

# IN-TOUCH

*Creating Synergy*



Bethany Sisters  
Northeast Province

## A Newsletter of the Northeast Province of Bethany Sisters

Volume VII Issue 1

January to June 2018

### MESSAGE



*"From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a tender twig  
And plant it on the high mountain..." Ezek 17:22-24*

Truly the Lord was doing this for Bethany – taking a shoot from the cedar Bethany and planting it on the high mountain, the Himalayas. His promise will surely be fulfilled in Nepal, making this sapling sprout branches and bear fruit and become a noble Cedar.

Bethany opened its new 185<sup>th</sup> Branch House in a new country Nepal, this time in our neighbourhood, on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Bethany North East Province is grateful to Sr Rose Celine the Superior General for her guidance and for the Decree of Erection of the new Community, for her blessings and prayers. Thanks also to her Councillors for their support.

Bethany Convent, Biratnagar in East Nepal is a three member Community with Sr Rincy Kurian as the Superior, Sr Ordilia and Sr Jessyna Khonglah as the members. Sr Joy the Provincial Superior, Sr Edleburgh and Sr Mary Laldikzuali accompanied the Sisters to the new abode on the planes of the Himalayas! In Nepal Sisters will have Fr George Kalapurackal, the Parish Priest who is also the Dean of East Nepal Deanery and Fr Amrit Raj the Principal of the School as their Mentors. Another Priest who was instrumental in taking Bethany Sisters to Biratnagar is Fr Mani sdb. Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal Vicariate was present to bless this new venture of Bethany and an additional shoot for the Nepal Vicariate as well.

January to June 2018, seem to have been very active months, for all types of ministries in the Province. There were many celebrations – Silver and Golden Jubilee of 9 Sisters, Perpetual Profession of 10 Sisters in Viswema and Guwahati. There was also the celebration of First Profession of Novices. 25 young girls from the North Eastern States have sought admission to Bethany Congregation which is a great blessing from the Lord of the harvest!

The Inter Province Renewal Programmes, one for 34 Sisters at BIRD Umsning and one in Mangalore Bethany Mother House were very valuable inputs for Young Sisters.

There have been many such renewal and empowering and enriching programmes to help Sisters update themselves in all areas specially, in living their Consecrated life of Holiness and in improving skills in various apostolates.

It has become imperative to move with the changing times, though very cautiously, so that we as Religious are not uprooted from our chosen and declared goal of being set apart for the Lord, for the service of his Kingdom and for the proclamation of His Message!

Wishing all the readers of "In Touch" Blessings from the Lord for a smooth sailing in the second half of the year 2018.

**Sr M Joy BS**  
Provincial Superior



## EDITORIAL

### On way... beside the currents

Right at this time almost everyone living in the so called modernized world is gripped with the FIFA world cup fever! Why I say 'so called modernized' is because not all countries or not all the regions of the same country or to be more specific, not all the population in the same town or city is accessing the advantages of growth. This reaching the 'finishing line' perhaps is not everybody's cup of tea or at least, not everyone is supported towards it. True, this is our world; but the one with the 'third eye' will always have more to do. And here we are the 'specially called' with a consciousness calling for equalizing effects.

"I don't believe there is such a thing as a 'born' soccer player", said the football giant *Pele*. The Brazilian legend *Pele* was named footballer of the Millennium at the World Sports Awards of the Century in Vienna in 2007. There are greats in every sphere of life, some by talent and some by influence. To our surprise, there exist unequal standards of measurement! Hence we are here to facilitate to walk beside the currents of Influence, Power and elitist ideology.

India today is a nation of growth and results through accessing digitalization. Some earn top level degrees with no efforts, and some stay out of school. Some go to gyms to maintain health but some can't afford enough bread even to stay alive! Some can trade overseas in popular light, but some can't trade the only thing they are used to trade on. Remember, lynching for no reason, not one or two but dangerously many.

Yet, we are persons with a special energy! We shall uphold the 'Truth' and take people along, beside the Currents!!

**Sr Clara Mendonca BS**

### A prayer for our departed family members

Sr Veronica Zohmingliani	Uncle
Sr Hildegard	Mother
Sr Mariam Kujur	Brother- in- law
Sr Olga	Sister- in- law
Sr Sandhya	Brother-in-law
Sr Christita	Sister
Sr Susan Maria	Mother
Sr Prema Misquith	Brother-in-law
Sr Chrisette	Brother-in-law



### NORTH EAST BETHANY BRANCHES IN NEPAL

Bethany opened its 185<sup>th</sup> Branch House in Nepal, on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Bethany Convent, Biratnagar is a three member Community with Sr Rincy Kurian as Superior, and Sr Ordilia and Sr Jessyna Khonglah as members.

The Sisters who will be serving in a Diocesan School, were warmly welcomed by Fr George Kalapurackal, the Parish Priest and Fr Amrit Raj the Principal of the School. The Sisters were introduced to the School community in the Assembly and it was a moving experience; their first day at School was on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 which was a Sunday, a working day.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June evening Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal Vicariate arrived from Kathmandu for the Opening ceremony. It was encouraging to see all the neighbouring Priests and Sisters, and a small Catholic community present in full strength. The Celebration commenced with a solemn Holy Eucharist presided over by Bishop and there were 9 concelebrants. Sr Joy the Provincial Superior read the Decree of Erection issued by the Superior General, of the Bethany Convent Biratnagar, Nepal. At the end of the Holy Mass, the installation of the Superior followed.

During felicitation the Bishop expressed his happiness in having a new religious Congregation in his Vicariate. Sr Joy presented a brief Story of Bethany through the power point. Fr Mani sdb who was instrumental in taking Bethany to Biratnagar was specially remembered.



**Sr Edleburgh BS**  
Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati



## HIGHLIGHTS OF PROVINCE ANNUAL MEETINGS

Four days annual meetings for Socio-Medical, Youth, Hostel and Vocation Animation ministries were organized at Bethany Provincial House, Garchuk from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. The theme “Be the Bearer of Jesus’ Light” was elicited through all the deliberations and sessions. Sr Lucious BS and Sr Edleburgh BS, the Province coordinators for Socio-medical and Youth-Hostel-Vocation ministry respectively, called upon the participants to respond adequately to the issues of concern.

**SOCIO- MEDICAL MEET:** It was on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018.

The 2 speakers were- Adv Debasmita Ghosh, Chapter coordinator HRLN (Human Rights Law Network) Guwahati and Sr Clara BS, who illustrated on



Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution- a guide to Social Action. Making use of the expertise from within, sisters who had recently attended different courses, shared their knowledge on Alternative system of medicine, Paralegal programme for the village adults and on Preventing human Trafficking.

**YOUTH, HOSTEL AND VOCATION ANIMATION MEET:**

Sr Edleburgh BS the coordinator of the mission energized the sisters involved to act responsibly in caring for the Youth in the parishes, the Bethany Champions



and Hostel Children, and to re-commit to the work of promoting vocations.

Sr Joy the Provincial Superior in her message inspired the participants to help the youth to positively channelize their energies for building the Church and the Society. Fr Johnny PD, sdb, the guest speaker invited the participants through his presentation to be a small light to the youth and to present Jesus as the light of the World.

A meticulous evaluation as well as planning for the year 2018-2019 followed.

**Sr Prema Misquith BS & Sr Marina BS**  
Bethany North East Province

## THE THIRD BETHANY CHAMPIONS CONVENTION

The Third Bethany Champions Convention of North East Province was held at Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati, from 13 to 15 April 2018 in which 77 Champions participated representing 15 units. This special event was mainly coordinated by Sr Joy BS,



the Provincial Superior and the Corporate Manager of BES and Sr Edleburgh BS the Province Education and Youth Coordinator.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> evening the particular students converged from various regions of the Province. The flag hoisting by the Provincial Superior marked the start of the convention. In her keynote address Sr Joy exhorted the champions to be transformed into responsible youth leaders and soar high on wings of excellence. The theme being ‘Youth the Hope of the Nation’, the learnings were directed to “Church’s Vision to Empower youth to participate in Governance and Administration”.



Mr L Bernard, Academic Director & Chief Mentor of IAS Coachings of CBCI was the main speaker at the convention. The other presentations were from Sr Joy BS, Sr Edleburgh BS, Sr Clara Mendonca BS and Miss Anita Tirkey. The climax of the convention was the well organised Taize prayer. The champions were activated by a relevant quiz conducted by Sr Sandhya BS. The convention was at its peak when the cultural evening depicted the rich legacy of the northeast region. The action plan made at the end left the champions with a hope that they are going to enrich their society someday!

**Sr Vandana BS & Sr Reena Edel Pinto BS**  
Bethany North East Province

## 24 HOURS ‘ADORATION’



Bethany Provincial house being the ‘nucleus’ of the Province, set an example for all 30 communities of the province in sitting at the foot of the Lord for imploring His blessings on the entire Congregation and the world, in addition to a specific purpose, at the



very start of the Year 2018.

Fifty six sisters of the Northeast province were in 24 hours Adoration for the second time in the province, with the aim of spiritual renewal of the Province. In keeping with the theme of the XVI General Chapter, 'Transformation unto Christ through Fiat to be a prophetic witness', those holy hours were moments to revitalize our consecrated life and to re-energize our mission. It was also a moment to encounter Jesus personally.

From the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to the evening of the following day, the sisters along with the provincial team had gathered in the Provincial House chapel for Adoration and it ended with the Eucharistic celebration. All the retreatants along with the candidates as well as the junior sisters who had come for the annual juniorate programme prayed in groups.

It was such a moving experience to see the young and the old, sick and the healthy keeping awake at night, praying for the various needs through Mercy rosaries, psalms, hymns and spontaneous prayers.

**Sr Marina BS**

Holy Cross Convent, Agartala

## BETHANY LAY ASSOCIATES CONVERGE AT KOLASIB



The first Bethany Lay Associates (BLA) zonal meeting of Mizoram was held on 28 and 29 April 2018 at Madonna Convent, Kolasib and it is the first meeting to be held zone wise in the Province. Forty BLA participated from five units namely Bethany Convent Mamit, St Theresa Convent Ngharpet Veng Mamit, Bethany Convent Sihphir, Mary mount Convent Aizawl and Madonna Convent Kolasib. Sr Sandhya the Pastoral Coordinator of the Province organized the meeting with the help of Sr Therese Zothanpari and Sr Irene Therese in collaboration with Sisters of Madonna Convent.

The programme contained input sessions on the Spirit and Charism of the Bethany Congregation, the spirituality and role of Bethany Lay Associates with capturing presentations, group discussions and sharing.

The members enjoyed being together; they were enthused in spirit and expressed their desire to actively involve themselves in collaborating with the Sisters in their mission. May their renewed spirit lead them forward to be catalysts of Faith in their respective parishes.

**Sr Sandhya BS**

Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati



## 25 YEARS OF SACRED HEART PRE-NOVIATE BEHALA

June 14, 2018 : As the Silver Jubilee bells of Sacred Heart Pre-Novitiate Behala rang, the 19 candidates hailing from different parts of India, entered the portals of the Sacred Heart Pre-Novitiate Behala for their preparation to be Religious.

Sr Jyoti the Provincial Superior of Northern Province, Sr Joy the Provincial Superior of Northeast Province, and Sr. Bridget Das the provincial Councillor from Eastern Province, in their message reminded the pre-novices of the importance of their close accompaniment with Jesus. The young formees were felicitated along with Sr Clare Toppo the outgoing Pre-Novices directress, Sr Charilin the incoming directress and Sr Vijaya the assistant directress.

In the evening there was Thanksgiving Jubilee Mass at Meghmala Roy Education Centre officiated by Most Rev Thomas D'Souza the Archbishop of Kolkata followed by a get-together. The pioneer formators of the Pre-novitiate, Sr Selina BS and Sr Nora BS were specially honoured on the occasion.

**Prenovices- Irene and Shalini**

Sacred Heart Pre-Novitiate, Behala, Kolkata

## REFRESHER FOR JUNIOR SISTERS



The 22 junior sisters of Northeast Province from various communities came together for the annual meet at Bethany Provincial House Guwahati, held from 7 to 16 January, 2018. Sr Edleburgh, Sr Mary Laldikzuali, Sr Lucious and Sr Hilda Paula guided their learnings through different topics.

The saga of our beloved Founder and the Charism and spirituality of our Congregation were the topics that attracted the juniors to be genuine in their Call for God and His people. To realize one's call to be a prophetic witness in the present day society was the learning from classes on Prophets. Never to ignore the poor, the helpless, the weak or the suffering but to work for justice was the message from the sessions on human trafficking. To give our time in uplifting the families and making liturgy fruitful was the call from pastoral classes. Messages from Gospel of St Mark and St Luke were the reminders for us to keep constant gaze on Jesus and share His love to others.

**Sr Mestamary & Sr Seemalex**

1 yr Juniors, Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati



## TEN SISTERS OF THE PROVINCE FINALLY PROFESSED



**Guwahati:** 23 April 2018 was a day of special significance for Bethany Sisters in North East Province, more specially for Sr Margaret Lalthlamuani, Sr Juliet N Ngaihi and Sr Jessyna Khonglah who made their perpetual profession of vows at Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati.

Most Rev Archbishop John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Sr Lillis the Assistant Superior General and the delegate of the Superior General received the vows. After the Holy Eucharist a short felicitation programme was arranged. Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers from other Congregations, and parents, relatives and friends were present on this occasion.

**Viswema:** Seven sisters belonging to the Nagaland-Manipur area made their Perpetual Profession on 21 April 2018, at Viswema in Nagaland, in the Diocese of Kohima.

They are- Sr Sylvia Daphrou, Sr Line Raymond, Sr Roseline Dukru, Sr Therou Pao Marina, Sr Roselima Thaimei, Sr Agatha Vitsu and Sr Charou Pao.

The Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Most Rev James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima Diocese. Sr Lillis BS the Assistant Superior General received the vows on behalf of the Superior General. Sr Lillis BS & Sr Joy BS the Provincial Superior felicitated the newly professed sisters while Sr Edleburgh BS the Provincial Councilor welcomed the large gathering of people from different villages around Viswema. The choir consisting of 100 youth from Viswema village was awesome!

*Hearty Congratulations dear Sisters !*

**Sr Sandhya BS**

Bethany Provincial House, Guwahati



## FIRST PROFESSION AT BARASAT



On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, ten sisters after their 2 years of intense preparation made their First Profession of Religious Vows at Bethany Novitiate Barasat, WB. Most

Rev. Cyprian Monis Bishop of the diocese of Asansol officiated at the Solemn Eucharistic celebration. Of these ten newly professed, 4 are for the Northeast and 3 each sisters for North and Eastern provinces.

**Staff Reporter**

## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Bethany Social Service Centre, Silchar organized an awareness programme on Child Labour in 2 slum colonies-Tarapur and Kanakpur, on the occasion of World day against Child Labour on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. About 30 each persons attended the event, mainly children coming from Bethany Promotional Schools located in these slums.

The speakers of the day were from Child Line, Silchar; they are Mr Sraban Goala-Centre Coordinator and Mr Jayanta Kumar

Dey - team member. They highlighted the activities of Child Line like Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Restoration where necessary, supporting a National Network for the tracking of missing children, creating awareness and ensuring access to the 1098 child helpline number. Besides this they spoke on the legal aspect of child labour, how it is a punishable offence.

The programme drew attention of the gathering on issues affecting child's security, education, health and community life.



**Ms. Pomi Patikar,**

Coordinator, Bethany Social Service Centre, Silchar



## WOMEN'S DAY AT GUWAHATI



Bethany Social Service centre, Garchuk, Guwahati organized the International women's day on the 10th of March 2018 at Bethany School premises for 200 women from 12 slums of Guwahati. Sr Joy the Provincial Superior, Srs Sandhya, Lucious, Mary Laldikzuali the Provincial Councillors were among the guests. Mrs Nayani Kalita Principal of IRM (Institute of Rural Management) Guwahati, and Miss Bharathi, Child line Counselor, Guwahati were also among the invitees.

Sr Joy the Provincial Superior and the Chief guest, addressing the women congratulated them for their role in the family and the society and encouraged them to go ahead sharing their gifts and capacities for the good of the society. Mrs Nayani Kalita encouraged the women to go out of themselves and be empowered. She spoke on the various job skills offered by the government for the women and youth, and encouraged them to make use of the opportunities.

Miss Bharathi, sharing her experiences in the Child Line, spoke on how the empowered women can cooperate to reduce child abuse and child labour. She enlisted the facilities and services of the Child Line and guided the women how and when to seek its assistance. A video clipping was shown to make the women aware, how they can avoid being physically abused.

The day was made colourful by the entertainment programme of the students of Bethany School. The staff and teachers of Bethany Promotional Schools Guwahati were present on the occasion.

**Sr Benedicta Bs**

Bethany Social Service Centre, Guwahati

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT BARASAT

Bethany Jan Vikas Samiti Barasat, W.B., organised 4 events on the occasion of International women's day for different villages around 8<sup>th</sup> March. Dr Binapani Halder as well as the Sisters from the Organising team enlightened the women on the topics of concern, and that is on- Anti human Trafficking, Child Protection and child labour laws, and importance of Clean and green environment. A total 194 participants attended the programme.

The day was also organised at Barasat Parish where 110 women participated; Sr. Sarojini Kindo BS was the speaker on the occasion.

**Sr Therese Simon BS**

Bethany Jan Vikas Samiti, Barasat



## AT SILCHAR, WOMEN GATHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Sisters. The three speakers motivated the women to be agents of change through their little and big efforts.

The SHG members exhibited their products for sale. The main purpose of the event was to give a platform to these disadvantaged women to come out from their daily chores and see the world outside. The event was concluded with a vibrant cultural programme by BPS teachers, SHG women and BPS children.

Bethany Social Service Centre, Silchar conducted Women's Day Celebration on 8<sup>th</sup> March at Holy Cross School Auditorium mainly for the women from the slums, based on the theme 'Be Bold for Change'. The day was celebrated as Self Help Group day too. A total 120 persons took part in the event.

On the occasion Mrs Sushmita Purkayastha, Advocate, Silchar Bar Association, Ms Mridula Bhattacharjee the Community Organizer-SMB, Ms Parijat Bhattacharjee, City Project Officer, Swacch Bharat Mission graced the programme. Participants were BPS (Bethany Promotional Schools) parents, SHG(Self help group) women, the staff and the

**Ms. Pomi Patikar,**

Coordinator, Bethany Social Service Centre, Silchar



## INTER - PROVINCE RENEWAL 2018 AT BIRD



A memorable Inter Province Renewal programme held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Bethany Institute of Resource Development (BIRD) Umsning Meghalaya was much cherished by all the 33 participants coming from North, North East, and Eastern Provinces. The participants were warmly welcomed by Sr Joy the Provincial Superior of North East Province. 'Be a Renewed Bethany Sister with Newness of Christ in the Spirit' was the central theme of the seminar.

The seminar was enriched by resource persons - Sr Joy, the Provincial, Sr Sandhya and Sr. Edleburgh the Provincial Councilors, Sr Selina, Sr. Clara Mendonca the Director of BIRD and Fr PD Johny sdb. A deeper living of the Spirit and Charism of Bethany, effective practice of the Vows, Leadership, Psycho-spiritual Integration, and Challenges of the digital world were some of the topics of the sessions. In addition there were Paper presentations on topics of relevance from some of the participants.

Sight-seeing to Cherrapunji and Shillong were exciting while it gave an additional touch of the beauty of the north east region. The seminar was truly a great experience of rejuvenation in order to be effective religious!

**Sr Therese Rothangpuui & Sr Jacqueline Stella**  
The Participants

## THE PARALEGALS OF KATHALCHERRA- YES, THEY IMPACT!

Bethany Kathalcherra has been continuing to identify with the struggles and successes of the people of the villages. The paralegal personnel trained, have been greatly helping the development at grass root levels.

It has presently focused its attention on 4 villages towards improving the livelihood of people. From spending their time in baseless chats and being satisfied with meager income people are now trying to cultivate the available land and supply their own needs including selling agricultural products at the local market. Through the self -help groups they are looking forward to improve their status of life.

At Ramdhampara, there is a lot work done by the Para legal Personnel – Dinesh Reang and Social work Coordinator Mr Chandro Joy Reang. The Government school was not functioning and was in a poor



condition. Through their intervention, the village is now getting a new school building along with water facility. The Government has also sanctioned electricity and the work for the same has begun.



World Health Day was conducted in the same village and awareness on various Government Schemes in Health sector was given; this was followed by a free medical check up and 30 people benefitted from this.

**Sr Prema Misquith BS**  
Bethany Convent, Kathalcherra

## V U BETHANY COLLEGE, ARUNACHAL PRADESH - FIRST GRADUATION DAY



V U Bethany College celebrated its First Graduation Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018. The first batch of students returned to their Alma Mater to share their success. The batch of 54 students who had started their 'Transformative' journey in this college on 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, continued their pursuit of knowledge for Excellence and graduated with flying colors. There were 12 ranks among them under Rajiv Gandhi University in the final year 2016-17.

Congratulations to all the achievers and we hope they will be the Salt and Light of their region! Best wishes to Sr Noeline the Administrator, Sr Teresa Martis the Principal, Sisters and the Faculty of the College at the auspicious event.

Dr Chowna Mein, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh conferred the Degrees and Academic Medals were awarded by Sri Zingnu Namchoom- MLA of Namsai and Parliamentary Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri R.K. Sharma- Deputy Commissioner Namsai District, Shri Bijoy Talukdhar- ADC Namsai District, Rev. Fr Felix Anthony the Youth Director Miao Diocese, Chou Khok Manpoong- Ex MLA, and Sr Joy BS Provincial Superior of North East Province and President of Bethany Charitable Trust.



Staff reporter



## BIRD COMMUNICATES HERewith...

Alongside the construction work of the building that was going on in a full-swing, BETHANY INSTITUTE OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (BIRD) Umsning had some significant formal and informal moments.



**Inter- province Renewal Seminar for Bethany sisters**



**Blessing of the 2 new floors at BIRD**



**Livelihood training- Graduation day 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
11 trainees of 3 months tailoring course were  
awarded Certificates**



**Evaluation sessions of Northeast  
Provincial team**

**Initiating 'Bethany champions'  
Umsning unit**

### Our visitors



**Motivational workshops for the young-  
2 workshops were held**



**Sisters from NEP**



**Procurator General Sr Christine BS  
with her team of Auditors**



**Social analysis for Claretian students**



**Bishop James Thoppil  
of Kohima Diocese**



**Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati  
along with other guests**