Quotient in order to be effective in one’s own chosen field. He said that an individual who has not developed all the three quotients will fail to cope up with the pressure and the demands of the ever changing job market, a press release informed.

He spoke in detail the importance of developing effective communication skills and also expounded the importance of considering one’s body language and that of the person to whom the communication is made. The students were also trained in preparing Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Meanwhile, Johny Ruangmei spoke on ‘how to become thriving leaders in an exponential world’. He highlighted the exponential growth that science and technology have made in the past decades and questioned the students on how they are incorporating the benefits of that growth in their professional social work.

Social workers, he said, should be equipped with “a blend of knowledge from different areas and streams of studies.” However, he opined that equipping oneself with knowledge and the know-how is not enough.

Cautioning against the unethical use of the exponential growth of technology in curbing or ameliorating social problems, Ruangmei asserted that “public beneficence, responsible stewardship, intellectual freedom and responsibility, democratic deliberation, and justice and fairness” should be the touchstone on which the use of technologies is based. Drawing examples from the current scenario, he highlighted areas where technology which are accessible can be used to create employment and sustainable development for the Naga society. Ruangmei further challenged the future social workers to be exponential leaders who are innovators, futurists, technologists and humanitarian.

- Correspondent

Convention cum CYA Silver Jubilee
Held at Nzau Village

“Renewing Youth for Christ” was the theme of the 9th Zeliangrong Catholic Youth Association cum Silver Jubilee of St. Thomas Church, the programme held at Nzau Village from 20th to 23rd January, 2017. The celebration culminated with the Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General of the Diocese of Kohima. The Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) Team led by President Miss. Regina attended the (ZCYM) 9th Zeliangrong Catholic Youth Association Nagaland (ZCYAN) Convention cum CYA Silver Jubilee of St Thomas Church at Nzau Village. The special conferrers were Rev. Fr. Kvetrangging Dominic & Shri. Johnny Raungmei, OSD NSDMA Home Dept. Besides, priests, nuns from Peren, Jlukie & Tening, ZCAN official & members, elders & Catechists from various churches, Nzau village authority & community including representative of member from other denomination were also present in the event participating, witnessing & showing solidarity to the ZCYAN. The programme was a blessed, eventful, grand & successful one.

- Mr. Patrick

Life is too short to waste on hating other people.
The St. Francis De Sales feast was celebrated at SFS Seminary Medziphema on 24th January 2017 with the Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the main celebrant.

Bishop at the very outset greeted all MSFS Fathers, brothers, seminarians and their associates a very Happy Feast of their patron saint - St. Francis de Sales. He also thanked them for the great work they do in the diocese and the ministry carried out following the example and teaching of St. Francis de Sales, one of the best known and effective pastors.

Bishop in his homily briefed the life of the St. Francis De Sales and said that in many ways, Francis’ greatest achievement - such as the “Introduction to the Devout Life,” an innovative spiritual guidebook for laypersons, or his strong emphasis on the role of human love in Christian devotion - represent successful attempts to re-integrate seemingly disparate “worldly” and “spiritual” realities into one coherent vision of life. Few people, however, would have predicted these achievements for Francis during his earlier years.

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so you learn to love God and man by loving. Begin as a mere apprentice and the very power of love will lead you on to become a master of the art. Earlier, Rev. Fr. Augustine MSFS, Rector of the seminary welcomed the invited guests. There were songs presented by the seminarians during the felicitation programme.

- Correspondent

The 4th Conference of Catholic Women Association (CWA), Pungro was held at Christ King Church, Phuvkiu on 21st-23rd January, 2017 with the theme “Put on God’s Armour Now” Eph:6:13. Rev. Fr. Gabriel, Assistant priest was the main celebrant on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion he said that we must be strong in the Lord and in his power. The way to be strong is to put on the armour that God provides for us. Rev. Fr. John Lichoi, assistant priest of St. Joseph’s Parish Chumukedima was the speaker on the occasion.

– Fr. Manoj Pallottine

Dr. Paul Hiromichi Treated Acupuncture at Shalom

The Dr. Paul Hiromichi Ishikawa, acupuncturist from Yokohama, Japan was at Shalom from 22nd January and will be there till last week of February, 2017. Dr. Paul Hiromichi Ishikawa, explained that an acupuncture is a form of alternative medicine in which thin needles are inserted into the body. It is a key component of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). He treated acupuncture to the
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inmates of Shalom and many people those who had come for the treatment. He also treated three to four people in a day. Many people benefited by the treatment.  

- Fr. Mathew Thuniampral

Chessore Youth at Shilpagram Festival, Guwahati

Lumyin Youth Care, Chessore was on the Shilpagram Mhotsava 2017 at Guwahati from 19-22, January, 2017. The group entertained the audience with a colourful Yimchunger harvest dance on three festive days. The team was one among the many chosen teams from across the states of the region and beyond. The program was organized and sponsored by North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) and is a commendable opportunity for exposure and experiential learning.

- Robert Asokiung

Faith Camp for Children Held in Kiphire

A three-day long Faith Camp for Catholic Children of St. Peter’s Church, Kiphire was held from January 13-15 under the twin themes, – “Know God, Know Life” and “Deepen Your Faith.” More than 85 children attended the camp.

The Camp was conducted by Rev. Fr. Loyola Antony, Bro. Stephen, Sr. Cicilia and Sr. Angelle and the camp began with an exhortation by Rev. Fr. Ntonse John Lotha, the Parish Priest.

The participants were divided between Classes 3-7 and Classes 8-12 and the sessions included explanation on the topics; appropriate video shows on the lessons; and the subsequent activity on the subject matter, a press note informed.

Activity oriented approaches such as fill in the blanks, word search, jumble of words, coloring the graphics, and question-answer pattern were held to make the programme more interesting and enriching, it added.


Songs, Party Games, Skits and role plays were other highlights of the camp.

- Fr. Loyola Anthony

PCWA Celebrates Silver Jubilee

“The reward for doing good is life” (Pr. 10:16) was the theme of the Silver Jubilee celebration of Pochury Catholic Women Association (PCWA), celebrated at St. Xavier Parish Church, Meluri Village, from 13-16th January, 2017. The celebration culminated with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland with over 10 Priests concelebrating with the Bishop. The Jubilee Monolith was blessed by the Bishop and
inaugurated by Rev. Fr Mathew Keemattam, a former Parish Priest of Meluri. Rev. Fr. Jose Lukose, the Parish Priest, welcomed Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Mr. John Tselse, ADC, Meluri, Mr. James Kikon, EAC, Phokungrü, Mr. Y. Tatu, EAC, Phor, Police OC, Meluri, VCC, GBs, Meluri, Village Leaders, CAN Members, dignitaries, priests and sisters from different parishes, the invited guests, government officials, catechists, pastors of different churches and other participants.

Bishop while speaking on the occasion applauded the office bearers of the PCWA for organizing such a beautiful and grand celebration. Bishop, referring to the first reading of the day from the book of Leviticus, spoke of the right disposition to celebrate jubilees. At every jubilee celebration the people of Israel were invited to give up their sinful past, by restoring the lost property, releasing the slaves, renewing themselves and resolving to live a new life. Thus repentance, release, renewal, restoration and re-dedication are the key elements of the jubilee. Therefore this jubilee celebration should be a chance to renew and re-start the Christian life.

Referring to the Pope Francis’ idea of Jubilee, the bishop said that the celebration today should be an occasion to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and look to the future with hope. The gospel of the day was about Jesus asking, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like; he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation upon rock; and when the flood arose, the stream broke against that house, and could not shake it, because it has been well built” (Lk 6: 47-49). Therefore this jubilee must be an occasion to resolve to rebuild our life on the strong foundation – Jesus Christ. In the second reading of today we heard St. Paul telling the Corinthians that we are God’s fellow workers, we are God’s field, God’s building, built on the foundation, Jesus Christ. Therefore let this jubilee celebration be an occasion to change and mend our old sinful ways and start anew a new life, a gospel filled life. Bishop urged the audience to commit oneself newly and totally to the faith of the Church, for which our forefathers suffered and bore witness, so that we will be filled with the fullness of God.

The other speakers that dealt with various topics during the three day celebrations were Rev. Frs. Jaison Thomas, Director, Pastoral Centre, Dimapur, Solomon Kevishi, Asst. Priest, Meluri, John Latsütho Poji, Administrator, MSW College, Dimapur, and Ms Vilanuo Angela, President, NCWA. Rev. Fr. Solomon Vizo, Parish Priest, St. John the Evangelist Church, Khonoma, released the Jubilee Souvenir. The community had one year of spiritual preparation for the jubilee through special prayers, confession and other corporal and spiritual deeds. Another highlight of the celebration was a grand candle lit rosary procession conducted on 14th January 15, 2017. During the short felicitation programme there were speeches from the Bishop and the Vice President of CAN. Gifts were presented to the invited guests. Mr. Thozuvi anchored the programme and Ms Caroline proposed the vote of thanks. Bishop also blessed the newly elected office bearers of PCWA, viz., Ms Thovirho, President, Luozhiesü, Vice president, Virhenyu General Secretary, Riechuthsü Joint-Secretary and Thovirhü, Treasurer. The jubilee celebration ended with a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Dominic Selosie, Asst. Priest, St. Thomas Church, Tuensang on Monday 16th January.

— Fr. Solomon Kevishi

Sunday Catechism Teachers’ Training at Meluri

Training for Sunday Catechism Teachers was conducted at St. Xavier Parish Meluri on 16th January 2017. Fr. Jaison Thomas, Director, Pastoral Centre, Dimapur was the resource person. Attendance at the Sunday Catechism was not steady since there is no proper text book and syllabus. Moreover, students of few classes were put together since the number in some class would be too less. For some it was a repetition since they studied the same in the previous year. The problem would continue until proper syllabus and text book are prepared class-wise. However,
Fr. Jason trained the teachers on various methods of preparing various topics for class and on how to make the class interesting to the students. The training was attended by thirty (30) members from all the main and Village churches under the Parish.

- Fr. Jose Lukose

### 3-Day ACWA Convention at Chedema Village, Kohima

Three-day Angami Catholic Women Association Convention was held at Holy Cross Church, Chedema from 13th to 15th of January 2017 with the Theme: “Take Heart; rise, He is calling you” (Mark 10:49). Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima officiated the Holy Eucharist on Saturday 14th January as the main celebrant. Different topics were dealt with by as many resource persons, such as Rev. Fr. Neisalhou Carolus, Vicar General, Diocese of Kohima & ACWA Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Peter Salew SDB, Parish Priest, Christ King Parish, Kohima, Rev. Fr. Sony Puthiyadam, VC, Director, Ave Maria Divine Retreat Centre, Zhadima, Rev. Fr. Vemedo Joseph Kezo, St. Joseph College, Jakhama, Rev. Fr. Alex Vizo, Parish Priest, St. Francis De Sales, Kohima, Ms Vilanuo Angela, President, Nagaland Catholic Women Association, Eno Rocus R Chasie Rtd. Joint Director (IEC), Health & FW, Govt. of Nagaland,

On the 14th morning Bishop while giving the homily congratulated the office bearers of the Angami Catholic Women Association for organizing such a huge convention. Bishop said that after a gathering of this kind one must go home stronger and firmer in faith. The theme “Take heart, Jesus is calling you” is an open invitation to every woman of faith: Jesus is calling one for what? Each one must examine and give an answer to that question by oneself. May be Jesus is calling one for a more dedicated family life. May be he is inviting one to be more faithful in one’s religious commitment. May be he is inviting one to forgive another person. Each must give a fitting answer to Jesus’ invitation according to one’s concrete situation. Bishop also pointed out the various women mentioned in the Bible and how each of them fulfilled God’s invitation.

What a joy to a mother’s heart when her children rise up and call her blessed or honor her with good behavior. Bishop exhorted the participants to give a spiritual dimension to their life as a mother and then one will see what the Lord can do in one’s life. The Lord is calling you, each and every mother, each and every woman, to be role models for their children. Rise, the Lord is calling you. May you be strengthened through the grace of the Eucharist we celebrate today and every day of our life.

The participants came from various places such as Cathedral, Kohima, Chatouphe, Chedema, Chiechama, Chiephobozou, Chumukedima, CKC Kohima, Dihoma, Holy Cross Dimapur, Jakhama, Jotsoma, Kezo Bosa, Kezo Town, Kezoma, Khonoma, Khuzama, Kidima, Kigwema, Kukidolong, Medziphema, Meriema, Metelephe, Mezoma, Mima, Nerhema, New Reserve, Peducha, Pfuchama, Phesema, Phevima, Phezucha, Piphema, Razhapha, Rüsoma, Sechü Zubza, SFS Kohima, Socünoma, St. Chong Hasang, Jotsoma, Tenyiphe, Thizama, Toulazouma, ToupHEMA, Viswema, Zhadima.

- Fr. Salew Peter, SDB

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful”

– Joshua J. Marine
The diocese of Kohima got its first priest from the Archdiocese of Imphal with the priestly ordination of Rev. Fr. Salas Ngade, by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima at Holy Rosary Parish Church, Purul, Atongba Manipur, on 13th January 2017. Fr. Salas dressed in the traditional attire was led from his house to the altar by the parents, relatives, village elders. The ordination ceremony proper began after the proclamation of the gospel, with the calling of the candidate by the Fr. Simon, the Parish Priest, after which the Parents of Fr. Salas 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, which was followed by the homily of the bishop.

The Bishop in his homily, referring to the book of Numbers, said that the primary duty of every priest is to lift up Jesus crucified through the exercise of the triple office of Christ: priest, prophet and leader, so that Christ may draw all people to him and give them eternal life. Though by baptism every Christian shares in the triple functions of Christ by the common priesthood, a priest by ordination shares in ministerial priesthood of Christ. A priest by his ordination is given power and authority to stand at the altar and consecrate bread and wine. No layman, no deacon can do this. Likewise he distributes to Christ’s people the sacramental Body and Blood of Christ. He is commissioned also, and given power and authority, to declare and pronounce to Christ’s people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He is empowered and authorized to dispense the sacraments of the Church. In so doing he exercises his priestly functions and thereby lifts up Christ that He may draw men unto Him.

The priest shares in the prophetic function of Christ when he preaches the Word of God, which means to preach Jesus Christ. There are countless men and women today who do not believe what the Church teaches simply because they do not know or they have never heard what the Church teaches. Though many of them go to the church, they have not heard a straightforward, plain sermon on the nature of the Church, or the ministry, or the sacraments or Christian morality, or what is far more fundamental—the Incarnation and the paschal mysteries of Christ. People crave to know what the Church teaches. The function of the priest as a prophet is to give people the teaching of Christ as revealed and taught by the Church, and thus to lift up Christ before men. The priest also shares in the pastoral or leadership function of Christ by serving like Christ who came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. Bishop also thanked the parents and relatives of Fr. Salas for offering him to the service of God in the Church.

After the homily, the ordination ceremony began with questioning the candidate, invocation for the power of the Holy Spirit by praying the litany of the saints, laying on of hands, prayer of consecration, investiture in the priestly attire, anointing of hands, presentation of the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharistic celebration and the kiss of peace.

Deacon Salas Ngade, son of Mr. Th. Low James & Mrs. S. Hiishoru Philomena, was born on 15th December 1988 at Purul Atongba Village. He is the sixth child among ten children, with five brothers and four sisters, among whom one sister (Miss Liinai Lucy) left for her eternal abode. He joined the Minor Seminary, for the Diocese of Kohima, at Jalukie after his Matriculation in 2005; then went to Chabua (Assam) for the Orientation Course in 2007; did the Philosophy and graduation...
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at Salesian College Dimapur, regency at St. Francis Church, Shamator and St. John the Evangelist Church, Khonoma and Theology at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Mangalore.

Fr. Simon Thaikho, the Parish Priest, at the beginning, gave a warm welcome to Bishop, Priests, Sisters, VIPs, Leaders from CAN, NCWA, NCYM, Pastors of the various churches, public leaders and invited guests present for the function. He also gave a brief profile of Holy Rosary Parish. Purul was established in 1988 with Fr. Kurian Ovelil, MSFS as its first Parish Priest. It has 13 villages in Purul Block: Out of which 9 villages have Catholic communities with a total number of 3917 Catholics. Fr. Salas is the 10th priest from the parish and it already has 51 nuns. Presently there are 24 priests and 101 nuns from the Poumai community. He also acknowledged the contribution by Salesian Fathers, MSFS Fathers, FCC Sisters and Holy Cross Sisters, many catechists and leaders to make this Parish a vibrant and a dynamic temple of God.

Rev. Fr. Henry Manar and Miss H. Roveinai anchored ordination and felicitation program respectively. The CYA of Good Shepherd Church formed the choir and special voice from Shillong Delegates led by Miss Khrishaiyne was also presented. Gifts were brought in the traditional way for the invited guests and Fr. Salas Ngade, the newly ordained priest expressed words of gratitude to all who were instrumental in leading him to the altar of the Lord. The whole ceremony ended with the community meal.

- Fr. Simon Thaikho, MSFS

Akuk Village Hosts the Third Priestly Ordination

The 10th of January, 2017 was another red letter day for the Akuk village in Wokha district as it witnessed the third Catholic Priestly ordination of Reverend Deacon Marius Zachamo by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. “You are my Son; today I have begotten you” Heb :5:5, was the motto of the new priest. About twenty Priests concelebrated with the Bishop.

Deacon Zachamo clad in the traditional Lotha attire was brought with the traditional tune and dance to the Church for the ordination.

Rev. Fr. George Anthony, the Parish Priest, accorded warm welcome to the Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Village Leaders, dignitaries, priests and sisters from different parishes, NCYM, NCWA, the invited guests, government officials, catechists, pastors of different churches and other participants.

Bishop in his introduction said that Deacon Marius Zachamo had been preparing himself for this day for the last thirteen or more years and from now on he will be called Fr. Marius and will assume a new role and identity – the role and identity of a Catholic priest. God’s plan for Marius, as depicted in the first reading from the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 1: 4-9) was being fulfilled. Referring the Gospel reading of the day from the St. John 15: 9-17, the bishop said that the Lord chooses whom he wants and empowers one to be with him and to be sent out on a mission. To fulfill the vocation and mission of a priest the bishop advised Deacon Marius to remain close to Jesus through personal prayer, praying the office of the Church and Eucharistic celebration. One must continue the priestly formation by learning from all available sources, giving oneself totally and wholly to the ministry the Bishop entrusts with. The bishop also thanked the family members and relations for offering their son for the ministry in the Church. In his exhortation during the felicitation program the bishop requested the family and the community to uphold Fr. Marius and all the priests in prayer for the priesthood is a great treasure given by God to his church in earthenware jars, which is so brittle and fragile.

Rev. Dn. Marius Zachamo is the sixth child of Mr. Akhango Vincent Patton and Mrs. Lozano
Lucy. Born on 23rd October 1986 at Akuk village, in Wokha District, he has three brothers and three sisters, Mr. John Nrithung, Mr. Thungdemo Marcus, Mr. Titus, Mrs. Mhonbeni Rita, Mrs. Elihabeni Elizabeth and Mrs. Nchumbeni Jacinta. He did his schooling at Don Bosco School, Akuk and Don Bosco School, Lakhuti upto class 8. He joined seminary in 2002 at St. Xavier’s Seminary, Jalukie, then went to Chabua Assam for the Orientation Course, did the Philosophy and graduation at Salesian College Dimapur, regency at St. Peter’s Church, Sanis and Jalukie and Theology at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Mangalore.

The Assistant priest, Holy Redeemer Church, Tobu, Rev. Fr. Peter Pethungo anchored the commentary and Mr. Ntsomo Kithan, Asst. Teacher Holy Cross, Hr. Sec. School, Dimapur was the MC for the felicitation programme, during which a special song was presented by Childhood friends of Fr. Marius, works of exhortation given by the bishop, gratitude expressed by Mr. John Nrithun on behalf of the family. The Newly ordained priest expressed the words of gratitude after which many friends and well wishers congratulated him with gifts. The propitious day ended with the community banquet.

- Fr. George Anthony

Holy Eucharist was held on January 7, presided over by Rev. Fr. Vinoto Justin OFM, Cap. Parish Priest of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Lazami, which was followed by cultural extravaganza where ADC, Atoizu, Mr. Hito Chophy was the chief guest. Chopy in his speech extended words of appreciation to the Catholic Church for the yeoman service rendered to the society especially in the field of education.

In the afternoon session chancellor and youth director of Diocese of Kohima Rev. Fr. Dr. Sojan Xavier unveiled the monolith erected in memory of the jubilee, it was followed by Rosary procession. Parish Priest, St. Peter’s Church, Sanis Rev. Fr. Mathew Mhabemo, spoke on the central theme of the convention. He challenged the young people to root themselves in faith and manifest it in their life.

Solemn Eucharistic Celebration was held on January 8, presided over by Rev. Fr. Sojan and concelebrated by Frs. Shikaho Isaac, Kivishi Solomon, assistant priest, St. Xavier’s Parish, Meluri, Fr. Stephen, OFM, Cap. assistant, St. Clare Church, Akuluto, and participated by the youth and the lay faithful from different parishes.

Fr. Sojan, in his homily, explained the meaning of Jubilee and how it has become part of the Catholic Church. He also exhorted the congregation, especially, the youth to be brand ambassadors of their Faith in the society in which they live. “To witness and defend the Catholic faith, one needs to know the treasure of the Catholic teachings and must be rooted in the pristine Catholic Traditions”, he stated. Nagaland needs not just good leaders but excellent leaders to guide its destiny, Fr. Sojan added.

Secretary General, CAN, Basil extended greetings on behalf of the Association said that SCYM has grown to maturity in faith and at the same time they need to demonstrate it in their life. NCWA president Angela exhorted the youth and the gathering to be ever grateful to the missionaries who, sacrificing many things in their life and bearing much hardship, reached our land searching for us for our better tomorrow. General Secretary, NCYM, Ms. Olivia Richa also extended greetings on behalf of president. Altogether, 400
youth and elders from different parishes from various parts of Nagaland participated in the programme.

Youth from V.K town, under Queen Mary’s Parish, Mokokchung led the praise and worship. The programme culminated with a valedictory function and a prayer of blessing by spiritual Director, SCYM Rev. Fr. Kivishi Solomon.

- Correspondent

CFC, Holds First Prayer Assembly at Cathedral

The Couples for Christ (CFC), an international Catholic lay ecclesial movement, whose call is to renew and strengthen Christian values in the life of couples, held its first ever prayer assembly at Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima on 6th January 2017. Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima in his address appreciated Mr. Marcus and Mr. Norbert for pioneering the movement in the Diocese of Kohima, and congratulated the leaders of this movement who came from different parts of the diocese and for committing themselves to the Lord, with an intention of renewing and strengthening of Christian family life. Bishop in his speech said that today what he is because of his mother who insisted in saying rosary prayer every evening in the family. He urged them all to bring the value of the gospel in their family through fear of God. Bishop also blessed newly elected unit members of CFC at the end of his talk.

Fr. Niesalhou Carolus, the Vicar General and the Parish priest of Cathedral parish spoke on the theme, ‘A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit, (Matthew 7:17-28). He explained, “You and I are the trees and our actions are the fruits.” He urged them to be producers of good fruits through their lives.

Apart from the talks, there was also a sharing of the testimonies by the couples. Some of them stated in their sharing that true meaning of their life began when they submitted themselves to God’s guidance and God’s ways. Someone confessed in his testimony of the joy and peace that his family experienced when he stopped drinking, chewing pan, and smoking, and surrendered himself to God’s ways.

Earlier Mr. Marcus Mengukhrietuo welcomed Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Frs. Neisalhou Carolus, Johny Padinjareporiyath, the spiritual animator of CFC, Thomas Toretkiu, Secretary to Bishop and members of Couples for Christ. A total of 80 members belonging to different units (Couples for Christ (CFC), Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD), Servants of the Lord (SOLD), and Single for Christ (SFC)), hailing from Kohima, Rüsoma, Phesama and Lazami participated in the programme.

It may be mentioned that the aim of the movement is to help the couples to grow in maturity as husbands and wives, as brothers and sisters and as children of God to fulfill their primary vocation of raising up families under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and for the service of the Kingdom of God.

Special songs & choreography presented by Kelhoulezo Crystal, Dziesetuonuo Edith & Sister and from SFC Rosüma added joy and flavor to the programme.

- Mr. Marcus Mengukhrietuo

Diocese of Kohima Ordains One more Priest from Kohima Village

“Let your face shine on your servant.” Psalm 31:16 is the motto of Reverend Deacon Thejalhoulie Peter Solo, the third Angami priest from the present Christ King Parish, Kohima Village, who was ordained on 04th January, 2017 by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. Over fifty Priests concelebrated with the Bishop in the solemn ceremony.

Deacon Thejalhoulie Peter Solo, dressed in the traditional Angami attire was brought in with the traditional tune to the Church. He was
accompanied by his beloved mother Mrs. Kevilenuo Rita Solo and the eldest man of the clan Mr. Le-o Leo Solo along with the family members to the altar. The prayer of blessing was given before the ordination rite. Rev. Fr. Solomon Vizo, a priest from the same parish, anchored the program while Rev. Fr. Peter Salew, SDB, the Parish Priest, accorded the words of welcome to the Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, priests and sisters, government officials, Village Leaders, dignitaries, from different parishes, Leaders of CAN, NCYM, NCWA, catechists, pastors of different churches, the invited guests and other participants.

The Bishop in his homily, while thanking the family and village for offering Fr. Peter for the service of God in the Church, exhorted the candidate to be humble, building close intimacy with Jesus through the celebration of the Eucharist and prayer. A priest is called primarily with the Lord and then to send out. One’s being must precede one’s doing. All that you are and you have is God’s gift to you. Now make a gift of your life to God, full, whole, complete in freedom. Though he is ordained priest today, his formation and learning does not end here but begins. The bishop also exhorted the new priest to stay in touch with the family and friends who can be source of strength in difficult moments of priestly ministry.

The bishop urged the family members and the Parish community to uphold Deacon Peter Solo daily in their prayers. Correct him gently when you find him straying away; boost his spirit when he feels low; appreciate him when he is doing well. Encourage him when he feels discouraged.


In the felicitation programme there were special folk songs from Male Voice of the Parish and from Catholic Women Association, speeches from the Bishop and Mr. Kezevillie Kevin Solo (family representatives). Rev. Fr. Thejlahoulie Peter, Solo, newly ordained priest while thanking all said that he raises his heart and mind to God in gratitude for all the blessings that God has showered upon him through many people on his journey to priesthood. He thanked God for the gift of ‘vocation to priesthood’ and for giving him the strength and courage to follow His call. Fr. Peter also urged people of God to pray for him.

Miss Vilanuo Angela and Mr Keneingu Albert translated the Bishop’s Message. Ms Ruovuotuonuo Ruth, anchored the felicitation programme. Time was allotted for the well wishers to felicitate the newly ordained personally and after which meal was served to all.

- Fr. Salew Peter, SDB

“Life is short, live it. Love is rare, grab it. Anger is bad, dump it. Fear is awful, face it. Memories are sweet, cherish it.”

– Unknown
Kidima Church Observes Thanksgiving Programme

Ommemorating its 46 years in faith, St Francis Xavier’s Catholic Church, Kidima observed a thanksgiving programme with Rev. Fr. Raymond D’Souza, SJ, Director of Eden Garden Children's Home, Khuzama, at the church premises on December 31, 2016.

Rev. Fr. Raymond D’Souza SJ exhorted the faithful to celebrate sacred service with enthusiasm and joy. He also appealed the gathering to help one another with joy and peace. He offered gratitude to God for giving life, faith and good health in the years past and to continue till the end of life. The Director also asked for pardon and mercy from God. He cited an example of Roman Empire which tried to destroy church but were defeated in the end.

Fr. Raymond, who is a pioneer missionary of Catholic faith in Kidima village, lamented they could not produce a priest in 46 years.

Special prayer was offered for its golden jubilee which will be celebrated in 2020. Holy Eucharist, lighting of 46 candles as a sign of years and thanksgiving for all the blessings of the year 2016 were other highlights of the sacred programme.

- Correspondent

Third Catholic Priest From Zeliang Community Ordained

Rev. Fr. Kwetrangging Dominic, the first diocesan priest and the third priest from the Zeliang Community was ordained by Most Rev.Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima on 29th December, 2016 at St. Xavier College Auditorium Hall, Jalukie Town. His priestly motto is: “Thy will be Done”.

For the ordination, he was led by the village community dressed in the traditional attire along with his mother and uncle. Rev. Fr. Anthonysamy, parish Priest, warmly welcomed all for the auspicious occasion.

Bishop’s homily referring to the book of Numbers 21:9, where Moses was commanded to make a bronze serpent and all those looked upon it were saved, said that the role of every Catholic priest is to lift up Jesus before all peoples so that Jesus can draw all people to himself and give them eternal life. The Church requires, in accordance with the will of Christ as expressed in the practice of the Apostolic Church, that a Priest be ordained at the hands of a Bishop. That is why Catholic Church is also called Episcopal or hierarchical. But it is not the Bishop who makes the Priest; it is Almighty God, working through His Holy Spirit, in His Holy Catholic Church, which is the Body of Jesus Christ. The whole thing rests entirely upon our faith in the power of God—the supernatural, the miraculous, the incomprehensible power of God. We are therefore to stand as witnesses while God, by His power, and by His will, makes a Priest for Himself—a Priest, who shall devote his life to serving and glorifying God—a Priest, whose primary interest and end in life, whose dreadful duty, whose unspeakable joyful privilege it shall be, to lift up Jesus Christ before men, in order that they may look unto Him and receive eternal life, and thereby glorify God.

The bishop also referred to Pope Francis’ homily given on the occasion of the Chrism Mass in 2014, that stated these words, “The priest is the poorest of men unless Jesus enriches him by
his poverty; the most useless of servants unless Jesus calls him his friend; the most ignorant of men unless Jesus patiently teaches him as he did Peter; the frailest of Christians unless the Good Shepherd strengthens him in the midst of the flock. No one is more “little” than a priest left to his own abilities; and so our prayer of protection against every snare of the Evil One is the prayer of our Mother: I am a priest because he has regarded my littleness (cf. Lk 1:48). And in that littleness the priests find joy. The priest in short is God’s priest. He is God’s servant. He must be God’s humble servant. He must belong to God, body and soul. The true priest lives no longer for himself, but solely to the end that he may hold up the Crucified before men” ended Bishop’s reflection.

Rev. Fr. Kwetrangging Dominic, born on 9th January 1989, was the third child of Lt. Mr. Herangpetpe John and Mrs. Paugwazoile Mary. He had two brothers (Lt. Mr. Gemdibe John and Lt. Mr. Inswangheing Francis). He was brought up in a good catholic family. After completing his elementary examination, he began his studies in pursuit of priesthood in the year 2003 at St. Xavier Seminary Jalukie (High School), Orientation Course at Vianney Home, Chabua, Assam (2007), Philosophy and graduation at Salesian College of Higher Education, Dimapur, Regency at St. John the Evangelist Church, Khonoma and St. Mary’s Church, Seyochung, Theology at Oriens Theological College, Shillong (2013-2016), Diaconate at St. Xavier Parish, Jalukie.

The deacon was presented by the parents for ordination after praying over him and removing the traditional dress, symbolizing that he is being set apart for God’s work. His ordination ceremony consisted of the following rites: the examination of the candidate, invocation of the Holy Spirit through the intercession of Mary, the mother of Jesus and all the saints of the Church, laying on of hands by the bishop and all the concelebrating priests, prayer of consecration, investiture, anointing with holy chrism, presentation of gift and the kiss of peace.

Rev. Fr. John Vipral, Assistant priest, Jalukie and Ms. R. Agnes anchored the program. The special items during the felicitation program were song by St. Xavier’s Church Elders, Cultural dance from “B” Jalukie, Jalukie Town, Songlhu, CYA, Peren and Poilwa and by Samziuram. Rev. Fr. Dominic, the newly ordained priest while, thanking acknowledged with great humility the loving Mercy of God in his life, especially during the years of his formation till the moment of his priestly ordination. He remembers fondly his parents: his mom who is alive, his late dad and brothers who lit the spark of the idea of becoming a priest through loving family upbringing. He specially thanked Bishop James, Frs. Jose Edasseril, Anthonysamy and many other priests, nuns and people who stood with him to this day. Mr. Kevipele Paul proposed vote of thanks. The whole programme ended with the community meal.

- Fr John Vipral

Rev. Deacon George Vekupa Rhakho was ordained a priest by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima at St. Mary’s School Ground, Lozaphuhu, Phek, Nagaland on 28th December, 2016. He is the second Catholic Priest from Lozaphuhu Village. Fr. George dressed in traditional dress was led to the altar by the village elders in the traditional Chakhesang attire. Fr. Patrick Neikhalo, the parish priest welcomed all to the auspicious ceremony.

The ordination ceremony began after the proclamation of the gospel, with the calling and of the candidate, after which the Parents of
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Fr. George prayed over him and removed the traditional attire symbolizing he being set apart for God’s work. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, the Vicar General, presented the candidate for ordination, which was followed by the homily of the bishop.

Bishop thanked the parents and relatives of Fr. George for offering him to the service of God in the Church. He said that Jesus invites people to share in his ministerial priesthood, not because of the innate merit of the person, rather because of God’s love for him. God empowers one who is called. In fact the candidate may hear “I did not choose you because you were more virtuous, more gifted, more suited. No, I chose you because I loved you.” The bishop also stressed the three aspects of priestly call referring to the gospel of St. John: God has chosen you (Jn 15:16), God wants one to be with him (Jn 15:3); God wants to send you (Jn 15:16). Bishop concluded by saying that the Holy Spirit is the very oxygen of God enabling the Body of Christ, the Church, to breathe in the very essence of God, empowering each individual member of that Body to be engaged in mission. As you offer yourself today to be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, know that the Lord wishes to do great things in you. He wants you to be for His People the true ‘face of Christ’, one whom the people can easily identify as a man of God, one entrusted with the Divine Mysteries. He also requested the congregation to uphold Deacon George daily in their prayers so that he may discern God’s plan for him and in his ministry. Correct him gently when you find him straying away; boost his spirit when he feels low; appreciate him when he is doing well, encourage him when he feels discouraged for priesthood is a great treasure given in vessel of clay.

After the homily, the ordination ceremony proper began with the questioning of the candidate, invocation for the power of the Holy Spirit by praying the litany of the saints, laying on of hands, prayer of consecration, investiture in the priestly attire, anointing on of hands, presentation of the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharistic celebration and the kiss of peace.

Deacon Vekupa Rhakho George, born on 30th September 1985, is the fourth son of seven sibling: five boys and two girls. Being born and brought up in an atmosphere where the “Gun Culture” existed, he desired to be in the army. The encouragement of His father to send him to the Sainik School someday was a dream that he always had in his mind. Gradually another life style, that of the priest began to grow in him.

He began his studies in pursuit of priesthood in the year 2000 at St. Xavier Seminary Jalukie (High School), Newman Bible College, Chumukedima (+1), St. Xavier Seminary, Jalukie (+2), Vianney Home, Chabua, Assam (Spiritual Orientation), St. Joseph’s College, Jakhami (Bachelor of Arts, Sociology), Sacred Heart Church, Chizami (1st Year Regency), Papal Seminary, Pune (Bachelor in Philosophy+Master in Philosophy) St. Francis Xavier Church, Shamator (2nd Year Regency), Papal Seminary, Pune (Bachelor in Theology), Ordained Deacon by Bishop Valerian D’Souza (Bishop Emeritus of Pune) Rev. Fr. Lawrence, SJ, and Miss Mhashepalu Marina anchored the program. The choir and the special presentation by Whuories added color to the ceremony. Fr. George expressed words of gratitude to all who were instrumental in leading him to the altar of the Lord. Priests, Sisters, VIPs, Leaders from CAN, NCWA, NCYM, Pastors of the various churches, public leaders and invited guests were present for the function. The whole ceremony ended with community meal.

– Fr. Patrick Neikhalo

Holy Family Church at NAP, Chumukedima Celebrates Silver Jubilee

The Holy Family Church, Nagaland Police Campus, Chumukedima, celebrated the Silver Jubilee with Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the main celebrant on 27th December, 2016. The celebration began with the blessing of the jubilee monolith by the bishop and unveiled by Mr. Elias Lotha. Rev. Fr. Sajan, Parish Priest of St. Joseph’s Parish, Chumukedima welcomed all, Bishop, Fathers, Sisters, Catechists, Pastors of different denominations, leaders of CAN, NCWA, NCYM and invited guests and the faithful. 21 children and 23 faithful received the Sacrament of the first Holy Communion and confirmation respectively.
In the introduction Bishop James Thoppil, greeted and congratulated the community. “It is indeed a joyous occasion to thank God and one another for the many blessings we have received through our faith in God and in his Church. This Church is itself a perennial sign of God’s blessing” said the bishop. He urged the community to remember the past with gratitude. The day also coincided with the name feast of the Church, the Holy Family, which reminds us of the indispensable role family plays in one’s birth, upbringing, growth and maturity. Holy family of Nazareth is the model and exemplar. The jubilee must spur us and instil in us the family values and make us live our family life better. In this way jubilee become an occasion to live our present with passion and commitment.

The Bishop, in his homily said that “In the Catholic liturgical calendar the last Sunday of the year is celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family. By this, the Church presents to us the family of Nazareth, with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as a model for all Christian families and invites us to look to them for inspiration, example and encouragement. First of all, family is the cradle of our faith. For most of us our faith is a gift received in the family, lived and practiced in the family, shared and witnessed in the family. In the words of Pope St. John Paul II, family is the domestic Church. It is from family that both physical and spiritual life takes its origin, grows and reaches maturity. Sociologically too we say that the family is the vital cell of the society. Any crisis in the society or in the church can be traced back to crisis in families. It is the values and relationship that are lived out within the family that influence and guide the values and relationships in the society and in the Church.

The feast of the Holy Family reminds us that each family is called to holiness. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and deriving His strength through personal and family prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and devout participation in the Holy Mass. Similarly, Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit of sacrifice. This happens when there is mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual respect. There must be proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents.

The first human family was started by God himself, and nothing is as precious to God in this world as the family; not only because life of other members depends on it, but because the work of salvation too depends to a great extent on the family. The gospel or Christianity or jubilee celebration in itself will not work any miracles in our life or change our life, unless we apply it and live it in our family and individual lives. The Holy Family shows how Jesus needed a family to grow to maturity. Children who are born into a loving home have deep soil into which they can sink their roots. It is in the families and good family atmosphere that faith can bloom. Let the faith in you bloom well and fully through healthy, God-fearing and holy families. The bishop concluded the homily wishing that may God teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all the human family. May the silver jubilee celebration of this Holy Family Church be an occasion to renew and restore our family life. May God bless all our families. May God bless this community. Congratulation and prayers my dear people of God.”

After the holy mass there was a short felicitation program anchored by Mr. Johnny Ruangmei & Fr. John Lichoi, Asst. Priest, Chumukedima, during which the jubilee choir presented two melodious songs and the women group sang a felicitation song. Jubilee souvenir was released by the Bishop and presentation was made to many people who supported the life and
growth of the Church. Mr. K. Elias Lotha, Convener, Silver Jubilee proposed vote of thanks and Rev. Fr. P.J. Thomas graced the meal that was served to all. Many of the priests and Sisters who served the community during the past years and many members from the various communities and churches were present for the celebration.

- Fr. John Lichoi

Along with the whole world the diocese of Kohima with Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as main celebrant celebrated Christmas with midnight Vigil Mass on 24th December at Holy Cross, Dimapur and Day Mass at the Cathedral Church, Kohima on 25th December.

Bishop’s reflection this year centered round giving place /room for Jesus in one’s life. First of all, ‘Is the Christmas this year bringing us good news of great joy as it was for the shepherd? Are there not hundreds of people in the world, in our country, in our state and in our community, struggling to cope up with the many problems they face in their daily life? Just look at Manipur; look at the people in India, especially in the rural India after the demonetization of money; look at the Middle East where life is a battle between so called government and rebel forces. Today Forces for good and evil are in mortal conflict everywhere and around us. Practically every one of us feels the pain, the struggle, the effect. Buddha said, “I know nothing about the mysteries of God, but I know a lot about the miseries of man.” This is what we experience today - great miseries heaped on human being by other human beings. The enormity and magnitude of human miseries - caused by hunger and disease due to exploitation, murderous rape, terrorist attacks, exploitation of the poor for profit by the rich and cold blooded ethnic violence and cleansing, some in the name of God and religion - disturbs and pains us all beyond measure.

Every Christian believe that Jesus became incarnate (Word was made Flesh, Jn.1:1) to liberate humanity from being drowned in the miseries of this world which are the after effects of sin. He became incarnate so that humans may have life and have it in abundance. This incarnate Jesus, in his time, went about doing good to those in need - healing the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the suffering, pardoning those branded as sinners and outcasts - he was busy 24 hours wiping away tears from the human face. He continues to exert himself as the greatest living force for good in today’s world. That is why Gandhi said: “I love Christ... I derive strength from reading the beatitudes”.

Can we be his true disciples today unless we follow the path shown by him? Can we celebrate Christmas unless we desire and decide to follow his ways? If we do not follow him in this life, he shall not follow us, in the next. May Jesus - the Greatest Force for Good lead us in the year 2017. Let us be led by Jesus, the force for good and not the forces of evil, veiled in comforts and pleasures, wealth and money, easy going and double dealing, division and deviations, etc. With these thoughts the bishop wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and God’s choicest blessings.

The midnight celebration at Holy Cross Church, ended with placing the statue of Child Jesus in the crib with a solemn procession and prayer. Snacks and tea were served to all while the community exchanged Christmas greeting with one another. At the Cathedral Church, after the solemn Mass on the Christmas day the community gathered in the ground to share the common Christmas meal sponsored by Mr. Francis Belho and family. The meal was preceded by special prayer invoked by the bishop, followed by cutting of the large Christmas cake by the sponsoring family members, special carol singing by the Holy Childhood children. Rev Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General, diocese of Kohima and Parish Priest specially thanked the family of Mr. Belho and invited all for the meal after which the Children enjoyed Christmas party games.

- Correspondent

Sharing: February - March 2017
A briefing from the Bishop’s House, Kohima, states that the Diocese of Kohima representing the Catholic Church in Nagaland, is against the observance of good governance day on 25th December. Although the Church is not against the observance of good governance day, the choice of the day, 25th December, is a blatant disrespect for Christian sentiments. Different religions in the country have days, which are sacred and holy. Over 24 million Christians in India consider December 25 as a very important day as they celebrate the birthday of Jesus. The decision of the Government to declare this day as ‘good governance day’ is not only an attempt to dilute the importance of the day for Christians but also a discriminative and insensitive act against them. Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Zoroastrians, Bahais, Jews, Muslims and Christians have days of particular importance and observe them as sacred and holidays, a right enshrined by the secular nature of our nation and constitution. Disrespect of the government towards the religious sentiments of the minorities would put a scar on the secular nature of our country, which is known the outside world as a nation which promotes tolerance and peaceful co-existence.

The concept of ‘good governance’ itself will be a mockery if due respect is not given to all the sections in the country, irrespective of the religious affinity. The foundation to any good governance is religious freedom, justice and equality. Peace and development in the country is possible only when the legitimate rights of all its citizens are upheld by all. The government has the duty bound responsibility to promote it.

Therefore, the Church considers declaring December 25 as good governance day a blatant disrespect to Christian sentiments and a denial of their legitimate aspiration to celebrate the greatest event of their religious belief. Failure of the government to understand the seriousness of the matter, and not taking corrective steps in executing the order to observe December 25 as ‘good governance day’ will be considered deliberate act of discrimination from the part of the Government. We support the government to observe the good governance day, but on a day acceptable to all the citizens of the nation, which will not infringe the religious sentiments of any religious groups. The pristine message of Christmas is that Jesus, Son of God, incarnated into the world so that the humanity may experience peace, love and joy in their hearts. It is our earnest wish that better sense prevail so that all of us can experience security and brotherliness in this great nation of ours.

### Career Guidance Conducted For Catholic Youth of Meluri Parish

A one day Career Guidance Programme was conducted for the Catholic Youth of St. Xavier Parish, Meluri, on 22nd December 2016. A meeting cum-get-together of all the students of the parish who are studying outside the Parish before Christmas was a regular feature which began a few years ago. However, this year it was decided in the Pastoral Council Meeting to give systematic guidance to the students since many would be puzzled as to what to do next after completing plus two Degree or P. G. The Programme was animated by three important resource persons.

Shri. John Tsulise Sangtam, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Meluri spoke on various career options. He said that today we can expect only 10% opportunities in the Government sector, while 90% of it is in the private sector. Those who study the Arts Stream should not feel that they are less privileged because opportunities for the Arts students are endless. Some of the options suggested by him are, teaching, law, small business/industry, Social Works, Mass
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Communication, Fashion Designing, Interior designing, Food processing technology, Hotel Management, Hospitality Management, Air hostess, Information technology. Call centres. Secretarial job, Journalism, Photography and cinema, Animal husbandry, Make up artists, Advertising agency, Researchers, Environmentalists, Dairy and Poultry farming, transport sector, and many more.

Mr. James Kikon, EAC, Phokhiingri, made a power point presentation on how to prepare for Competetive Exams like NCS, NPSC and IAS. Self confidence is the most important factor while appearing for any exams, he said. One should not be afraid of temporary failures or mistakes, rather put together all small achievements which will help us to achieve bigger ones.

Dr. Chukhusie John enlightened the youth on Health and Hygiene. Good health is a gift of God and so it should be taken care of, he exhorted. Therefore, one should be cautious before indulging in harmful activities, physical contact and trials. He also spoke on the harmful effects on misuse of drugs and intoxicating edibles.

Others who exhorted the youth are Mr Jose Chichutho, PCL President. Ms Chithothsu, PCWA President and Fr Solomon Kevishi

Earlier, Fr. Jose Lukose the Parish Priest welcomed the youth and the resource persons in his welcome speech. He also advised the youth to be responsible in their studies and do not bluff the Parents who are struggling to get money for the fees by misusing it. He also informed the students on the various scholarships available for studies. The programme was attended by 63 youth studying outside Meluri.

- Fr Jose Lukose

SFS Community Centre Inaugurated at Merhülietsa, Kohima

The newly renovated community centre of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Kohima town at Merhülietsa colony (Paramedical), was blessed and inaugurated on 21st December 2016 by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the bishop of Kohima diocese in the presence of large gathering of the parish members. Mr. Rochus Chasie, chaired the program. The opening prayer was said by Mr. Philip Kent and the scripture reading was read by Mr. Sebastian Humtsoe. Mrs. Ruokuoheü Roselyn gave short report of the land and house acquisition which was allotted by the government of Nagaland. Mr. Leo was thanked and acknowledged for the negotiated amicable settlement. SFS Kids Choir sang beautifully and gave a spiritual air to the function. Rev. Fr. Alex Vizo, the Parish Priest, thanked all present and especially the Land search committee and the parish pastoral council members for the great effort and sacrifice they put in for the acquisition and renovation of the building. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kath, the Asst. Priest said the closing prayer, after which snacks was served to all. - Fr. Joseph Kath

New Presbytery Inaugurated at Longsa, Wokha

In a simple ceremony, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the bishop of Kohima, blessed the newly built presbytery at St. Peter’s Centre Longsa, on 20th December 2016, adding another feature to the developmental work at the centre. Rev. Fr. George Punnolil, the diocesan financial
administrator cut the ribbon and inaugurated the building while Rev. Fr. A. D. Jose, SDB, the Parish Priest, St. Paul Parish, Wokha unveiled the gratitude plaque. Catholic Youth members from the village were present in big number and Fr. Mathew Rhamben, the Centre in charge welcomed all and served the refreshments. For the time being the Sisters would stay in the building until a convent is built for them. St. Peter’s Centre, Longsa started in the year 2012 is fast developing through the hard work of Rev. Fr. Mathew Rhamben and the Sisters of the Ursuline Franciscan Congregation and the active collaboration and support of the community and the public.

- Fr. Mathew Rhamben

Build the Living Church: Bishop Exhorts the Community

The long awaited dream of the Catholic community at Lower AG colony, was realized when Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Mr. L. Dikho, Hon’ble MLA, Mao Constituency, Shri. Rovilatou Nicholas, DC, Kohima, Mr. Francis Pelevituo Solo, Commissioner & Secretary of School Education, Nagaland, Rev. Fr. Linus, Rector, Oriens Theological, College, Shillong, Dignitaries, Fathers and Sisters, Catechists from various parishes in Nagaland and delegates from DAN, NCWA, NCYM, many invited guests and the community.

In the short felicitation programme Mr. John Makhabo, said that it was on 29th June, 2008, on the feast of Sts Peter and Paul, Bishop Jose Mukala laid the foundation for the Church and today it is inaugurated by Bishop James Thoppil. It is the Lord’s doing. We only marvel at it. John said that it was a tedious journey of nine years of sweat and struggle. He thanked the listed names who helped to complete the magnificent Church. These were given mementos and presentation fitting to the occasion. Mr. Dominic Mao, Catechist, Ms P.Lolia Susan & Ella Mary moderated the programme. Folk songs, Choir piece, Action song by catechism students, were the special item of the day. Rev. Fr. Carolus, Parish priest released the Jubilee Souvenir. Mr. H. Raphel Chakho, proposed vote of thanks. Rev. Fr. Johny, Asst. Priest, Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima graced the meal.

- Mr. John Makhabo
St. Joseph Church, 4th NAP Bn Thizama celebrated Silver Jubilee with Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as chief celebrant on Friday, 16th December, with the theme: “Worship Him Continually”, 1 Chron. 16:11. Rev. Fr. Salew Peter, SDB, Parish Priest, Christ King Parish, Kohima unveiled the Jubilee monolith and welcomed Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Fathers and Sisters, Catechists, president and members of DAN, NCWA, NCYM, Dignitaries, invited guests and faithful. Priests from Kohima, concelebrated the Holy Eucharist with the Bishop during which 15 received the first Holy Communion and 11 faithful received the Sacrament of the Confirmation.

The Bishop, speaking on the occasion said that it is indeed an auspicious day for all of us as we have gathered for the Silver Jubilee celebration of St. Joseph Church, Thizama. We have often heard that any jubilee, whether of an individual or institution is an occasion to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to look to the future with hope. Today we express our gratitude to God who inspired and guided every step of the pioneers of this community who ventured out to live the universality of the Catholic Church by gathering together Catholics irrespective of their tribal affiliation. With courage they set to live the Catholic faith despite strong individual and institutional opposition and antagonism against it, trusting in God who inspired and called them. Reading through the history of the Church in Thizama, we find that Catholic faith united the members of different tribes. Faith was a cementing and unifying factor and not a differentiating and divisive factor. This is the history of the Church from its very beginning. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles we read that due to the persecution the Christians dispersed to different parts of the Roman Empire and wherever they went they preached and spread the faith. We know from the history that the Church in Thizama had faced united and institutional opposition to Catholic faith. It was said that there must be only one church in the Battalion campus. But the courage and conviction of the Catholics could not deter them from building a Church for themselves and the timely help from Christ King Parish members from Kohima village gave them courage and strength to go ahead with their plan to build the Church. Today we celebrate the jubilee of their courage, conviction and strength of these early pioneers. We are today heirs of their noble and courageous venture. Today we are grateful to them and are proud of them. Their sacrifices and dedication bore fruit and we are here today celebrating their courage and commitment to accept and live the Catholic faith, the faith that had come down to us from Jesus, through the Apostles and their successors. Therefore, when we celebrate silver jubilee, we thank and appreciate the pioneers – the community elders, priests and sisters especially the Salesian Fathers and Bethany Sisters, catechist and others for their courage and commitment. Thus jubilee becomes an occasion to remember the past with gratitude.

Jubilee is also the time to live the present with passion and commitment. The question we have to ask ourselves as we celebrate the jubilee is if and how are we open to be challenged by the Gospel; whether the Gospel is truly the “manual” for our daily living and the decisions we are called to make. In fact in the second reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians we heard St. Paul telling the community to put to death what is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness which is idolatry. The Christian faith is demanding and difficult. Yet Jesus asks us to practice it and live it. Looking around us, in our home, in our village, in our state, can we say that the Christian values are lived and they permeate and determine the decisions and choices we make daily. Secular and
materialistic ideologies are at its height. People are trying to build up a life without God, a life based on earthly values and pleasures. But it is precisely amid these difficulties and uncertainties, which we share with so many of our contemporaries, that we are called to live the Christian faith. St. Paul says “Seek the things that are above... set your minds on things that are above not on things that are on earth...When Christ who is our life appears, then we will also appear with him in glory”. This is the hope which enables Christians to keep writing its great history well into the future.

Our celebration of the jubilee should challenge us to examine our fidelity to Christ and to the gospel and the tradition set by the pioneers. The gospel or Christianity in itself will not work any miracles in our live or change our life, unless we live it in our lives. Live your present life with deep commitment. Change and mend your old sinful ways and start anew a new life, and gospel-filled life.

In the short felicitation programme Mr. Thezietuo Timothy, Zapubatou Xavier and Jubilee choir presented the song. Presentations were made to the invited guests. Mr. Khrieketoulie Christopher proposed the vote thanks. Miss Eloni Lydia, Miss Regina and Mr. Benjamin were the comperes. Rev. Fr. Sebastian, SDB, graced the meal and food was served to all. - Fr. Salew Peter, SDB

Viswema Celebrates the Golden Jubilee cum Blessing of the New Church

The Catholic community of St. Joseph Church, Viswema celebrated the Golden Jubilee-cum-blessing and dedication of their newly built Church with Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the Chief Celebrant on Thursday 15th December 2016.

The program began with the warm welcome extended to all by Mr. Nosazol Charles, Chairman, Jubilee Organizing Committee. He warmly welcomed Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Rev. Fr. Arul Soosaimanickam, SJ, Regional Superior, North East, Jesuits, Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General Diocese of Kohima, Rev. Sr. M. Joy, BS, Provincial Superior, NE Province, Shri. Kropol Vitsu, MLA, Nagaland, Fathers and Sisters, Catechists, president and members of DAN, NCWA, NCYM, Dignitaries, invited guests and faithful. He said today is a red letter day for the Catholic Community of Viswema. He thanked late Fr. Stany Coelho, SJ, and other pioneering missionaries of fathers and sisters, particularly the Jesuit Fathers and the Bethany Sisters. He said that the Catholic faith began on 31st January 1966 when Mr. Zaku Zakaria Tsukru, Ms. Krusatonu Anna and Ms. Mekrutsole Athansia were baptized from Khonoma during the 2nd Nagaland Catholic Congress and today the community has grown to 348 families with 1458 Catholic members in the village. It was followed by the blessing of the Jubilee Monolith by the Bishop and unveiling of it by Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General, Diocese of Kohima.

The newly built beautiful and specially designed Church was blessed and dedicated by the Bishop while Rev. Fr. Arul Soosaimanickam, SJ, Regional Superior, North East Jesuits inaugurated it. The Eucharistic celebration began with the lighting of 50 lamps by 50 Catholic representatives signifying fifty years of Christian lives. Over forty priests concelebrated the Mass. Bishop congratulated the Viswema Catholic Community, particularly the leaders, led by Mr. Nosazol Charles, in the name of the diocese of Kohima for constructing such a magnificent Church and reminded them that each one present are the living Church and it is through our life lived in accordance with the teaching of Jesus that we give true worship to God. Speaking on the golden jubilee the Bishop congratulated the community and invited them to celebrate jubilee with fervor keeping in mind triple ingredients. Referring to Pope Francis’ invitation during the jubilee year he said that jubilee whether of an individual or an institution is an occasion to look
to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to look to the future with hope. Today we express our gratitude to God who inspired and guided every step of the pioneers of this community who ventured out to accept and to live not so well known and welcome faith fifty years ago. With courage they set to walk the unfamiliar religious faith trusting in God who inspired and called them. We are today heirs of that noble venture. Today we are grateful to them and are proud of them. Their sacrifices and dedication bore fruit and we are here today celebrating their courage and commitment to accept and live the Catholic faith, the faith that had come down to us from Jesus, through the Apostles and their followers. Thus jubilee becomes an occasion to remember the past with gratitude. The gospel or Christianity in itself will not work any miracles in our lives or change us, unless we live it in our lives. Jubilee is a time to change and mend our old sinful ways and start anew a new life. The key to true Jubilee celebration are repentance, release, renewal, restoration and re-dedication. Let the golden jubilee celebration be the opportune time to live the faith of the pioneers with commitment and passion with great hope for the future.

After the Holy Eucharistic celebration presents and memos were presented to all the guests. Sr. Joy, the Provincial Superior of the Bethany sisters released the jubilee souvenir, Rev. Fr. Jerome Veigas, SJ, Parish Priest, spoke on the occasion exhorting them quoting the words of John F. Kennedy “My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” to live and spread the faith of the Church. He congratulated the community for all the hard work done to complete the magnificent Church. Jubilee melody by the Jubilee Choir, Male Voice from Ahel Patrick & friends and Tati were the special items during the felicitation program. Miss Keneisenü Caroline & Miss Vizovono Janet anchored the programme. Mr. Zhoto Stephen gave the introductory words and Mr. Rüküvito Peter proposed vote of thanks which was followed by the jubilee meal served to all. During the meal dance troop from Jalukie parish performed a beautiful Rongmei dance.

- Fr. Jerome Veigas

Rev. Sr. Margareth Sekhose MSMHC celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession on Sunday 11th December, 2016, with Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou as the main Celebrant. The Vicar General of the Diocese of Kohima applauded her for the committed and dedicated life offered to God. God has been graciously blessing her in her service to God and mankind. He urged the faithful to continue in praying for her Vocation.

Rev. Sr. Medokuonuo Margaret Sekhose, MSMHC, while thanking said that vocation to Religious Life is not a privilege but a responsibility to love and serve the Lord. Religious life is a call to follow Christ more closely in His poverty, in His obedience, in His giving of self in surrendering love. It is a call to holiness, but a holiness that shines through the woundedness and the fragility of our humanity, so that it is clear to everyone, with no shadow of a doubt, that Jesus is the source of all our good, the source of all our joy, the source of all our effectiveness.

In the first place she thanked God for the many blessings she received till the moment and days to come. She thanked Fathers, sisters, people of God, family members for the vocation and blessing received. During the short felicitation in the evening on 15th December, Bishop James Thoppil, congratulated her for the commitment and living her life faithfully. Bishop said that the religious life appears joyful and attractive but cross of life is hard. Bishop extended the prayerful wishes and support to her. Rev. Fr. Arul SJ, Regional Superior of NE Jesuits, Rev. Moa Longchari, Mrs. Kelhoungu-ü Temsü, Rev. Dr. Tseibu Rutsa were present on the occasion. Miss Ukhriesi-ü Sekhose presented special song. The gathering ended with the meal served to all.

- Correspondent

“Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop.”

- Unknown
**26th KCJA Day Celebrated**

The 26th Kidima Catholic Juniors’ Association (KCJA) Day was celebrated from December 10 to 11 on the theme “All you that fear the Lord, trust him, and you will certainly be rewarded”, (Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 2:8) with Rev. Fr. Thomas Muttathil, Parish Priest as main celebrant.

Fr Thomas in his introductory note said that children belong to God and asked the faithful to pray to God so that He may bestow His blessing upon the children. He also exhorted the parents to live for their children and others.

There was a competition between two groups, St. Francis and St. Xavier in various disciplines like gospel skit, solo, Bible recitation, group song etc.

During the function, Methasunu Mary, Khruzonu, Viswedenu, Medolenu, Vilavoto and Pesachonu Rosemary were awarded for attending the catechism classes regularly.

Mr. Zayiekhonu Gabriela presented a report of activities of the year. The Sisters of Franciscan Saint Mary of the Angels (FSMA), parents and faithful from different villages attended the sacred feast.

- Correspondent

**Thanksgiving Service cum Blessing of the New Church Held at Zhavame**

The newly built St. Xavier’s Church Zhavame was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima on Sunday 11th December, 2016. A special Thanksgiving Mass on the occasion of the Perpetual Profession of Rev. Srs. Savirhii Esther Dukru and Krosalii Rose Hesiih was celebrated on Saturday 11th December at Porba.

Rev. Fr. James Thsepongkiu, Parish Priest, Razeba warmly welcomed Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Shri Deo Nukhu, Parliamentary Secretary for Higher & Technical Education and his lady wife, Rev. Sr. Ines, Major Superior of Minor Carmelites of Charity from Italy, Sr. Mary, Regional Superior, Rev. Fr. David, responsible of the Marian Congregation of the Houses of Charity, India, other Fathers and Sisters from various parishes in Nagaland and delegates from DAN, NCWA, NCYM, many invited guests and the community.

Bishop in the introduction congratulated Rev. Srs. Rose Hesuh (Krosalü) and Esther Dukru (Savirhü), for their final commitment in religious life in the Marian Congregation of the Houses of Charity and assured them of the community’s prayers and continued support. Bishop congratulated the community of Zhavame for great optimism and hope and for their untiring work to complete the Church despite the great tragedy they experienced with the total destruction of their Church by the fire caused by the electrical short circuit on 18th October, 2014.

In his homily, reflecting on the writing of St. Paul wherein Paul writes, “You are God’s temple” (I Cor 3:16); “Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit” (I Cor 6:19); “We are the temple of the living God” (2 Cor 6:16), the Bishop invited the community to make themselves the living temples by their way of life. While thanking God for the gift of this beautiful and big church, we must be more grateful to God for making each of us the living temple by baptism because of which we are called to offer true and genuine sacrifice and worship in spirit and truth with our upright and gospel-based life.

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The service began with the prayers for the blessing of the Church. He then blessed the walls of the Church and then main door of the Church, signifying Christ as the door of sheep fold through which sheep come and go and find pastures; He also blessed the crucifix symbolizing the redemptive work of Jesus, the ambo signifying the table of the word from where one is nourished by the teaching of the apostles. The altar that represent the table of the Eucharist was dedicated, anointed and incensed so that through the sacrifice of the Eucharist on it Christians may be fed with the body and blood of Christ with which Christians have the life of God in them (cfr. John 6; Acts 2:42). The Zhavame choir sang beautifully and prayerfully heightening the spiritual and sacred atmosphere of the celebration.

Miss Rekha Rose Dukru anchored the short felicitation programme during which CYA Choir of Zhavame felicitated the two sisters who made their final profession with their melodious tunes. Gifts were presented to the invited guests. Rev. Sr. Savirhii Esther expressed words of gratitude to all who promoted her vocation and to those present. Mr. Sarhiinyi John, Local Catechist proposed vote of thanks while the concluding prayer was pronounced by Mr. Salunyi Joseph Shupao after which common meal was served to all.

- Fr. James Thsipongkiu

**NE Youth Peace Festival Concludes**

The 9th North East Youth Peace and Cultural Festival 2016 culminated on December 11 in which DCP-II Dimapur, Dr. Ilayas and Dr. N Simon Dzuwichu, president CAN, were the chief guest and guest of honour respectively for the valedictory programme at DBIDL Hall.

Dr. Fr. CP Anto, Director of Peace Channel, urged the members present to become ‘building blocks for peace.’ He asserted that the experience of being a peace club member should help in shedding the negatives like an eagle which sheds its feathers, talons and beaks to start a new life. He also thanked the chief guest and the guest of honour for consenting to grace the event. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi who once said, ‘We need to start becoming a block for creating peaceful environment,’ he said Peace Festival should help in bringing about small changes in our personal lives.

Dr. N Simon, the Guest of Honour, spoke on the need of involving youth in the process of peace building. He reflected on studies and experience based on conflict areas and pointed out that youth are very much influenced to become either victims or perpetrators in any conflict situation. He suggested that there should be a platform and avenues for structured dialogues which will facilitate youth to be involved in the process of peace building.

‘The involvement of youth in peace building is increasingly felt by the NGOs and Civil Society bodies. It is a welcome sight to see NGOs coming forward to include youth in the peace building efforts,’ he added. He appreciated the effort of Peace Channel for bringing youth together with this kind of initiatives.

Dr. Ilyas, spoke on the need of inculcating values like religion, love and fraternity which are crucial for building peace.

‘Peace has a strategic value; this value of peace is recognized and made use of by peace activist like Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi in their fight against injustice’, he pointed out. He explained on the social capital of peace.

‘History has proven that non violent movements have the capability to create a far reaching effect whereas violent movements tend to die faster’, he added. He asked everyone present to take the value of peace seriously as peace is not just an innocuous or a simple tool. But it is a powerful tool to achieve what we strive for.”
The highlights of the programme included cultural dances and folk songs. Rev. Yanbemo Lotha, Pastor of Lotha Baptist Church, Dimapur, invoked God’s blessing for the success of the programme, while James Mavelil, Assistant Director proposed the vote of thanks.

- Correspondent

The newly constructed St. Peter’s Church, Tsupfume was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Philip, SJ, Parish Priest, Pfutsero in the presence of many Priests, Sisters, Catechist, Village leaders and invited Guests on 10th December 2016. Rev. Fr. James Thsipongkiu, Parish Priest, Razeba, welcoming the Bishop and invited guests said that it’s a long awaited dream of the community to have a good Church. He thanked Bishop, Frs. George Punnolil, Jose Sebastian, Fr. Richard, Catholic community of Tsupfume for the tremendous efforts taken to complete the beautiful Church. He said that a big gathering today for the inaugural function is a great blessing for the catholic community of Tsupfume.

The Bishop while speaking on the occasion thanked God for the blessing that the community received and requested them to pray for the many benefactors and friends who helped both materially and spiritually for building the church. Bishop, during the homily reflected on St. Paul’s saying ‘...You are God’s temple’ (1Cor. 3:16); “...Your body is a temple of the Holy spirit” (1Cor 6:19); “…We are the temple of the living God” (2Cor. 6:16). The real Church, the living church that worships God in spirit and in truth is the believers. Each one of us is the living temple of God and each of us must build this temple of our life every day. God must dwell within us. This of course is not easy and yet it is our primary duty. We must become Christopher’s or Christ-bearers with our lives. The Bishop also said that our love for Jesus is proven by keeping His Word. The ultimate way that we keep God’s word is by focusing our mind on His word to the point of obedience. The fruit of obedience is God revealing Himself to us.

In the short felicitation programme Mr. Cyril Dakho Lea expressed the words of gratitude to Bishop and to all present for the function. The gifts were presented to specially invited guests. Ms Atele Helen Rumeh anchored the programme.

- Fr. James Thsipongkiu

With the Perpetual Profession of Rev. Srs. Rose Hesuh (Krosalü) and Esther Dukru (Savirhü), the Marian Congregations of the Houses of Charity has its first members from Nagaland. The sacred ceremony was held at St. Joseph’s Church, Porba on Sunday December 10th, 2016. Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima officiated the Holy Mass with the theme “My Soul Magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1: 46). 10 Priests concelebrated with the Bishop. The mothers dressed in the traditional attire and singing the traditional tune led celebrants and the candidates to the Eucharistic celebration.

Rev. Sr. Ines, Major Superior of Minor Carmelites of Charity from Italy, Sr. Mary, Regional
Superior, Rev. Fr. David, responsible of the Marian Congregation of the Houses of Charity, India, Rev. Frs. Philip, SJ, Parish Priest, Pfutsero, James Thsipongkiu, Parish Priest, Razeba, Mr. Ceikunü, Pastor, Christians Revival, Church (CRC) Porba, Delegates from Dimapur, Kohima, Jakhama, Pfutsero, Thenyizumi, Razeba, Sakraba and many invited guests were present for the Celebration.

Rev. Fr. Philip Abraham, SJ, Parish Priest, Pfutsero, warmly welcomed Bishop and the Congregation to the auspicious ceremony. Bishop in the introduction Congratulated Srs. Rose and Esther for their courageous decision to make their final Vows to God as religious in the Marian Congregation of the Houses of Charity, Mumbai. It is a day of grace and a day to rejoice cited by Bishop.

Bishop during the homily quoting Pope Francis said that ‘True Joy is born not from our possession but from our self donation. To understand and to live this is the secret of our Joy. To become priests, Religious is not primarily our choice for self gain. It is a choice of God to which one says, “Yes, Lord, your servant is listening” or like Mary, “I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word.” Bishop commented that the joy of the encounter with Jesus and of His call leads one not to close oneself in self-sufficiency but to opening oneself in the Lord’s service and in the service his Church. Saint Thomas says “Bonus est diffusivum sui” – Good diffuses itself. Don’t be afraid to show the joy of having answered the Lord’s call, of the choice to love and witness His Gospel.

The sacred function of final professions took place after the homily. First the candidates were examined for their readiness, willingness and freedom. Then there was the most touching gesture of total surrender signified by prostration on the ground, during which the litany of saints was sung imploring the intercession of all the angels and saints to come to the aid of the weak human beings who make their final commitment with the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. With the traditional prayer of consecration uttered by the bishop and giving of the ring signifying the total surrender to the divine master for the rest of their life the two sisters were inducted to the Marian Congregation for the rest of their life.

The prayer dance, songs from CYA, Porba, Zhavame, folk song and special songs from the Fathers and sisters of Marian Congregations of the Houses of Charity were presented during the program to felicitate the two sisters. Rev. Ceikunü, Pastor, Christians Revival, Church (CRC) Porba, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated Srs. Rose & Esther for bringing name and fame to the Village. He greeted them with prayerful wishes. Rev. Sr. Mary, Regional Superior of the Marian Congregation of the houses Charity explained the meaning of Marian Congregation of the Houses of Charity. Mr. Nuvohu Hesuh anchored the programme. Rev. Sr. Rose, Mr. Thenuchii, and Mr. Stephen Dukhru proposed vote of thanks. The celebration ended with the agape meal served to all.

- Fr. Philip Abraham, SJ

St. Joseph’s College Concluded College Week

The college week of St. Joseph’s College, Jakhama concluded with prize distribution on December 9.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the special guest gave away the prizes to the winners. The overall championship went to the team Fusion followed by first and second runners-up won by team Munich and team Rajnikanth.

The event began on December 5 with Mr. PF Zeliang (IPS), IGP, PHQ Kohima gracing the inaugural function as the chief guest. He exhorted the students to be people of integrity, honesty and well equipped in all walks of life.
More than 3300 students of the college were divided into eight teams: Cold Blood, Frozen, Fusion, Igniters, Mighty Ninjas, Munich, Pirates and Rajnikanth. These teams competed in various events like track events, outdoor games, indoor games, cultural events, theatrics and others.

During the Cultural Day, Mr. and Ms. Josephite were selected. Miss Nagaland 2015, Nenghoilihing Hansing did the opening of the show with special appearance by Vilhousa Movi, winner of the Northeast Ethnic Fusion Designer Competition. Previously Bishop blessed the Crib and sang Christmas song commemorating the birth of Jesus in a manger. Joyous meal was shared to the staff and non-teaching staff, it was the last day of the college before the next academic year.

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**News - Diocese**

**Feast of Mary Immaculate Celebrated**

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) Sisters and Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (MMI) Fathers celebrated the feast of their Patroness, Mary Immaculate, on December 8 in the campus of the newly established St. Joseph University, Ikeshe village, Dimapur.

Fr. Justine, MMI, introduced the feast of the Immaculate Conception. He informed that on December 8, 1854, through the papal bull ineffabilis Deus, Pope Pius IX declared, “the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved, in the first instant of her conception, from all stain of original sin.” Thus, the observance of the feast of the Immaculate Conception became universal.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. George Punnoli, financial administrator of the diocese of Kohima, while 19 other priests concelebrated with him. Fr. Chacko Karinthayil, Rector of Good Shepherd Seminary, preached the homily.

Over 25 Sisters from various religious congregations in and around Dimapur as well as many lay Christians participated in the Eucharist. Fr. Ashok MMI presented a brief history of the DMI Sisters and MMI Fathers. Rev. Fr. J. E. Arulraj founded the Congregation of the DMI Sisters in 1984 in Tamil Nadu. He then founded the Congregation of the MMI fathers in 2000. In just 32 years, the DMI Sisters number 450 while the MMI Fathers have 200 members in just 16 years, he stated. Both the Congregations jointly run seven engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu. They have three universities in the African continent – one each in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. In January 2017, 33 deacons will be ordained priests for the MMI Congregation.

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**Bible Camp at St. Dominic Church Chiephobozou**

The members Jesus youth animated a Three day Bible camp from 16-18 Dec at St. Dominic Church ,Chiephobozou . Around 150 children attended the camp. Sessions on prayer , faith , Holy Bible , youth missionary were shared along with testimonies . Activities included action songs, bible quiz and skit competition . The camp came to a close with a solemn thanksgiving mass celebrated by Fr. Sojan Xavier.

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**Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.**

Sharing: February - March 2017
Orientation training on tobacco cessation counselling for private hospitals and health centers was held at IDSP Hall CMO office Dimapur on December 3. Shalom Rehabilitation Centre, Chavara Home and many other institutions attended the seminar. 12 counselors from these health centers participated in the training. Dr. Vikato Kinimi CMO gave away the certificates.

Dr. C Tetseo speaking on the occasion said that there were many cases of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, Tuberculosis and other non-communicable diseases attributing to tobacco which were treated in different hospitals. Therefore it was important for both government and private hospitals to start tobacco cessation services in their respective hospitals.

- Correspondent

Golden Jubilee Celebrated at Meriema

St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Meriema celebrated its Golden Jubilee with Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima as the main Celebrant on Sunday 4th December 2016. Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, Vicar General of the Diocese of Kohima and Rev. Fr. Peter Salew, SDB, Parish Priest of Christ King Kohima and many other priests concelebrated the Holy Eucharist. 16 Children received the Sacrament of the first Holy Communion. At the outset the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Peter Salew, SDB, welcomed all, Bishop, Fathers, Sisters, Catechists, Pastors of different denominations invited guests and the faithful.

The Apostolic blessing and message from Pope Francis was read out by Mr. Neizolie Barnabas, Catechist of St. John Vianney Catholic Church. The Eucharist began with the lighting of 50 lamps, signifying fifty years of Christian lives. Bishop in his homily greeted and congratulated the community as they celebrate a mile stone in their history. Any jubilee, whether of an individual or an institution is an occasion to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to look to the future with hope. Bishop said that ‘As we celebrate this golden jubilee, we thank and appreciate the pioneers – the community elders, priests and sisters, catechist and others for their courage and commitment. Thus jubilee becomes an occasion to remember the past with gratitude.’

Commenting on the reading of the day, particularly the gospel the Bishop said that John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges our superficial attempts at change. We must mend ruptures and frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees justly. Start from where you are. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. John’s voice is sober and runs counter to the intoxicating voices around us today. He calls for rectitude and social consciousness. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption and, instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus’ coming. Therefore, Bishop said that following John’s advice, let us celebrate our golden jubilee by preparing for Jesus’ new advent in our lives. Let our life be changed with this jubilee celebration and become a new creation in the Lord by becoming fully the people of God.
A certificate of appreciation from the diocese of Kohima was presented to Mr. Neizolie Barnabas, catechist who served the Church for twenty five years. Mr. Barnabas proposed vote of thanks and the Jubilee meal was served to all.

- Fr. Peter Salew, SDB

The annual college week of St. Xavier College, Jalukie was held from November 28 to December 2. Rev. Fr. Pappusamy, the principal inaugurated the annual week on November 28, 2016 at the college auditorium. In his message, he exhorted students to grasp the opportune moment judiciously to build their potentialities and to open avenues for their future careers. On the inaugural day, cultural day was observed with the theme: “Embracing Our Diversity” to provide platform and opportunities for students to promote and keep alive their respective cultures. Students in their unique piece of traditional attire enhanced the intensity of the celebration of diversity. The high spot of the day was the traditional couple show. Focusing on the theme, the other spectaculârs organized by the cultural committee were fancy dress, folklore, duet, instrumental and choir competitions.

On November 29, the literary committee ventured with exciting competitions with the theme, “Strive for Excellence.” The planned programme of the day was for comprehensive development of the students’ personality. The various competitions that marked the literary day were debate, quiz, essay, extempore speech and spell-bee competitions.

- Sr. Martha MSMHC

Mother Prema, Superior General and the present successor to St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata arrived at Dimapur on 30th November, 2016. She is visiting all the Missionary Sisters (MC) of her congregation. She was to arrive in Dimapur by train from Guwahti but since the train was eight hours late, one of their benefactors offered to send his car to Dimapur and thus she arrive in the Mother Teresa convent in Dimapur, the only convent of the MC sisters in Nagaland at 10.00 pm. While addressing the gathering she thanked God for having brought her safely to Nagaland for the first time. She said that she is pleased to see the beauty of God’s infinite blessing upon all of us. Her prayerful wish is that we are brought together in ONENESS without any distinction of language, culture, race or religion people from all walks of life. God desires that all people be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Mother Teresa of Kolkata lived a life of extraordinary fidelity to Jesus. She was united to God in this life and she strove to do His will in

- Sr. Martha MSMHC

Mother Prema, Superior General and Successor to St. Mother Teresa Visits Nagaland

- Sr. Martha MSMHC

The Annual College Week Held at St. Xavier College, Jalukie

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Various sports events of single and group items were played from November 30 to December 2. The inaugural match kicked off with boys basketball match. After the exciting start the various events lined up for the three consecutive days were track events, long jump, high jump, discuss throw, badminton, table tennis, volleyball and football match. Group events of volleyball and football saw maximum participants. The Xavirite college week came to a close on December 2 with tug-of-war.

- Sr. Martha MSMHC
**NEWS - Diocese**

everything, devoting herself to the glory of God and to the service of their neighbor. May we imbibe God’s will in our life, she said.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil Bishop of Kohima was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist celebration on 1st December which was attended by all the inmates of the house. Fr. C. T Varghese from Don Bosco School and Fr. Thomas Toretkiu joined as concelebrants. Bishop referring to the parable of the builder in Mathew’s gospel said that Jesus teaches us that true wisdom comes from trusting in Him and His word. If we build our lives on God’s word then we will be able to withstand the storms of our life. If our foundation of our life is built on the worldly desires and wisdom then we will fail when we are tossed about in the rough sea of life. Jesus is the only worthy foundation because of his death & resurrection is our only hope to overcome. Even our best efforts to follow Jesus teaching must be covered and made acceptable by his grace and the righteousness of Christ.

The inmates of the Mother Teresa convent along with the people from the neighborhood gave a welcome felicitation to Mother Prema soon after the Holy Eucharistic celebration. Zeliang dance from Burma Camp, Dimapur, Dance from Adivasi community, Choreography and songs by the kids were performed and mother was dressed up in the traditional zeliang dress. Mother Prema would be staying with the Sisters for two days before proceeding to Tura to meet the sisters. She said that she would be visiting all the 27 convents of the Missionaries of Charity. The bishop in the name of the diocese of Kohima and the people of Nagaland assured her of our prayers and support for the work the sisters are doing in taking care of the poorest of the poor in our society. It may be recalled that Mother Teresa has visited Nagaland in the month of February 1984.

- **Sr. Theophany M.C.**

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**Prayer Day for Safe Release of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB.**

The Diocese of Kohima, along with the rest of the Christian community in India and people of good will kept Sunday 22, January, 2017, as a day of prayer for the safety and the liberation of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB.

Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB, was seized on the 4th of March, 2016, after a militant group stormed into a home for the sick and elderly, run by the Missionaries of Charity of St. Teresa of Kolkata in Aden, Yemen. Four Sisters and 12 lay people were killed in the attack on that fateful day shocking the whole world.

The whole Catholic Church and specially the Church in India is worried and concerned about the safety and where about of Fr. Tom. The Christian community once again appeals to the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Government of India to do everything possible to have this generous and selfless priest released.

With much anguish, supplication and prayer the Church has been awaiting the release of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil for the last 10 months. The Catholic Bishops’ Conference has been in constant touch with the Minister for External Affairs, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and the foreign ministry to request them to expedite the release of our beloved Fr. Tom.

The CBCI General Secretariat has also been in touch with Bishop Paul Hinder, Vicar Apostolic of Southern Arabia, Yemen. It has been assured that he is alive and safe.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” (1 John 5:14).

“While thanking all in anticipation for the prayers, let us also pray for the conversion of those who are holding him captive and pray that God may give them the grace to realize the injustice of their acts,” the statement from the CBCI says.

- **Diocese**

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“The pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered there is opportunity for growth.”

- **Unknown**
The annual Come and See Program for Class X and Class XII students who would like to join the Seminary for studies to priesthood will be held this year at St. Xavier’s Minor Seminary Jalukie from 6th (Arrival) March to 20th March (Departure) 2017. I request all the Parish Priests and Centre In charges to encourage students who are interested to become priests to attend the same. Since we cannot accommodate all those who come for the vocation camp in the seminary, it is another forum for students to join the studies to priesthood. Kindly inform the Rector Mobile: 9436436384 / 9612856012 (Land: 0383922418; on or before 28th February 2017 so as to facilitate the necessary preparation.

Requirements:
1. Registration Fee: Rs. 1,000 (to pay on arrival)
2. Light Bedding (mosquito net, bed sheets, thin blanket and pillow cover)
3. Toilet articles
4. Writing Materials
6. All You Hills
7. Dress for work and games
8. Those who are nearby and have easy transport should bring bucket and mug.

Thanks for your encouragement and cooperation!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Augustine Kerketta, Rector
St. Xavier seminary
Jalukie – 797 110, Nagaland

When I have learned to do the Father's will, I shall have fully realised my vocation on earth.

- Carlo Carretto
Catholic Association of Nagaland Appeals to Recognize Legitimacy of Different Opinions

Against the backdrop of the crisis over the ULB polls, the Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) today (02/02/17) asked both the Government and the civil societies to recognize the legitimacy of different opinions and respect citizens, who, even as a group, “defend their points of view by honest methods.”

“We must act in solidarity in spite of our differences recognizing the legitimate variety of possible options to the present crisis that is posing a great threat to social breakdown in Nagaland. Catholic Laities ask for an effort at mutual understanding of the other’s position and motives, a loyal examination of one’s behavior amongst the ruling Government of the day and the civil societies to arrive at a profound peaceful solution,” stated a press release from President, CAN.

It called upon the present Government to understand and govern prudently to foster common good of the human society keeping in mind that “all power comes from God, not immediately but through the consent of human wills.”

CAN maintain that every member of the society is divinely duty-bound to “promote the dignity and rights of the human person and the common good of society.”

All the members of the Naga society including the leaders, it added, must strive together to positively impact on society. “We are called to behave ethically and with sensitivity towards social, cultural, economic and environmental issues. Every member of our society must act with sensitivity guided by ethical and above all Christian principles in a way that is beneficial to society and will strengthen the common good.”

Stating that “rulers must govern with the consent of the governed;” the Association further asserted that any responsible government must listen and be governed by the conscience of the people. “At this juncture, the State government is duty-bound to act ethically and with utmost sensitivity to the wishes of the people.

It must prove that the leadership is accountable, dependable and does what is right for the common good.”

Meanwhile, CAN expressed pain at the loss of two lives in the crisis and appealed for better sense to prevail for love of life and the good of every person. It also wished speedy recovery of the injured and prayed that physical and spiritual healing will dawn upon all.

CAN requested “God’s people” particularly the priests, clergies and nuns working in the Diocese of Kohima to offer prayers during the Holy Eucharistic celebration for peace in the State of Nagaland and wisdom of God to dawn upon the temporal leaders of Nagaland.

- CAN

Bishop Appealed for Restrain and Calm in the State of Nagaland

Bishop James Thoppil, who was in Bhopal attending the 29th Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops’ India (CCBI), appealed for restrain and calm in the state of Nagaland on 3rd of February, 2017. In a statement from the Bishop’s House says that the Church is pained to hear the events happening in the State, particularly in Kohima. In spite of the best efforts of the leadership at the various levels, things seem to grow out of control and so we appeal to all concerned to remain calm and restrain from further escalation of harmful events.

In most difficult and problematic situation we need the grace and power of God to discern and decide what is best for our people. There are no problems which cannot find solutions and no solutions beyond human effort, if only every stake holder sits down in calmness desiring to find the best solution with the discerning power of the Holy Spirit. As Christians we all know that violence breeds violence. “Unless the Lord builds the house do the laborer labors in vain” (Ps 127:1). As Christians we must subject ourselves to the rule and reign of God, who wants peace and prosperity for His people, which comes only when we follow God and his precepts.

Therefore, I appeal on behalf of the Church and in the name of God to all people to abjure all forms of violence. At this critical and crucial
moment let us surrender in docility to the plan of God and pray to the Almighty God for discernment. Let not emotions, very natural and legitimate, take control over our reasons. St. Paul tells us clearly, “many things are lawful and not all things helpful (I Cor 10:29). Let us at the moment cultivate and cherish an atmosphere of calmness and patience, discussion and dialogue, sharing and caring, give and take always keeping mind the common goal of progress that benefit the future of our people. Let us remain united and resolve our difference in true Christian spirit of love and reconciliation.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima

The Archdiocese of Guwahati celebrated its Silver Jubilee at St. Jerome Institute on Saturday 21 January with the Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam and culminated with the Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday 22nd January, 2017 with His Excellency, Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, Catholicos, the President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India as the main Celebrant.

The Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal congratulated the Archdiocese of Guwahati under the Shepherd of Most Rev. John Moolachira, for its services to the people of the city and the state. His Excellency, Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, Catholicos, the President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India speaking on the occasion applauded the Bishops of North East for the committed service done to the people of God.

The next international World Youth Day celebration, on the theme “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38),’ will be held in Panama from January 22 – 27, 2019.

Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta announced the dates on Friday 20, January, 2017. According to the official World Youth Day website, this WYD is expected to be much smaller than
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previous WYDs. The Central American nation is expecting to host about 500,000 pilgrims, significantly fewer than the 2.4 million and 3.7 million pilgrims estimated to have attended WYD Krakow 2016 and Rio 2013, respectively.

The reason for the event being hosted during the winter, the site explained, was to avoid the country’s rainy season, which occurs in July and August, which are the months in which WYD is often hosted.

The Apostolic Nuncio in Panama, Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa Coso, in an interview with La Estrella Panamá, stressed that the nation is capable of organizing this global event.

The Apostolic Nuncio Appointed for India & Nepal

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Most Reverend Giambattista Diquattro, till now Apostolic Nuncio to Bolivia, as the new APOSTOLIC NUNCIO to INDIA and NEPAL.

This ecclesiastical provision is made public in Rome on Saturday 21st January 2017, at noon local time, corresponding to 16:30 hours, Indian Standard Time. Pope has appointed Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro as the new apostolic nuncio to India and Nepal.

The 62-year-old Italian prelate was currently the nuncio to Bolivia, a country in central South America.

The new nuncio is expected in India mid-February, sources in the apostolic nunciature told Matters India.

Archbishop Diquattro, who was ordained a priest 35 years ago, has been a bishop for 11 years. He took over as the nuncio to Bolivia on November 21, 2008. He was born on March 18, 1954, in Bologna, the capital and the largest city of the Emilia-Romagna region in northern Italy. It is the seventh most populous city in Italy. He was ordained priest on August 24, 1981, for Ragusa diocese in Italy and ordained bishop on April 2, 2005. He was appointed apostolic nuncio to Panama on April 2, 2005. On January 19, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, a papal adviser, told Matters India that the Indian government had cleared the nuncio’s name.

India has been without a Vatican ambassador since early October when Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, who was the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal for six years, left for Poland.

The new nuncio is taking over at a time when India is preparing to receive Pope Francis, who has shown interest in visiting the country. India witnessed three papal visits so far. The first Pope to visit India was Pope Paul VI, who came to Mumbai in 1964 to attend the International Eucharistic Congress.

Pope John Paul II visited 14 places in India in February 1986 and New Delhi in November 1999. Several Indian dignitaries have, from time to time, called on the Pope in the Vatican. The latest was federal External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, who led the Indian delegation at the canonization of Mother Teresa on September 4, 2016, at the Vatican.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi met the Pope in 1981, and Mr. I.K. Gujral, another Prime Minister in 1987. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was the prime minister three times, called on the Pope in 2000 during his official visit to Italy.

Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat represented the country at the funeral of Pope John Paul II.

The Vatican has a nunciature in New Delhi while India has accredited its embassy in Bern, Switzerland, to the Holy See as well. India’s current ambassador to the Holy See is Smitha Purushottam since September 2015. The Vatican-India bilateral relations was formally started on June 12, 1948, nearly a year after India became an independent nation. However, an apostolic delegation existed in India from 1881. The apostolic delegation to the East Indies then included Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and was extended to Malaca in 1889, and then to Burma in 1920.
The connections between the Catholic Church and India are traced to Saint Thomas the Apostle, who, according to tradition, came to India in 52 AD.

Bishops were sent to India from Syria as early as the 6th or 7th centuries. There is a record of an Indian bishop visiting Rome at the time of Pope Callixtus II (1119–1124).

Pope Pius XII raised it to an Inter-nunciature in 1948 and to full apostolic nunciature in 1967 by Pope Paul VI.

- CWN

**Pope Francis To The Laity: Go Out and Evangelize or Buy Mothballs**

When asked in a new interview what specific mission he has for the laity, Pope Francis responded with a frequent appeal: to go outside of oneself and take risks in evangelizing, rather than staying stuffed up at home while the moths move in.

“Sometimes I think the best business we can do with many Christians, is to sell them mothballs so that they put them in their clothes and in their lives and aren’t eaten by moths,” the Pope said in the interview, published Sunday Jan 29, 2017.

The interviewer, journalist Noel Díaz, had questioned the Pope about a comment he had made to him on a previous occasion to “tell the laity to come out of the caves.” When asked about the comment and what mission he would give to the laity with that image in mind, Francis said that many times Christians “are locked up and they are going to get eaten by moths.” “They have to go out, they have to go and bring the message of Jesus” to others, he said, explaining that the Good News is meant to be shared, not stored away. “The message of Jesus is to give it; so just as I receive it from him through a brother or sister, the grace comes to me and I give it,” he said, stressing that Christians shouldn’t “can” the message, trying to conserve it in a jar, because “it’s not to save, it’s to give.”

By taking the Good News and then delivering it to others, “in this way I leave the cave,” he said, and stressed the importance of practicing the works of mercy, which are “the backbone of the Gospel” and what we will eventually be judged on.

Pope Francis gave his interview to El Sembrador Nueva Evangelización – ESNE TV and Radio station, a nonprofit established in Los Angeles in 1994 and which is currently headed by Díaz, the station’s founder and director. The interview was conducted Nov. 22, 2016, and was broadcast Jan. 29, 2017. In the interview, conducted in the Pope’s native Spanish tongue, Díaz noted how Francis frequently calls for Christians to be joyful rather than sour, going out to the streets and making the Gospel message known to those who are far off. When asked by the journalist what Christians lack in order for this to become the norm, the Pope said there is a need for greater “courage, since we are comfortable and comfort betrays us.” Pointing to the “apostolic zeal” of St. Paul, the Pope said he had the “courage to go out,” which is something Christians ought to grow in if they want “to bring what we have received” to others.

Apart from courage, the Pope said that in his own personal view, something that is often missing is prayer: “prayer is lacking...because without prayer there is no courage, there is a lack of intercession.” “We have to pray more and go out, but always with prayer, because I go out with the Lord,” he said, explaining that prayer is what unites us to God.

Francis was also asked what kind of legacy he would like to leave with the Church, and responded with many ideas that have already become trademarks of his papacy: “a Church that goes out is one, open doors, Christians going out on the streets, Christians who are convinced, a prayerful Church.”
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Many times people go to the Lord asking him to give them something or to solve a problem, he said, noting that “those who give thanks are fewer.” God, he said, “loves us, he gives us a hand and arranges things” when we ask, but “to adore, which few know how to adore, to adore God who is the Lord in this world” is rare, but essential.

Another legacy the Pope said he wants to leave is a sense of awareness in every Christian home, family and people that “the spirit of the world is not from God, it’s the antithesis of God.”

It’s because of this that Jesus at the Last Supper prays not for his disciples to be taken out of the world, but to be “defended” from it, he said, pointing to money as a key cause of worldliness.

“Worldliness begins with money, the devil enters through the pockets, in money...it gives you security, (but) a security that isn’t from God,” he said, explaining that money eventually leads to vanity, which then leads to pride, “and from hence all sins” come. Francis was then asked to send a message to a specific group of people – youth, elderly, parish priests and single mothers – when the interviewer mentioned them, before offering a special greeting to the station and its viewers.

- CNA

Sponsor’s Column

My Father’s Name: Mr. Khulu Swu
My Mother’s Name: Mrs. Vitoli
No of Children: 4 (Timothy Kivito, Abraham Kiviho, Wilma Viliho, Kevin Kivikhe)
What do they do? Two of them are studying and others business
Family Day: 9th November

Could you share with the readers something about your family?

I am Mr. Kivito Timothy the eldest son of late Mr. Khulu Swu and Mrs Vitoli. My father passed away when I was in the eight standard. My mother with no Govt. Job, struggle & financially to look after us over a year. She finally requested and given out to the relatives; one at Pughoboto, two at Assam and Dimapur. I was with my mother. I had a hard life with my mother. I don’t drink and hate to get smell of the rice beer. I had no other way then to stay at the rented house to pursue in my studies. Small I was and had no money to live my life. Those days and even now the scarcity of water was much in the Kohima town. I earned money by carrying water and sold to the neighbours. Per tin it was rupees 10 and earned over hundred rupees per day to buy my provision and school fees. To go and fetch water at late night and early in the morning as small I was really frightening but God was always with me.

My dark age I felt was, while studying in 10th standard. Every day was a tearful moment. I began to think seriously in my life. Practically, every day I run to the St. Francis De Sales Church, Kohima to pray in tears. I began to complaint to God why I have to suffer so much. Slowly I begin to ask God to give me strength to go ahead in my life. I pray to God to bless and show me the way. Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou and Fr. N.K., Abraham who understood my problems and difficulties and helped me on their part. They financed me by giving me some work in my ability. One day a neighbour, a mother offered me a piglet to rear.

Sponsor’s Column

God planted a seed of faith in our hearts, so all we had to do is water it with prayers, fertilize it with words of God and cultivate it with lots of love.
I had some money after a year and with that I decided to bring back all my brothers and sister. I first had gone and met them after two years of gap. It was really a tearful meeting and found hard to part. The families asked me not to come again to meet them but I had decided to look after them with my own hard work. I had even escaped with my brothers and sister to jungle when the relatives came to take them back as the adoption had already administered in our custom. I had faced threats that I must pay them back in caring them for years.

Well, I had to stop my studies for the sake of my brothers and sister. I began to work very hard to earn money to give them admission. Once I was ill and in a helpless situation I approached seeking financial help from my kith and kin but they did not pay attention to my plea. Those were the moments I wept so much but God was there to help me. I am grateful to fathers and sisters who visited us and prayed for us. Many people saw our struggle and helped us some way or the other. Today I am a building contractor and work for the churches in different works in my abilities. I also often visit my mother and buy provisions for her. I just want to tell youngsters or people who struggle in life worse than me to take hold of Jesus in their life and live, He shows the way.

What is your dream for the Society?
I dream the society with ‘Service’ Yes; I believe that service to humanity is service to God. God exists within all people so when you are serving His children, you are also serving Him.

Share about some persons to whom you are grateful?
In the first place I am grateful to God and then to the fathers, sisters, my parents, to all relatives. I am also grateful to Bishop James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima who understood my difficulties and problems and helped me.

Write something about your prayer Life
God hears our prayer, but do we all believe that He answers them? Actually He does – in His own way and own time. It may not be exactly the answer we want and we may wonder if He really loves us. But as the time goes by we will realise that the way He has answered our prayer has been what is best for us. Therefore keep praying unceasingly and you will wonder at God’s marvel.

What is your contribution to the growth of the Church?
Each of us has been blessed with special gifts and talents, and God has a plan for each of us to use these gifts to serve Him and to serve others. I try to live my life in honesty, sincerity in my work places. I also pay tithe to the church and do go to the church to receive Jesus by receiving Holy Communion.
His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Most Reverend Giambattista Diquattro, as the new APOSTOLIC NUNCIO to INDIA and NEPAL on 21st January 2017.


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