

# IN-TOUCH

*Creating Synergy*



Bethany Sisters  
Northeast Province

## A Newsletter of the Northeast Province of Bethany Sisters

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### MESSAGE



We are ending the year 2019 on a tumultuous note. The atmosphere in the country is vitiated with numerous events which have caused lot of unrest. We are in the throes of unprecedented mass protests against the National Register of Citizens NRC in Assam; the new Act – Citizenship Amendment Act CAA and now it is again National Population Register NPR! The voices for and against are quite vociferous that they are damaging to the polity of the nation. It is quite confusing to say the least. E.g. Prime Minister of the country asks people – “Where are the detention camps?” And others are bringing out the facts and figures to show that detention camps are there for real and that they are not imaginary. It looks like it is the duty of those in power to confuse people when they begin to face the challenge!

Scrapping of Article 370 in Kashmir and reducing the Jammu and Kashmir state to a Union Territory causing a great shut down in the beautiful snowy valley is another issue that has taken a toll on the citizens of the country specially those of Kashmir. Ayodhya wrangle seems to have been resolved by the Apex Court of the country. There was the great fiasco and high drama regarding the formation of government in Maharashtra after the Assembly poll results. All in all the country was on tenterhooks for a long time.

In our home front Bethany Sisters are in the midst of Centenary mood. Various action plans are afoot. Tests on Bethany Publications make Sisters scramble for copies of the books in the library. They are also in action for collecting their contribution to the Centenary Memorial Housing Project. Bethany in the North East inaugurated its first Memorial house in Guwahati on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 the death anniversary of our revered Founder RFC Mascarenhas. This house named “Shalom” is gifted to Mr and Mrs Sukhampa and Urmila, and their little son Michael. Other Memorial houses are under construction.

A Shelter home for women and children in distress by name “Bethany Solace Home” was inaugurated in Mamit. Mary Mount Convent and School celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its existence in Aizawl. It was a grand and befitting finale to the valuable service rendered without counting the cost. Superior General’s presence at these celebrations was really great.

Bethany in the North East Province is active and alive. That is a great sign of vitality. My wish and prayer is that every Bethany Sister rise to the occasion of the present reality, that she become relevant to the changing times and be true witness to the love and peace of Jesus our Lord.

At the Congregational level we witnessed the closing ceremony of the diocesan phase of the cause of Beatification of Bethany’s Founder. That was indeed a blessing. Now we await the next phase closer towards his sainthood. The Founder of Bethany and Bethany Educational Society is watching over us and we have his special blessings in the year 2020 just beginning. May the PEACE of good Lord be with all of us through the year 2020.



Sr. M. Joy BS  
Provincial Superior

## EDITORIAL

### **Reality is faster than the 'Dream'...!**

"I Have a Dream" is a public speech that was delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. In this he called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States. Today in our country too we need such a Martin Luther when we are faced with a context no less challenging than those times.

The 'dream' ushers in hope of well being. In India when the present government came back to power for the second time, the conscientious citizen knew that the times could bring in unexpected challenges to any sphere of nation's life, having had known the tough days gone by. Surprisingly, the reality has been moving faster than our imagined world. The laws and regulations are getting coined to suit one's vendetta agendas. How come we continue to bear goodnews of Christ in such context? How come the good-willed citizens continue to lift the lowly through their saving interventions?

Yes the time is at our door to be different, to be wise, to be bold and to reach out. In all humility we must acknowledge that people 'outside' of us have taken the lead from all walks of life- the simple villagers to the intellectual officers, to defend Christ in the poor, in the dalits and minorities by way of daring to sound louder to counter the oppressive sirens. It's energizing and re-motivating to listen to today's defenders-a handful of journalists, bureaucrats, young activists who have sacrificed their privileges to join the mass struggles. If this is not preaching the goodnews in the given context, what else?

Bethany has a heroic history in the way it took shape. Bethany's Founder RFC is an all time model, a compassionate pastor who dared to exploit the signs of times! Yes, all our resources and energies-both spiritual and material are for a new way of becoming!!



*Sr Clara Mendonca BS*

### MARY MOUNT AIZAWL AT GOLDEN PEAK

The Golden Jubilee of Mary Mount School and Convent was celebrated on 15 and 16 November 2019 with lots of fanfare. It was a dream come true. The struggles and sacrifices of many Sisters, staff and people around proved to be fruitful to proclaim its glory on those days.



On the inaugural day the Chief guest Rev Sr Rose Celine, the Superior General of Bethany Congregation was full of praise for what Mary Mount has achieved over the years by the selfless efforts of the Sisters of Bethany and the Staff. She insisted to be focused on the vision and goal of the Institute. There were distinguished people like Brig. Vinod, Commander 23 Assam Rifles and R. Lalthanmawia SDEO Aizawl South.

On the second day the Eucharistic Celebration at the Cathedral was officiated by Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, the Bishop of Aizawl, followed by the blessing of the memorial stone depicting



### OUR LOVING TRIBUTE WITH SWEET MEMORIES



#### **Sr M Suman BS of the Holy Family**

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, NEP

Birth : 27.11.1958  
 First Profession : 06.05.1980  
 Death : 24.07.2019

Remembering you with deep sorrow in our hearts for we have lost you untimely, yet glad you accomplished early the life's goal with achievements galore for God's Kingdom and for His poor !! NEP is indebted to you dearest Sr Suman...RIP !



50 Golden years. The inauguration of the plaque was jointly done by Mr Lalchandama Ralte, the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Mizoram, and Sister Rose Celine, the Superior General. The Chief Guest of the day, Mr Lalchandama Ralte appreciated every Marian member for putting up a memorable colourful programme on the occasion. He urged the Sisters and teachers to carry forward the School Motto 'Love one another' which they have done all through and equip the children to face the challenges of the future.

On the stage there were speeches from Sr Joy, the Provincial Superior, North East Province, Most Rev. Bishop Stephen Rotluanga and Sr Rose Celine the Superior General.

**Sr Sylvia BS**  
Mary Mount School, Aizawl

## ANIMATION PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY HEADS



'Like Good Stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received'-I Peter 4:10. With this reference, Sr Joy BS, our Provincial Superior set the

tone for the 2 days Animation program organized for Superiors and Head Mistresses of selected regions- Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh Assam and Mizoram, of the province at Guwahati Provincial House.

It was an enriching experience which made all the 22 participants to get deeper into the Spirit and Charism of the Congregation. Sr Joy spoke on community as a formator and mode of influence, and expounded on Constitution as to how a leader should be. Sr Edleburgh BS made the days vibrant and lively as she spoke on topics like Shepherding Superior, Cultural integration, Future of Bethany and few ecological concerns of the present times. Along with Sr Joy, Sr Sandhya and Sr Carmine explained on the importance of Documentation and Right way of maintaining accounts. Sr Jhancy imparted the knowledge on counseling skills.



Our gratefulness is due to our Provincial Superior Sr Joy and her team for providing us this opportunity to deepen in us the Bethany Culture and to form healthy communities. Similar 2 trainings were held

in Barasat and Dharmanagar for the communities pertaining to those particular states.

**Sr Prema Misquith BS**  
Bethany Convent, Bazar Veng, Mamit

## BETHANY SOLACE HOME MAMIT - A CENTENARY GIFT TO N E INDIA

Bethany in Bazar Veng Mamit Mizoram in the North East India was on the lookout for signs of times. Then the Sisters discovered a special need to reach out to the poor women in distress. In the mean time there came an offer specifically to Bethany Sisters from the Department of Women and Child Development to take up the project SWADHAR GREH by name. This is a project to cater to the needs of children and women in distress.

Sr Joy BS the Provincial Superior of North East Province with her Council accepted the proposal promptly and generously helped in setting it up by providing necessary financial support to construct facilities for 30 inmates. The Government is expected to finance the residential expenses for food and some personal articles.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 SWADHAR GREH took shape as "BETHANY SOLACE HOME" and it was a remarkable day in the annals of Bethany. It was delightful to have Rev Sr M Joy BS, Most Rev Stephen Rotluanga Bishop of Aizawl, Rev Sr Mary Laldikzuali Provincial Councillor, Rev Fr Peter Lalrammuana Parish Priest of St Francis of Assisi Parish, Mr Allan Lalmuanpuia State Coordinator National Aids Control Organization. Sr M Joy BS inaugurated the Bethany Solace Home and Most Rev Bishop blessed it.

Gazing from the presence of various NGOs, It was clear right from the beginning that this undertaking is going to be a ministry of great networking. There were representatives from various Government departments of Mamit District, village/local



administrators and church, Social Welfare Department, Women cell, Young Mizo Association, Village Council, Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP), One Stop Centre, Child line, District Child Protection Unit, Observation Home, Buannel Girl's Home, Mizoram State AIDS Control Society (MSACS), National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), District Information and Public Relation (I&PR), Doordarshan, Bethany Lay Associates, Catechists, Parish Council, Staff of Bethany Solace Home and of Bethany Social Welfare Society and Bethany Sisters.

The event was given prominence by telecasting it in the evening by the local TV channel. Sr Reshma BS the Resident Superintendent compered the program. Sr Margaret Lalthlamuani the Head Mistress of St Francis Assisi High School led the prayer. Sr Dr Prema Misquith Superior of Bethany Convent proposed the vote of thanks.

**Sr Reshma BS**  
Bethany Convent, Bazar Veng, Mamit

## PARA LEGAL PERSONNEL (PLP) TRAINING AT BIRD



Bethany Institute of Resource Development (BIRD) Umsning, has been keeping to its original 'spirit' by trying to follow the strategies to promote resourcefulness of the people of the region. The training of the PLPs was in view of creating leaders who could facilitate all-round development of the people in their respective villages.

The PLP training was from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019, with 27 participants including young men and women from Kathalcherra villages of Tripura and Ri- Bhoi district of Meghalaya, and 3 Bethany sisters. The inaugural function was ceremonial with Smti. R M Kurbah, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District as the Chief Guest. Smti B Jana from Social Welfare Office Ri-Bhoi and Sr Lucious BS the Province Coordinator for Social Work were the special guests. The DC was impressed to see the attractive structure of BIRD and its promising future to build leadership at varied levels in the benefit of the tribal communities.



The course contained topics of relevant legislation and Social security schemes of the government. The topics included- Constitutional law, Criminal law, Free legal aid, Right to Information Act 2005, National Social Security Schemes, Human Rights, Leadership Skills and a few more. The competent Resource persons were a team of lawyers and other officials and trainers from different sectors. They were Adv Peter Dohkrut, Adv Philip Shati, Adv Napoleon Mawphniang, Ms Omita Syiemlieh & Ms Marystella Syiem, Mr Bokstar Syiem, Kynjoh Rangtong, Mr Gregory Kharumnuid and Sr Clara BS.

The trainees felt greatly empowered as they participated in the learning interactions as well as narrating their own stories of results from the field of village development. The valedictory function had Sr Joy BS the Provincial Superior and Adv. C M Adhikari, Senior Panel Lawyer DLSA Nongpoh as the special guests. Also present as the guests were Sr Lucious and Sr Mary Laldikzuali the Provincial councillors. The trainees enumerated their learnings emphatically. All the 27 PLPs were awarded Certificates. The Reang cultural item presented by the trainees made the event colourful.

Mr Chandrojoy Reang who was one of the trainees was specially honoured by Sr Joy the Provincial Superior for his committed services and leadership to Bethany's mission at Kathalcherra for more than 25 years.

It was quite good an achievement to have had this para legal training considering the kind of leadership and empowerment it could spread among the lowly village folk. It was indeed a step towards promoting good governance and upholding the values of our Constitution.



**Staff Reporter**



## **Loving tribute to the dear departed from our families**

- |                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sr Alice Thomas              | - | Father                                  |
| Sr Philomina Secundas        | - | Cousin (brother)                        |
| Sr Therou Pao                | - | Brother & Uncle                         |
| Sr Rosia                     | - | Brother-in-law                          |
| Sr Felicitas Tellis          | - | Sister                                  |
| Sr Maria Magdalene           | - | Niece                                   |
| Srs Charo Pao & Angelina Pao | - | Uncle                                   |
| Sr Mildred                   | - | Sister                                  |
| Sr Melissa                   | - | Grandmother                             |
| Sr Emilia                    | - | Grandmother                             |
| Sr Selina                    | - | Sister, Sister -in-law, Brother-in- law |
| Sr Neritta                   | - | Nephew                                  |
| Sr Hildegard                 | - | Nephew                                  |
| Sr Veronica Zohmingliani     | - | Father                                  |

**MORE FROM BIRD**

**STUDY SKILLS PROGRAMME**

A Study skills course was organized at BIRD Umsning for 3-8 October 2019 for 27 girl students from 2 Bethany hostels of Tripura.



The students were from class IX and X, 20 from Holy Cross Hostel Kathalchera and 7 from Holy Cross Girls Hostel Dharmanagar. The course was mainly to instill

in the students the desire to excel in their subjects. The skills of learning Mathematics and English were the focus of the course.

At the inaugural function the Chief guest Mr Rocky Marwein, VCP Umsning Proper B, convinced the students to set right goals, quoting his own experiences of learning and building a career. Mr Gregory Kharumnuid- Lecturer St Antony's College conducted



With Officials from MIVA Switzerland

the orientation session with his expert techniques, which put the students on a high frequency of interest to learn new things. He also helped the students to concretely visualize their goal in life and make right choices in life.

Mr Suklang Kharthangmaw and Mr Lurshai Kharnaioir, both teachers at St Michael's Hr Sec. School Umsning were the resource persons for the course on Mathematics and English respectively. Their friendliness and mastery over the subject helped much to



make even the slow learners pick up a better pace of learning. In addition, Sr Clara took a session on Indian Constitution. Srs Therou Pao and Angelina Pao guided and accompanied the students in interiorizing the daily learnings.

It was a pleasant surprise to receive the special visitors from MIVA Switzerland, Mr Peter Ganther and Mrs Judith on the 4th October, who were on a India tour and also have been collaborators with BIRD.

A hearty cultural evening was organised on the 5th day by the students with different traditional dances which was attended by some neighbours and guest students of TISS Mumbai. A study tour to Shillong on the last day filled the young students with great satisfaction.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

International Human Rights Day was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 with the theme, Human being-Created in the image of God. The programme commenced at 2.30 pm.



Mr Kitdorius Dkhar the BIRD staff led the gathering into prayer on the Scripture Lk 4: 16-18. The programme had a short presentation by Sr Clara BS on History and practice of Human rights with informative video clippings.

The panel discussion moderated by Mr Lurshai Kharnaioir-Teacher, St Michel's H. Sec School Umsning followed. The panelists were- i) Mr Clement Mawlong, Teacher, St Michel's H.Sec School, ii)Mr Nicky Kharthangmaw, Chairperson, Umsning Parish, iii) Mr Kynjoh Rangtong, Project Officer, RAWA.

There were good interactions from the audience, who were about 50 young current trainees of BIRD, members of women SHGs of the umsning block, and persons from the local village. In total there were about 80 participants. The spark of reaching out to the



other in need and safeguarding human dignity irrespective of caste and creed, grew brighter in each one as the event closed. Ms Elbidris Syiem the BIRD trainer proposed the vote of thanks.

**Staff Reporter**

## BETHANY CHAMPIONS' ADVANCED TRAINING

In view of keeping the Bethany Champions on a higher level of interest and passion to become civil leaders, a 4 day advanced training was organised. It was organised by the Provincial office, and held at BIRD Umsning from 25 to 28 October 2019. The training was actualized under the able guidance of Sr Edleburgh the Province coordinator for Education.

'Responsible youth leadership for a better Church and Society' was the theme of the course. 24 students from 10 units of the Bethany Champions of the province participated in the training, accompanied by their respective unit guides. There was a recap of the previous trainings and sessions of the past. There were eminent speakers to throw light on well chosen topics.

The topics included- Revisiting Vision and Mission of Bethany Champions, Responsible youth leadership, Civil services- Why and How, Leadership skills, and societal overview with reference to Constitutional Preamble. The resource persons were: Mr Cyril Darlong Diengdoh, IAS- Govt. of Meghalaya, Mr Barnabas Nongbah- ex MPSC member, Mr Bedarius Shylla- Asst Registrar NEHU, Mr Gregory Kharumnuid-Lecturer St Anthony's College Shillong, Sr Edleburgh BS and Sr Clara BS.



The inaugural function had Sr Joy BS the Provincial Superior as the Chief guest who motivated the students to continue to aim high to become the transforming leaders. The speeches on great lives by each student and the extempore speeches done in a friendly atmosphere sharpened the acumen of the budding leaders. All of them who ranged from Class VIII to Final year BA gained much from the intense training.

**Staff Reporter**

## BETHANY SCHOOL SULANTU, WB - A SAMPLE FROM HAPPENINGS

### We the People of India...

To create awareness on the 'Preamble' of Indian Constitution a Paper presentation competition was organised on 31<sup>st</sup> August for the students from Class VII to IX on the theme 'We the People of India'. The students prepared and presented well on the topic. After each student presented the paper, there were interactions, in which the students and the teachers participated actively. It was educative, informative and brought in a great sense of 'we' feeling as a nation!



### Best out of waste

In order to make the students aware of the uses of waste material and to give them the importance of reducing waste, a "Best out of waste" competition was organised on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019, for class III to class X.

Creative and mind blowing ideas were demonstrated by the students. It was inspiring to see the interest taken by the students with the right use of waste. Awareness



was given to the students not to throw waste material unduly which will pollute the earth and cause damage to the mother earth.

### Book Fair



'Books are good company in sad times and happy times'- E B White.

Bethany School Sulantu organised Book Fair 2019 in the School premises on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019. It was an overwhelming response from students, and parents who had come to attend the parent-teacher meeting. A wide range of books from all disciplines of education were displayed. It provided the parents and students an opportunity to buy the books of their choice. To see a large number of students making use of the chance was amazing.

**Sr Leena Shareena BS**  
Bethany School, Sulantu, WB

## TEACHERS' CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The Northeast Province organized 'Teachers' Capacity Building Programme' for all BES (Bethany Educational Society) Schools of the province in three batches at BIRD Umsning Meghalaya. It stretched from end August to early November 2019, with 4 days each for the planned sessions. In all 77 teachers were trained in Counselling Skills by Sr Jhansi BS, and in Teaching Skills by Sr Edleburgh BS the Education Coordinator of the North East Province.

Training in Counselling skills was quite new for the BES teachers



and all of them took part in the process with much interest and spirit of learning. The sessions included practice of counseling skills by the participants for certain hours as practicals. As part of learning or re-learning the teaching skills the teachers presented Micro lessons using the digital system and displayed their lessons on charts creatively.

The teachers expressed their full satisfaction and said more of this kind should be organized so that they are equipped with skills to deal with children from different backgrounds. The whole of 4 days also included a lot of fun and hearty interactions.

**Sr Edleburgh BS**

Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati

## VEN. UKTARA BETHANY COLLEGE, NAMSAI TOPPERS 2019 - RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY, DOIMUKH

### Gold Medalists

It's indeed the pride of Bethany Northeast as VUBC continues to excel in its early years of growth, bringing forth students with brilliance year after year. This is its 3rd outgoing batch.



**Sarah Lowang**  
Gold Medalist – History



**Jyoti Megu**  
Gold Medalist - Sociology



**Palita Mein**  
History-2<sup>nd</sup> Rank



**Anand Wangsu**  
Sociology-2<sup>nd</sup> Rank



**Merilyn Mossang**  
Sociology-3<sup>rd</sup> Rank



**Riju Kungkho**  
Sociology-4<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Graffica Umbon**  
Sociology-5<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Ngampan Wangsa**  
Sociology-6<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Aanon Wangsu**  
Geography-6<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Nabo Bohham**  
Sociology-7<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Pellli Molo**  
Sociology-8<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Jupi Mihu**  
Sociology-9<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Poiwang Wangsu**  
Sociology-10<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Nisha Tinki**  
B.COM-6<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Chow. Aditya Chowlu**  
B.COM-8<sup>th</sup> Rank



**Sani Shehirrou (Sr Angelina Pao BS)**  
B.COM-9<sup>th</sup> Rank