

IN-TOUCH



Bethany Sisters
Northeast Province



Creating Synergy

A Newsletter of the Northeast Province of Bethany Sisters

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MESSAGE



Greetings of peace, joy and harmony to the readers of 'In Touch'.

Much water has flown under the bridge in the past 6 months. National scenario is disturbing. People are in election mode, as the largest democracy is preparing for General elections yet

again in 2019 to exercise their franchise in about 4 months.

May God bless our great country and save its democratic institutions so painstakingly built up.

On the other hand, Bethany is moving towards the centenary of its Foundation. There is a buzz all over. Bethany Sisters are preparing themselves spiritually to face this onerous landmark century that is! The three sentiments that evoke can very well be expressed in the words of our dear Pope Francis - "glance at the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope". Yes, this is what we need to do.

Bethany Congregation has developed an apt theme for the Centenary- "Let Bethany Grow, Let Bethany Flower, Let Bethany Bear Fruit". These were the words of our revered Founder the Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas, in his message to his spiritual daughters on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Bethany's Foundation. (Ref: To You My Daughters: L.No.163, P. 473)

Bethany Sisters will do well to delve deep into this theme. Bethany has grown for the nearly 98 years and the next 2 years will pass us by soon. Bethany needs to continue to grow, to blossom and to bear fruit in plenty, in the present times. Our concern should now be the 2nd century 2121! What legacy shall we leave behind for our coming generation, so that they can begin to build up the next century meaningfully?

Let us live always seeking and doing God's will - "Ecce Ancilla Domini"

Sr M Joy BS
Provincial Superior

EDITORIAL

Your Temperature Counts

Bethany has much to joyfully ponder and respond in preparation for her Centenary. The hundredth year is mainly to count the milestones crossed in the non centenary years and be grateful for all that God has done. To the extent God's Kingdom is built up in space and time the milestones will have meanings!

You know there is a constant dynamics of heat in a particular organism that marks its functionality. The thermoregulation of our body temperature is due to the inbuilt formula which you and I are incapable of altering. I wonder if God has designed our physique in such a 'scientific' manner what great by-products He/She expects from our living on earth?? You call it God or an Energy, there is an uncontrollable positive force strongly fanning the maturation of good; a plant for fruit or to become a food in itself, a creature for its constructive addition to the biosphere, a human being to be a receptacle of the love of God for the other, and what not??

One's imagination goes mad to fathom the depth and height that calls us to wonder as well as to act. Where and how is a question. Here and now, there's violation of human rights- we let the hungry die, we let the weak tortured, we let the shelterless refugee vanish in the blank, we let our country's Constitution get manipulated in the hands of the corrupt, all but with our own small 'good' reasons!

Yes, we are called to see to the maturation of our inborn energies in the service of humanity. As our Charism calls for a compassion based 'modus operandi' the expected outcomes shouldn't be impossible. There is more within us to bring out more, as we reach hundred. Of course that God-energy is within, and our temperature counts! Here is In-touch to tell you of a few such humble efforts!



Sr Clara Mendonca BS

VU BETHANY COLLEGE NAMSAI - THE SECOND GRADUATION DAY



V U Bethany College Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh is catered by Bethany Charitable Trust (BCT), Northeast Province. The Second Graduation Day of the college was held on 15th October 2018. The programme started with the academic procession in which the dignitaries namely, Shri Zingnu Namchoom, MLA – Namsai, Sr Joy BS, the Provincial Superior and the President- Bethany Charitable Trust, Dr Tapasya Raghav, IAS – D.C of Namsai, Sr Sandhya, the Asst. Provincial, Sr Noeline, the Administrator of the college, Sr Janet, the Principal, and the graduates were ushered with the accompaniment of the college anthem track to the venue. The prayerful lighting of the lamp provided a spiritual prelude.

The welcome address by Sr Noeline, the Administrator along with a symbolic gesture of presenting a Assamese Gamusa and a sapling each to the dignitaries was a pleasant note. Sr Joy BS the Provincial and the President of BCT

declared the Second Graduation Ceremony open. It was followed by the award of academic certificates to the 75 graduates of 2018 by Shri Zingnu Namchoom the chief guest. The Academic accolades to the 2 Gold medalists – Roman Tayeng and Chasuan Khamhua and the other 8 rank holders with a cash award and a citation were presented by the other dignitaries. Master Ken Kamthong was declared the 'Best Graduate of the year 2018.'

In his Presidential address Shri Zingnu Namchoom exhorted the graduates to enter into the world of challenges with determination and hard work. Sr Joy BS encouraged the graduates with words of wisdom from the Book of Proverbs, on carrying life forward with long confident strides and decisions without forgetting the roots of learning values. The sentiments of the Gold medalists evoked everyone's attention. Sr Janet, the Principal acknowledged the presence of all the dignitaries, guests and the graduates and thanked the sisters, faculty and the student council for their efforts to make the day a memorable one. The students then presented a musical- 'Reminiscing the journey' depicting the life of the graduates in the college which was enjoyed by all. The ceremony ended with the National Anthem.

Sr Janet Sylvia BS

VU Bethany College, Arunachal Pradesh

GOLD MEDALISTS



ROMAN TAYENG
1st RANK - HISTORY



CHASUAN KAMHUA
1st RANK - SOCIOLOGY

VU BETHANY COLLEGE AT THE ACADEMIC HEIGHTS

V U Bethany College Arunachal Pradesh created yet another page in its history as the University results - 2018 proclaimed louder the academic heights of the College making the institution proud and significant. It's a moment of pride as the college bagged two Gold medals in History and in Sociology and the other eight ranks in B.Com and in Humanities.

Roman Tayeng and Chasuan Khamhua from History and Sociology departments stood first in the University, gathering their coveted crowns while Sunnem Jugli, Arjun Deori, Twinkle Ronrang and Shiva Joshi bagged 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th ranks in Political Science, Heleni Khenloong bagged 3rd rank in History, Inao Phan Ong bagged 7th rank in Sociology, Banlai Wangpan bagged 9th rank in Geography and Siwimang Namchoom bagged 6th rank in B.Com.

Achieving accolades at the University level with four years of its establishment, the college is a big dream achieved. The initial batches have become trendsetters for the others to follow the academic path. The college today stands as a young institution under Rajiv Gandhi Central University- Itanagar, providing quality education to the youth of Arunachal Pradesh catering to 17 tribes from six districts. May God be praised and may Bethany bear abundant fruit!

 SUNNEM JUGLI 2nd RANK - POL. SC	 HELENI KHENLOONG 3rd RANK - HISTORY	 ARJUN DEORI 3rd RANK - POL. SC	 TWINKLE RONRANG 5th RANK - POL. SC
 SIWIMANG NAMCHOOM 6th RANK - B.COM	 SHIVA JOSHI 7th RANK - POL. SC	 INAO PHAN ONG SINGPHO 7th RANK - SOCIOLOGY	 BANLAI WANGPAN 9th RANK - GEOGRAPHY

Sr Janet Sylvia BS

VU Bethany College, Arunachal Pradesh

PARENTS DAY AT HOLY CROSS DHARMANAGAR



13th October was yet again a special day for Holy Cross Convent School Dharmanagar as it kept up the Parents' Day. Theme of the Celebration was 'Glory of God, Fullness of life'. Smt. Aditi Majumdar, Addl Magistrate & Collector North Tripura District was the Chief Guest; and Guests of Honour were Sr Edleburgh BS Provincial Councillor & Province Coordinator for Education and Shri Subrata Paul OSD Department of Education, Dharmanagar. A good number of significant persons, Fathers and Sisters from the neighboring missions, invitees, well wishers and Parents witnessed the luminous show.

The students depicted all the seven core values of BES (Bethany Educational Society) through varied display of talents. The Chief Guest in her address congratulated the Students on their splendid performance and applauded the Management for their excellence in imparting education. Sr Edleburgh stressed on imparting positive values and responsibility of the parents in educating their ward. Shri Subrata Paul on behalf of the Education department recognized the service of the Bethany and wished the Management bright success. The celebration ended with a beautiful message 'to heal the world'. Kudos to the young artists of Holy Cross Dharmanagar.

Sr Pushpa BS
Holy Cross School, Dharmanagar

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR COMMENCES AT MARY MOUNT SCHOOL

On 26th of October 2018, Mary Mount School inaugurated its 50th year. The inaugural ceremony began with a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration with Fr. James Zodinliana, Secretary to Bishop of Aizawl as the main celebrant. The function was blessed with the presence of the Chief Guest Mr R. Lalthanmawia- SDEO of Aizawl South, the Guest of Honour Sr Edleburgh BS, Coordinator for Education North-East Province.



The programme was marked with hoisting of Golden Jubilee Flag, releasing 50 balloons, lighting of diya and 50 candles carried by the students. As a tribute to the glorious past of the institution the students staged cultural dances, acts and songs.

The Chief Guest in his address recalled the successful ways in which the school has fulfilled its mission in imparting education, moral and spiritual values, and discipline to help leaders who will bring about a culture of peace and love in the society and in the country.

Sr Sylvia BS
Mary Mount School, Aizawl

Praying for the dear departed of our Sisters

Sr Therou Pao Marina
Sr Therese Simon
Sr Mestamary
Sr Jessie DSilva
Sr Juliana Gretta
Sr Caron

Niece
Mother
Father
Father
Mother
Father



Sr Suman
Sr Elicia Gonmei
Sr Dominica Siamliani
Sr Preetham
Sr Manjula

Mother
Father
Father
Brother
Mother



PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC TEMPER IN THE YOUNG

St Francis of Assisi High School took a tiny step towards promotion of scientific temper, research and innovation in the students by organizing a general exhibition in the school on the 16th of November 2018. It was indeed a dream come true as it was a long cherished desire to hold an exhibition of this type in the school.



Being a general exhibition it was divided into various categories - Science, Arts and craft. In science, students made

working models with minimum guidance from teachers and parents. What is really encouraging was the fact that all the working models really worked. It was amazing to see children explaining the construction and working of their models with confidence.

In craft section there was glass painting, T-shirt painting, Mizo culture (costumes, artifacts, houses, instruments etc.), and waste to wealth (making useful things from waste). This section was the most colourful one and had the largest number of participants too.

The English language and social sciences took a new and interesting look with the creative ways in which some of the common topics were brought out through display of charts and models, all by the students' fertile imagination.

This event is but a small step towards the goal- Education for fullness of life.

Sr Mary Naulak BS

St Francis of Assisi High School, Mamit

THE ENTERPRISING YOUNG AT ST JOSEPH VISWEMA

The Music Concert at St Joseph Hr Sec School

On 22nd September the young Josephites at St Joseph Hr Sec School, Viswema celebrated the Music Concert in support of starting music classes in the School. The students under the leadership of Sir Aman created beautiful memories for all. The entire campus was filled



with excitement as they performed their talent for music and passion for singing.

It was a joyful moment for all the parents and invitees to see their children performing on the stage through musical instruments and vocals. It was a thrilling moment to see the guest Band from Kohima who steered the stage and astounded the audience through their amazing performance. The event was compeered by Novicho Natso and Vikunu of Class IX. The musical day was concluded with a deep sense of gratitude to God for His constant support and help through the Principal Sr Harsha BS, the management and the staff.

Hostel Parents' Day

The first hostel parents' day at St Joseph's Girls' Hostel Viswema was held on 22nd September 2018. About 250 parents, sisters, catechists and the office bearers from various associations of St Joseph Catholic Church Viswema graced the celebration.



Sr Sulahela BS the Hostel Warden, accorded a warm welcome to all the parents and thanked them for their co-operation and collaboration in the formation of the hostellers. It was a solemn day when the hostellers displayed their talents in the presence of their parents through various cultural items. A parents' representative expressed his gratitude to the sisters for their love, care and service to the children entrusted to their care.

Sr Philomina Secundas BS & Sr Sulahela BS

St Joseph's convent, Viswema

'HOME MISSION' FOR INTEGRATED CARE OF FAMILIES



Home mission was organized at St Joseph the Worker Parish Kolasib and St Francis of Assisi Parish Mamit in Mizoram, and at Good Shepherd parish Kathalcherra and Holy Cross parish Depacherra in Tripura from 15th to 21st December 2018.

Fifteen sisters set out from Bethany Guwahati in 2 groups. Sr Mary Laldikzuali accompanied sisters in Mizoram. The Priests both at Kolasib and Mamit accompanied the sisters and blessed the houses. Sisters visited 140 families at Kolasib and 95 families at Mamit.

In Tripura 15 Sisters led by Sr Sandhya had a fruitful mission at Kathalcherra and Depacherra villages. At Kathalcherra there was a Bible camp organized by the parish for all the Catholic children. About 170 children from Class 5 to 10 were present. 6 of the sisters helped in animating the camp while the rest stayed in 3 villages.

At Depacherra 12 sisters stayed in 6 villages. Staying in the village in cold season was quite tough but the sisters didn't mind inconveniences. They spent time in visiting the families, praying with them, listening to them, praying over the sick and so on. A total 134 families were visited in Tripura. True, it's the simple villagers who teach us what life is!

Sr Veronica Z. and Sr Judith Pamei
Mizoram

CHRISTMAS AT CENTRAL JAIL, GUWAHATI



23rd December 2018 was a memorable day for the inmates of Central Jail Guwahati as they Celebrated Pre-Christmas. A short programme was organized by the Prison Ministry Team of the region, headed by Sr Laetitia UFS and Sr Rosia BS.

There was Celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Most Rev John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and Christmas play by Bethany Candidates. Archbishop in his message said Christmas is a story of love, forgiveness and hope. He stressed on the unconditional love of the 'Father' in sending His beloved Son to redeem us. Jesus came to the earth

for the whole humanity and for Him every individual is important, and that is the reason for His birth in the manger among the weak and the lowly. The presence of the Archbishop brought great comfort to the prisoners irrespective of their religion.

Bethany Candidates put up a short Assamese Christmas play and Sr Mavis BS gave an encouraging message. Refreshments were distributed to the inmates. The prisoners expressed that they long for Sundays when sisters would visit them and make them feel loved and cared for, which brings peace and solace to them.

On this occasion along with the organizers, Sisters of other religious congregations were also present. On 25th December, again the Sisters organized a Christmas meet at the prison, with Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr Thaddeus SDB. After the Mass he entertained the inmates with his magic show.

Sr Angela Gonmei BS
Bethany Convent, Guwahati



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO SR SUREKHA ON BEING AWARDED PhD

Sr Surekha BS successfully defended her Doctoral Thesis on the topic "Presence-Solidarity: A Paradigm for a Kenotic Mission- The Significance of Jesus Christ for India today in the Writings of Samuel Rayan and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza" under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Mohan Doss SVD at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV), Pune on 17 December 2018.

BETHANY WITH MIGRANTS AND SLUMS...A RIGHT STANCE INDEED



Girl-Child Day



Tailoring Graduation



BPS Annual Day



Christmas

Bethany has its ongoing project with the life of the slum dwellers of Guwahati and Silchar though working in a limited area but with an impact bearing stance.

Girl-Child Day

Bethany Social Service Centre (BSSC) Garchuk, Guwahati celebrated Girl Child Day on 8th September 2018 at Bethany School Hall. 120 girls from 11 Bethany Promotional Schools (BPS) located in the slum areas of Guwahati, participated in the celebration. Adv. Nandita Rabha was the Chief Guest.

The day was an occasion to promote gender equality. The girls from BPS exhibited their talents. Students of Bethany School also took part in stage performance. Every child was recognized and given a gift. Various games were conducted and winners were given prizes.

Skill training

On the same occasion of the girl-child day, 22 young ladies who had completed their tailoring course at Bethany Center were awarded certificates.

BPS Annual Day

It was held at Guwahati on 22nd December. The promoted students of the year 2018 from Guwahati BPS were given certificates by the chief guest Sr Joy Bs the Provincial Superior of Northeast Province. The students of the various BPS units put up a colourful programme.

There are a total 17 promotional schools currently, 11 in Guwahati and 6 in Silchar slums. In Guwahati 192 children and in Silchar 105 children have passed in annual examination 2018.

Christmas with neighbourhood

Bethany Guwahati organised a meaningful event to share the joy of Christmas with neighbourhood on 25th December. Adults and children gathered to listen to the message of Christmas shared through carols and a play put up by the Bethany aspirants. Sr Joy BS spoke on the occasion and everyone felt the sense of a larger caring family.

Staff Reporter

WORKSHOP ON ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SAFE MIGRATION AND NEW TRENDS IN MEDICINE



Fifty six participants from socio-medical apostolate of the Congregation gathered for a 5 day workshop from 18 to 23 Nov. 2018 at Animation and Renewal Center Panvel, Maharashtra. They were given traditional welcome by the students of Bethany Convent School, Panvel. 7 sisters represented the northeast province.

The president of the Inaugural programme the Auxiliary Bishop of Mumbai, Rev Alwyn D'Silva exhorted the gathering in the words of Pope Francis to take the issues of migration and human trafficking seriously. Sr Shanti Priya, the General Coordinator for socio- medical apostolate in her address called upon the sisters to

respond actively to the realities of life of the poor.

There were efficient resource persons who had ground reality experience to enlighten on topics like anti human trafficking, bonded labor, safe migration and new trends in medical field. The reports from different province coordinators and the stories from the field were enriching. A day's field visit to the red light area of Mumbai, Kamatipura and Grant road and a home for children of these ladies run by Good Shepherd Sisters gave a live experience of the plight of women in brothels.

The entire programme of knowing the painful realities of the people set the participants on fire to light the lives of people they serve.

Sr Leena Serrao BS

Avila Convent , Lumding

EVENTS FROM BIRD

Health Promoters' Training



BIRD (Bethany Institute of Resource Development), Umsning hosted its first residential training for the lay persons from 3 to 10 September 2018. 17 young



people including 14 women and 3 men coming from the villages of Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya attended the 8 days Training of

Health Promoters. The participants hailed from varied occupational background, but all with one single objective of learning more on alternative health care.

The topics for the training were- Basic Anatomy & Physiology, Common illnesses, First Aid, Su-jok, Acupressure, Herbs and Home remedies. The Bethany Sisters-Sr Maria, Sr Benedicta Aranha, Sr Lolia Juliana and Sr Teresa Liani, with their competence in different fields were the resource persons.

The 17 participants were awarded certificates at the valedictory with Mr Nicky Kharthangmaw the Vice president of Umsning Town Durbar as the Chief Guest.

A Seminar on Study-Skills

A course was organised for 20 students from 18-23 Oct. 2018. Fifteen girls from Holy Cross Girls Hostel Silchar of class 9 and 10 along with 5 Bethany candidates had an interesting course with a special emphasis on study habits and learning Mathematics. Other



than inputs from Bethany sisters the 2 external trainers-Mr Suklang Kharthangmaw and Mr Lurshai Kharnaio, both teachers from St Michael's Hr Sec. School Umsning, took sessions on 'Enjoying Maths' and 'English made easy'.

A workshop on Good governance



One day workshop on good governance was held on 13th Oct 2018. Twenty eight persons from Umsning Parish who are church leaders at different levels along with Fr Tobias, Parish Priest had sessions on the theme - Leaders as agents of change. Advocate Peter A Dohkrut, Shillong High Court, was the resource person. The purpose of the seminar was to promote transparency in governance through the conscious role of the citizens.

Staff Reporter



Sr Clara Mendonca BS participated in the **National Lawyers Forum of Priests & Religious** held at Pastoral Orientation Center, Kochi on 8-10 November 2018. She was one of the panelists to speak on 'Law in relation to Social Action'.

ANNUAL RETREATS

There were 4 retreats on Bethany Charism and Spirituality at different places in October and December 2018 directed by by Sr Selina BS, Sr Edleburgh BS, Sr Mary Laldikzuali BS and Sr Ruth Mao BS. There was also a special retreat guided by Sr Inigo SSA at BIRD, Umsning in October 2018.



Retreat on Charism

Retreat guided by Sr Inigo SSA



NEP Visitation by Superior General Sr Rose Celine BS accompanied by General Councillor Sr Lilitta BS



LOVING TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHEAST PIONEER

Sr Mary Misericors BS was one of the four pioneers who brought Bethany to the Northeast part of India as the Congregation opened its house at Kolasib in 1962 on the Lurshai hills, presently Mizoram. She served as the superior of the Madonna Convent Kolasib and later she served in Bangalore Province, and was a member of Jyothi Nilaya community Bengaluru from where she breathed her last in the 69th year of her religious life. May God grant you dear sister eternal rest!

SR MARY MISERICORS BS
02.05.1932 – 16.07.2018