



SDB Shillong

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Salesians of Don Bosco | Events of the Province



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PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

As the Psalmist proclaims, “*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever*” (Psalm 107:1), we are reminded of the importance of giving thanks to the Lord—for His goodness and for the countless blessings we receive from Him and through others. Even in the midst of our daily difficulties and challenges we face, we still have many reasons to be grateful. Much of this depends on our attitude.

Gratitude is more than a feeling—it is a mindset that shapes how we face life’s challenges. While some may focus only on the negative, a grateful heart sees the good things around, even in difficult times. As we continue our apostolic activities, journeying together, encouraging and supporting one another, gratitude keeps us grounded and united. As religious and believers, we are called to live lives rooted in gratitude: gratitude to God, the source of all blessings, and gratitude to those who paved the way before us with great sacrifice and commitment. We need to recognize with deep appreciation the pioneering missionaries and our senior Confreres whose dedication, sacrifices, and love helped lay the foundation for the mission we now carry forward. Their lives were living examples of faith and service.

In particular, we wish to honour our senior and elderly Confreres who are still with us. They have contributed so much and have given the best part of their lives to our Salesian mission. Many laboured in silence, without seeking recognition, driven solely by the love of Christ and the inspiration of St. John Bosco. They established institutions and churches, developed mission centres, and their presence still among us today is a source of encouragement and inspiration for us all. We have much to learn from their wisdom and experience. It is both fitting and necessary to express our gratitude and appreciation for their invaluable contributions and for who they are in our midst. For this reason, we have set aside 26th October 2025 as a day of gratitude and celebration in their honour at Savio Juniorate, Mawlai, Shillong. We invite everyone to join us in this act of thanksgiving. For those who cannot be present, I request you to remember them in your prayers especially during the Holy Mass. Their presence is a powerful reminder that the mission is built not just on great actions, but on daily fidelity lived with love. Today, their good example challenges and inspires us to remain true to our own calling.

Lastly, gratitude is the bridge that connects the past, present, and future. It grounds us in our faith, links us to those who have gone before us, and strengthens our commitment to the mission that lies ahead. Let us keep cultivating a spirit of gratitude in our hearts—never forgetting the blessings we have received and always honouring those who made them possible. In doing so, we remain faithful to our identity and mission, ensuring that the spirit of generosity and love continues to guide our lives and our apostolic endeavours. May God bless you all.

With best wishes and prayers,
Fr. John Zosiama SDB
Provincial

THE VISIT OF FR. SILVIO ROGGIA

The Salesian Province of Shillong (INS) was blessed with a visit by Rev. Fr. Silvio Roggia, the General Councilor for Formation. After animating the Five-Day Meeting of the South Asian Formation Commission (SAFC) in Goa, he made his maiden visit to Shillong province after being elected as the Formation Superior though he visited earlier with the formation team. Fr. Silvio was in the province from 6 to 9 August 2025.

We thank God for the gift of Fr. Silvio Roggia as the General Councillor for Formation and we specially thank him for choosing Shillong Province to be among the first provinces to visit extensively after assuming office.

Fr. Silvio Roggia arrived at the Provincial House on 6 August 2025 (Wednesday) at about 6:00 pm. In a happy coincidence, the Provincial Council was having its monthly meeting on the same day. Thus at 7:00 pm he addressed the council members. In his short address, he spoke mainly on three areas: (1) the synergy of the Salesian life and apostolate; (2) the Salesians represent the Church in the world; and (3) the Salesian life as a communion in diversity. The members had sometime for interaction.

After the holy Rosary, he gave the goodnight talk to the whole community. There was a solemn welcome before supper since the council members were having meeting when he arrived.

On 7 August 2025 (Thursday), Fr. Silvio was in Sacred Heart Theological College (SHTC), Mawlai for the Inauguration of the Academic Year 2025-26. He was the main celebrant for the holy Eucharist. After the holy Mass he was present for the solemn inaugural programme where His Grace, Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Archbishop of Shillong was the Chief Guest. At about 3:00 pm Fr. Silvio visited Don Bosco Museum and concluded with tea in the Museum itself. At about 5:00 pm, he met and interacted with the student brothers of

SHTC and at 6:15 pm he met the staff of the same community. After dinner he returned to Provincial House.

On 8 August 2025 (Friday), Fr. Silvio began his journey to Don Bosco Aspirantate at Nonglakhiat in Ri-Bhoi District at 6:00 am. He celebrated the Holy Mass; and after breakfast, he addressed and interacted with the aspirants. After meeting the boys, he addressed and interacted with the confreres of the community which was followed by lunch.

After lunch Fr. Silvio travelled to Upper Shillong where he visited the Generalate and the Novitiate of the Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco (VSDB), one of the members of the Salesian Family. At about 4:00 pm he addressed the Novices of the VSDB Sisters.

The Novices at Sunnyside were eagerly waiting for Fr. Silvio's visit. The latter arrived at about 5:30 pm and began his interaction with them. He joined the evening prayer, dinner and night prayer with the novitiate community. He gave them goodnight talk and returned to Provincial House for the night rest.



On 9 August (Saturday), Fr. Silvio celebrated the Mass for the community of Provincial House and the school Principals who were present for their two-day meeting. During the homily he shared his reflection on the roles of the Salesians in the educational set-up. After breakfast he went to Pastoral Centre where we have our Aspirants who completed their Class XII and above.

The Visitor reached Pastoral Centre at 8:30 am and addressed the aspirants. At 9:30 am he left for Salesian Training Centre (STC) to meet the student brothers doing college studies. After a short meeting and interaction, he proceeded to Savio Juniorate, Mawlai.



Savio Juniorate, Mawlai is the Apostolic School with over 180 boys. Fr. Silvio arrived at about 10:00 am and the boys gave him a solemn welcome with songs, a choir and band pieces. He then addressed and interacted with the apostolic boys which was followed with a meeting with the confreres of the community. He took lunch with the community and then returned to Provincial House.

At 3:00 pm of the same day, the Visitor left for Bellefonte, the Novitiate of the FMA Sisters. He met the novices at Bellefonte and had tea with them. Fr. Silvio then visited the Novices at Mawroh who belong to the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) Congregation, another member of the Salesian Family. After a short interaction with them, he returned to Provincial House.

He joined the community for evening prayer, spiritual reading, the Rosary prayer, supper and gave them his last goodnight talk. He thanked the community and the province for the hospitality he received and encouraged everyone to keep up with the Salesian life and apostolate.

On 10 August (Sunday), after a light breakfast at 6:00 am, he left for Amguri which is the Prenovitiate house of Dimapur province (IND). Fr. Deli Kapani, the Vice Provincial of Dimapur, had come on the previous day to fetch Fr. Silvio.

We thank God for the gift of Fr. Silvio Roggia as the General Councillor for Formation and we specially thank him for choosing Shillong Province to be among the first provinces to visit extensively after assuming office.

– Fr. George Shining Lyngkhoi



DIACONATE ORDINATION AT SHTC

Twenty-four young men were ordained on 1 July as deacons for the Catholic Church in India during a solemn liturgical ceremony held at the Sacred Heart Theological College Shrine in Shillong. His Grace, Most Rev. Bernard Laloo, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Shillong, presided over the ordination.

Among the newly ordained are 21 members of the Salesians of Don Bosco and three from the Third Order Regular (TOR), all of whom have completed years of spiritual, theological, and pastoral formation in preparation for their ministry.

During his homily, Bishop Bernard Laloo emphasized the sacred responsibilities entrusted to the diaconate, describing the deacon as one who



serves at the altar, proclaims the Word of God, and lives a ministry of charity. “The Deacon stands as a bridge between the Sanctuary and the world — proclaiming the Gospel, preparing the Sacrifice, and offering a visible witness of Christ the Servant,” he said.

The ordination Mass included rich liturgical and cultural elements, reflecting the diversity of the Church in India. The newly ordained deacons publicly expressed their gratitude to parents, formators, superiors, and the many individuals who supported their journey.

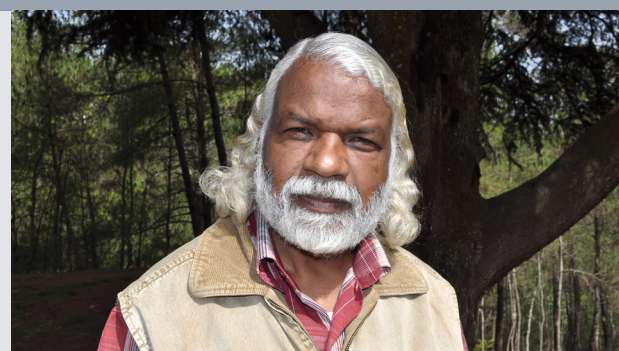
As the Church faces growing challenges in fostering vocations, the ordination of these 24 deacons is seen as a hopeful sign for the future. They now step into ministry with a commitment to serve God’s people through humility, compassion, and missionary zeal.

– Cl. Raphael John Avinash

ADIEU TO FR. ZEPHYRINUS BAXLA

The Province of Shillong is deeply saddened by the passing of Fr. Zephyrinus Baxla, who left for his eternal reward on 7 July 2025 at Loordippa, Jharkhand. His funeral took place on 9 July 2025 in the same place.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Davis Maniparamben, the Provincial of Delhi, and to all the confreres—especially the Salesian community of Kereng—for their fraternal support and care during Fr. Baxla’s illness. Their readiness to assist and their warm hospitality were a true expression of Salesian brotherhood. Special thanks are due to Fr. Valerius Lakra, Rector and Parish Priest of Kereng, and to Fr. Jeevan Lakra, Vice Provincial, for their thoughtful arrangements for the funeral.



As we grieve the loss of our dear confrere, we also give thanks to God for the many blessings He worked in and through the life of Fr. Zephyrinus Baxla. His was a life of faith, commitment, and tireless dedication to the poor, the marginalized, and especially to the Adivasi people and their cultural identity.

Fr. Baxla was born on 12 August 1951 in Anabiri village, Rajawal Parish, Jharkhand. He was the second among seven children of the late Mr. Benjamin Baxla and Mrs. Susanna Ekka. From a young age, he felt called to religious life and joined the Apostolic School in Gumla in 1967. He continued his formation at Savio Juniorate, Mawlai from 1968 to 1972, and entered the Novitiate at Sunnyside, Upper Shillong in 1972. He made his First Profession on 24 May 1973.

After completing his Philosophy at Christ King College, Shillong in 1975, he did his Practical Training at Savio Juniorate from 1975 to 1977. He pursued Theology at Sacred Heart Theological College (SHTC), Shillong from 1978 to 1981, making his Final Vows in Dibrugarh on 11 May 1979, and was ordained a priest on 31 December 1981 in Rajawal.

As a young priest, Fr. Baxla was sent to Rome for specialization in Biblical Studies, where he earned a Ph.D. Upon returning, he taught Scripture at SHTC, Shillong. His colleague, Fr. Varghese Palatty, fondly recalled:

“As a professor, he refused to take the scholarly position, but challenged his students to consider the consequences of what they learned. Like the prophetic literature he taught, he encouraged everyone to be a prophet. His classroom was never just a place of instruction—it was a space of inspiration.”

Beyond his intellectual brilliance, Fr. Baxla’s life was marked by his deep compassion for his people, especially the poor and the marginalized. He not only recognized their needs but also upheld their dignity. From 1996 onwards, he devoted himself to the Bhagitoli region, offering pastoral and social assistance. Alongside his teaching responsibilities, he tirelessly worked for the revival and promotion of Adivasi language and culture in Jharkhand.

Born into humble beginnings, Fr. Baxla chose the path of the Gospel—a life of service, solidarity, and sacrifice. He became more than a priest; he was a true father to the tribal Adivasi communities. He walked with them, listened to their struggles, defended their dignity, and celebrated their heritage. He believed that evangelization and cultural affirmation go hand in hand.

In times when indigenous identities were often silenced, Fr. Baxla stood firm—reviving the Kurukh language, fostering tribal pride, and rekindling a sense of belonging rooted in faith, tradition, and language. Yet, his mission was not only about preserving culture; it was about building a future. Through decades of educational service, he raised generations of young people who found in his schools not just learning, but hope. His classrooms became spaces of liberation, his presence a light in forgotten places.

His ministry was grounded in reality—never distant, never detached. He was not afraid to speak truth to power, nor to get his hands dirty for the sake of justice. Since 2019, he spent most of his time at Loordippa, Bhagitoli, where his passion for the Kurukh language and culture continued to burn brightly.

In July 2024, when his health declined, he was urged to return to Shillong for treatment. Yet, he chose to remain with his people, preferring their company and love to comfort and care elsewhere. It was among them that he breathed his last—a shepherd who never abandoned his flock.

To the Salesian family, Fr. Zephyrinus Baxla was a brother who embodied Don Bosco’s dream—a priest close to the young, to the poor, and to those on the peripheries. To the Church in Jharkhand, he was a pioneer of inculturation, a man of pastoral courage and unwavering faith.

May his legacy continue to live on—in every child who reads Kurukh, in every youth who dares to dream, and in every village where hope still burns because one man believed in their worth.

May his soul rest in the peace of Christ.

INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Sacred Heart Theological College (SHTC), Mawlai opened the doors to a new academic journey with the solemn Inauguration of the Academic Year 2025-2026 on Thursday, 7 August 2025, in a spirit of gratitude, reflection, and renewed commitment to theological formation.

The programme commenced at 9:00 am with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Sacred Heart Shrine, presided over by Rev. Fr. General Councillor for Formation, who also served as the Guest of Honour for the occasion. This spiritually enriching celebration set the tone for the day's events, reminding through the Gospel, the extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit and how Jesus qualified Peter to be the head of the Apostles.

Following refreshments, the Inaugural Ceremony began at 10:30 am in the Sylvanus Sngi Memorial Auditorium. The ceremony opened with a Hymn to the Holy Spirit and the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the light of wisdom and knowledge. These were followed by a beautiful Prayer Dance performed by the ITLR (Integrated Training for Laity and Religious) students, creating a reverent and vibrant atmosphere.

Rev. Dr. Jose Vettath, Vice Rector of SHTC, led the Scripture Reading and Prayer, after which Rev. Dr. Sunil Barla, Rector of SHTC, extended a warm welcome and felicitated the esteemed guests. The Annual Report was presented by Rev. Dr. Jose

Anikuzhikattil, Vice Director of SHTC, offering insights into the college's academic, spiritual, and formational activities over the past year, and highlighting future plans. Musical performances by the Second-year, First-year, and Third-year Baccalaureate students added depth and joy to the event, enriching the spiritual and communal spirit of the gathering.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the Inaugural Address delivered by Rev. Dr. Stephen Mavely, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of Assam Don Bosco University. His thought-provoking reflections on the role of the Scripture in shaping transformative pastoral agents offered much inspiration to the faculty and students alike.

Rev. Fr. General Councillor for Formation, as Guest of Honour, shared a powerful message on the importance of formation rooted in the values of the Gospel and the charism of Don Bosco. His presence emphasized the global relevance and unity of the Salesian formational mission.

Another notable moment was the release of newly published books by Dr. Jose Anikuzhikattil Risterland Maiong. These publications reflect the scholarly contributions emerging from the theological community at SHTC. Rev. Dr. John Zosiama,



Provincial of SDB-INS and Moderator of the Governing Board, and Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Archbishop of Shillong, both addressed the gathering with encouraging messages calling for academic excellence and pastoral commitment in the service of the Church.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Rev. Fr. Timothy Gangmei, Registrar of SHTC, and a Concluding Prayer led by Rev. Sr. Rosa Pyngrope FMA, Provincial of FMA-INS. The final Hymn to Don

Bosco echoed the spirit of the Salesian Family. The ceremony was gracefully anchored by Bro. Joyal and Bro. Salmon, whose skilled compering maintained the solemnity and joy of the event.

The day concluded with lunch in the SHTC Dining Hall, fostering fraternity and collegiality among guests, staff, and students.

The inauguration of the Academic Year 2025-2026 was not only a ceremonial beginning, but also a profound call to journey forward with faith, dedication, and the mission to embody Christ in today's world.

– Cl. Hubert Lyngdoh

THREE-DAY RETREAT FOR VENDRAME AND PASTORAL CENTRE ASPIRANTS

A three-day retreat for the aspirants of Vendrame and the Pastoral Centre concluded at the Pastoral Centre on 17 July morning, leaving participants spiritually renewed and strengthened in their vocational journey.

The retreat, held from 13 to 17 July, was guided by Fr. Gedwin Warbah under the theme 'Availability for Christ.' The sessions invited the young men to reflect on their call to religious life through openness, surrender, and commitment.

On the opening day, Fr. Gedwin encouraged the aspirants to cultivate a spirit of listening, urging them to remain attentive to God's voice amid daily life. The second day highlighted the need for surrender—laying aside personal ambitions in order to embrace God's plan with humility. A special moment came with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which gave the participants an opportunity for healing and spiritual renewal.



The final day turned to the importance of daily commitment expressed through prayer, community living, and missionary zeal. The retreat ended with a Holy Mass, celebrated with joy and gratitude, where the aspirants expressed their renewed purpose and clarity in following Christ.

Participants described the experience as a spiritual milestone, reminding them that true availability to Christ means offering one's life fully to God and His people—with faith, courage, and love.

– Cl. Rangdabiang Lyngdoh

CONFRERES HOLD FIRST AND SECOND ANNUAL RETREATS

The first two Annual Retreats for the Confreres were successfully held from 30 June to 5 July and 6 to 12 July 2025. The retreats provided participants with an enriching spiritual experience marked by reflection, renewal, and fraternity.



The sessions were animated by Fr. T.C. George SDB of the Bangalore Province (INK), whose availability and dedication were warmly appreciated by all. His talks, marked by depth and simplicity, inspired the confreres to a deeper commitment to their vocation and mission. Participants expressed gratitude for his engaging style and the spiritual insights he shared.

Special thanks were extended to the Vice Provincial and the Pastoral Centre community for their efficient organization and hospitality, which ensured the smooth conduct of the retreats.

The twin retreats served as important moments of grace and growth, strengthening the confreres in their journey of faith and service.

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL HOSTS INSPIRING INTERACTION WITH FR. PATRICK WARJRI

The hostellers of Don Bosco Technical School (DBTS), Shillong, were treated to an inspiring evening on 19 July during an interactive session titled 'Interaction with a Zealous Missionary of Argentina: Fr. Patrick Warjri.'

A proud past pupil of DBTS and now a dedicated Salesian missionary in Argentina, Fr. Patrick Warjri was warmly welcomed by Fr. Saji, Rector of the community. In his introduction, Fr. Saji recalled Fr. Patrick's humble beginnings as a student of the institution and shared a proud moment of recognition—that a street in Patagonia, Argentina, has been named after Fr. Warjri in honour of his missionary service. The announcement drew loud applause from both students and staff.

Taking the stage, Fr. Patrick spoke with sincerity and passion about his vocational journey – from his early student life at DBTS to his missionary experiences in Argentina. He shared candid stories of doubt and perseverance, while also painting a vivid picture of his ministry among the youth in



Argentina. His testimony highlighted the cultural richness of the region, the challenges of adapting to a new language and lifestyle, and the deep joy found in pastoral service.

The session was interactive, with students eagerly asking questions on missionary life, sacrifice, and vocational discernment. Fr. Patrick responded with warmth and honesty, leaving participants enriched with valuable lessons on faith, courage, and service.

The evening concluded with expressions of gratitude and inspiration. For the students of DBTS,

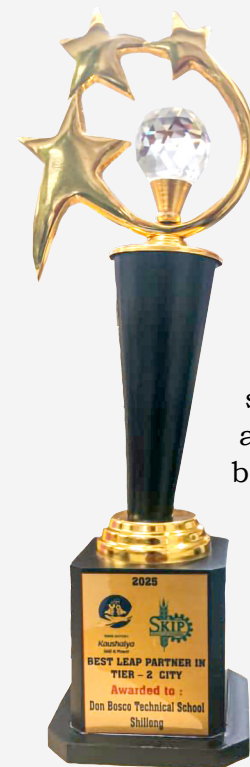


the encounter with Fr. Patrick was more than an event—it was a powerful reminder that with love, faith, and dedication, one can make a lasting impact on the world.

– Cl. Sniauwshngain Papang

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS BEST LEAP PARTNER BY TATA MOTORS

Don Bosco Technical School, one of Tata Motors' esteemed training partners, was honoured with the Best LEAP Partner Award in the Tier-2 City category during the Management Development Programme (MDP) held in Pune on 24 - 25 July 2025. Fr. Shiningstar Dkhar sdb, the Principal, accepted the award on behalf of the institution and its community.



The recognition highlights the Institute's commitment to delivering high-quality training and



achieving outstanding training outcomes under the LEAP (Learn, Earn and Progress) initiative. Tata Motors commended the school for its consistent excellence in skill development and its impactful contribution to the automotive training ecosystem.

– Fr. Shiningstar Dkhar

ST. XAVIER'S PATHALIAGHAT WINS THIRD PRIZE AT NER NCC BAND MEET

St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Pathaliaghat, a Don Bosco Institution, made history as it clinched the Third Prize at the prestigious North Eastern Region (NER) NCC RDC Band Competition 2025, held at Digboi College, Assam on 25 July.

Representing the Silchar Group under the 13 Tripura Battalion NCC, a contingent of 45 students, comprising both boys and girls, showcased their musical and marching prowess in a tough competition featuring seven top teams from across the North East.

Significantly, this year marked Tripura's debut in the elite NCC Band Competition, making the achievement all the more noteworthy. Each



participating team presented a 7-minute drill, combining precision marching, synchronized routines, dynamic drum solos, and stirring patriotic tunes that echoed the values of discipline, unity, and service that the National Cadet Corps (NCC) stands for.

St. Xavier's Band impressed the panel of judges - five Army officers and four Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) - with their coordination, musical excellence, and disciplined execution, earning a final score of 85.6, and securing a proud third-place finish. "This is a proud moment not only for our school but also for the entire state of Tripura," said the NCC Caretaker Officer (CTO), who commended the team's dedication and months of rigorous preparation. The students performed with heart, spirit, and discipline - and that made all the difference.

— Fr. Babu Stephen

YAR ORIENTATION PROGRAMME IN DELHI

The Don Bosco Young at Risk (YaR) Leaders' Orientation Program 2025, themed 'Justice for Young People', was held at SPCI House, New Delhi, from July 29–31, bringing together 27 Salesians, lay collaborators, and leaders from across India. The program began with a lamp-lighting ceremony and reflection by Fr. Joseph Manippadeth, urging resilience, while speakers like Mr. Om Prakash Vyas stressed the urgent reforms needed in child protection systems.

Over three days, ten experts delivered sessions on juvenile justice, child safeguarding, grassroots empowerment, and legal frameworks, with significant



contributions from Salesians and child rights advocates. Key themes included migrant children's vulnerabilities, cyber safety, resource mobilization, and the use of technology like the Hoelink DIGI system for child care. Exposure visits to Don Bosco Ashalayam and Snehalya gave participants practical insights into successful YaR interventions.

The event also featured a research report launch on Adverse Childhood Experiences, followed by certificate distribution and a cultural outing, Delhi Darshan. Inspired by the sessions, participants returned with renewed commitment to lead, defend, and serve vulnerable youth across India.

Fr. Alexius Dkhar, member of INS province YaR Commission, attended the programme.

SOUTH ASIA FORMATION COMMISSION (SAFC) MEETING IN GOA

The annual meeting of the South Asia Formation Commission (SAFC) was held from 1 August, 2025, at the Don Bosco Provincial House in Odxel, Goa. This important gathering brought together Formation Delegates and Vice Provincials from all Salesian Provinces across South Asia for a period of prayerful reflection, sharing, evaluation, and strategic planning, guided by the deliberations of General Chapter 29 (GC29).

The meeting was animated by Fr. Silvio Roggia, General Councillor for Formation, along with his team from Rome—Fr. Jose Kuttianimattathil and Br. Raymond Callo. Fr. Roggia emphasized the shared responsibility at the heart of Salesian formation. "Formation is the responsibility of every Salesian," he reminded the delegates, encouraging them to become mentors and guides in helping young people to discern and embrace their religious vocation.



During the sessions, SAFC reaffirmed its commitment to forming Salesians who are deeply rooted in Christ, attentive to the signs of the times, and wholeheartedly committed to accompanying young people, especially those most in need. Fr. Jeevan Lakra, Vice Provincial and Formation Delegate, participated in the meeting, along with the Provincial, who was present for the first two days. In light of the insights and directions from SAFC, the INS Formation Commission—under the leadership of the Vice Provincial will now develop a strategic plan to implement these deliberations and lines of action in our province for this year 2025-26.

SEMINAR ON PLENARY INDULGENCE ENLIGHTENS THE FAITHFUL AT SIAHA

As part of the ongoing Centenary Year celebrations of the Diocese of Aizawl, a seminar on Plenary Indulgence was held at Siaha Parish on 2 August, drawing an active participation of the faithful. The series of seminars across different parishes are being animated by diocesan priests to help the people deepen their spiritual life.



At Siaha, the main animator was Fr. James Zodinlana, Parish Priest of St. Thomas, Ramhlun, Aizawl. He gave a clear and inspiring presentation on the meaning, conditions, and spiritual value of plenary indulgence. His sessions invited the faithful to see indulgence as a path to renewal and a means of participating more fully in the mercy of God.

Participants expressed that the seminar was enriching and greatly beneficial to their faith journey. The program strengthened the Centenary celebrations by fostering deeper awareness and devotion among the people of Siaha.

– Fr. Robert Makri

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION & ROAD SAFETY & CYBER CRIME AWARENESS AT DBS THENZAWL



An Arts and Crafts Exhibition was organized on 4 August, showcasing creative works prepared by students of different classes under the guidance of their teachers. Each class presented unique assignments, reflecting talent and imagination. Parents attended the event in large numbers, valuing and appreciating the efforts of both students and teachers. The exhibition proved to be a rich learning experience, encouraging creativity and teamwork among the students.

On 22 August, four officials from the Thenzawl Police Department conducted an awareness programme on road safety and cybercrime at Don Bosco School, Thenzawl, for students of Class VII to X.

The officials stressed the importance of wearing helmets, holding valid driving licences, following the legal driving age,



and avoiding drunk driving. They also highlighted issues related to cybercrime, including cyber theft, online bullying, and the POCSO Act, while warning about the consequences such as imprisonment, fines, and disqualification from government jobs.

The programme was informative and beneficial, leaving a lasting impact on the students.

– Fr. Mark Thanglamtuang

ANNUAL SCHOOL EXHIBITION AND PSYCHOMETRIC TEST AT DON BOSCO SCHOOL, SILCHAR

The Annual School Exhibition at Don Bosco School, Silchar, held on 5 and 6 August, showcased the creativity and talent of over 800 students from Classes V to XII. Exhibits covered a wide range of subjects including Science, Social Science, Art, Culture, and Environmental Studies, reflecting the students' curiosity and dedication.

The event began with a solemn inaugural ceremony attended by distinguished guests, followed by a keynote address encouraging holistic education and creativity. A cultural presentation highlighting the heritage and tribal diversity of the Barak Valley added colour and vibrancy to the occasion.

Visitors explored the various galleries displaying scientific models, artistic works, and cultural exhibits, along with segments on Yoga, Martial Arts, and traditional cuisine. The exhibition drew appreciation from parents, guests, and neighbouring schools for its organization, educational value, and the impressive effort of both students and teachers.

Don Bosco School, Silchar, conducted a Psychometric Test for students of Class XI and XII on the 28 and 29 of August 2025. This initiative was part of the school's



career guidance and counselling program, aimed at equipping students with deeper self-awareness to make informed academic and career choices.

The primary aim of the psychometric assessment was to help students explore their strengths, interests, abilities, and values. Provide a scientific basis for career decision-making. Assist students in identifying career paths aligned with their personality traits and aptitudes. And to promote self-awareness, which is critical for long-term personal and professional development.

The psychometric test conducted by Don Bosco School, Silchar, was a successful and insightful program that laid the foundation for purposeful career planning. By blending scientific assessment with personal counselling. The school has empowered its students to make well-informed, confident, and meaningful decisions about their futures.



ANNUAL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' MEET 2025

The Annual Three-Day Principals' Meeting of Don Bosco Schools in Shillong Province was held from 7 to 9 August 2025 at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong. Coordinated by Fr. Babu Stephen, Delegate for Education and Culture, the gathering brought together 35 principals from Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, and the Barak Valley, along with the Provincial and his Council.

The meeting opened on the evening of 7 August with a simple yet meaningful inaugural ceremony. Fr. John Zosiama, the Provincial, warmly welcomed the participants, acknowledging their hard work and commitment. Fr. Babu Stephen invoked God's blessings for the success of the gathering.

The first session, led by Fr. Babu, presented comprehensive school statistics covering student enrolment, teaching, and non-teaching staff across the province's 35 institutions. The second session, led by Fr. John Zosiama, offered valuable insights from GC 29.

On the second and third days, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. John and Fr. Silvio Roggia, General Councillor for Formation. Principals

shared best practices and strategies, fostering mutual learning. Fr. Babu also presented the 2025 Board Examination results for Classes X and XII, commending the schools for their strong performance.

Special sessions included:

- Financial Management & Documentation – Fr. Genesis Wanniang
- Centralized Uniforms & Notebooks Policy Review – Fr. Saji Stephen & Br. Regi
- Education to Faith – Fr. Barnes Mawrie
- Poverty Eradication Mission – Fr. James Thyrniang
- Clubs and Movements in Schools – Fr. Babu Stephen

Discussions also covered preparations for the NECDBS Conference to be hosted in Shillong from 5 – 8 November 2025. The exchange of ideas, experiences, and challenges over the three days greatly enriched the participants, fostering collaboration and a shared sense of mission.

The meeting concluded on the afternoon of 9 August with a concluding message from Fr. Jeevan Lakra, Vice-Provincial, and a vote of thanks by Fr. Sawlus Kharpran. The active participation and fraternal spirit of the principals ensured the success of this significant annual event.

– Fr. Babu Stephen



SOUTH ASIA SALESIAN BROTHERS MEETING IN NEW DELHI

The South Asia Salesian Brothers National Delegates Meeting was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, New Delhi, on August 8–9, with 10 delegates participating. The gathering, marked by prayer, reflection, and fraternal sharing, focused on the mission of Salesian Brothers today. Key sessions included Fr. Davis Maniparamben's talk on effective Salesian witness, updates from SPCSA, and best practices to promote the Brotherhood vocation. SPCSA Secretary Fr. Johnny delivered a keynote on leadership



roles for Brothers, sparking meaningful discussion. The meeting concluded with gratitude, renewed unity, and a reaffirmed commitment to Don Bosco's mission across South Asia.

SEMINAR AND NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY AT BAIJALBARI, TRIPURA

There were two days of program, 9 and 10 August 2025 at Don Bosco Centre Baijalbari Parish, Khowai, Tripura. The 1st day on 9 August the program was for adult men and women of the parish, a Seminar on 'Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church' lead by Fr. PJ Joseph from the Peace Centre, Don Bosco Nandan Nagar. Many participation have participated at the program. The program started after the Holy Mass at 11:00 am and ended after lunch at 4:00 pm.

The 2nd day of the program was on the 10 of August a 'National Youth Sunday'. A number of youth of the Parish participated at the program. One of the resource persons was O.C. Jugal Tripura, a police officer of Baijalbari Police Station. He organized a program on 'Drugs and Laws'. The program began at 10:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm.



– Fr. Merkush Ishwary

HEALTH AND BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT DON BOSCO SCHOOL, AGARTALA

Don Bosco School, Agartala, in collaboration with the Health Department, West Tripura, and the State Blood Transfusion Council, organized a Health Camp and Blood Donation Drive to promote wellness and encourage voluntary blood donation. The program on 9 August was inaugurated with a lamp-lighting ceremony graced by Chief Guest Dr. Alak Dewan, Joint Director of Health, along with other dignitaries, followed by a cultural dance performance by students.

The camp offered free eye screenings, dental check-ups, and a blood donation drive under the

theme “Donate Blood, Save Lives.” In his address, Dr. Dewan highlighted the role of youth in fostering health awareness, while the Vice Principal commended the efforts of the medical teams and the enthusiastic response of parents, students, and staff.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks, marking the program as a successful step toward building a healthier and more socially responsible community.



WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATED AT MANDWI AND PITRA



Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Mandwi, marked World Indigenous Peoples Day 2025 with the theme ‘Indigenous People and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping the Future.’ The celebration on 10 August featured scripture reading, cultural presentations, a keynote by Fr. Blasius Kujur, and a rally through Mandai Kairai promoting pride in indigenous identity. Students also showcased their talents through drawing and weaving competitions, affirming their



commitment to preserving culture while embracing modern challenges.

At Don Bosco School, Pitra, the same day was observed with a colourful assembly where students

wore traditional attire. Sr. Theresa Sangma delivered an inspiring address, urging youth to value diversity, foster unity, and preserve indigenous heritage. Both programs concluded with a pledge to uphold cultural identity and promote harmony in society.

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS AT DBS RAMBRAI

The Nongstoin Traffic Branch conducted a Road Safety Awareness Programme at St. John Bosco Higher Secondary School, Nongkroh – Rambrai, during the morning assembly on 12 August. Headmistress Sr. Marylang Suchiang welcomed the team and stressed the importance of safety education for students.

Shri S. Wanniang, In-charge of the Traffic Branch, addressed the students on key aspects of road safety, including the use of licenses, helmets, and seatbelts, as well as vigilance while walking or crossing roads. His practical guidance highlighted how accidents can be prevented by simple adherence to traffic rules.

The session was well-received, inspiring students to practice safe habits and spread the message of responsible road use within their families and communities.



79th INDEPENDENCE DAY BRINGS LAURELS TO DB SCHOOLS

St. Xavier's School, Pathaliaghat, proudly participated in the 79th Independence Day Celebration on 15 August 2025 at Charilam Ground. As part of the festivities, the school took part in the Inter-School Marchpast and Patriotic Dance Competition with great enthusiasm and spirit of patriotism.

Two marching contingents – Boys and Girls – represented the school in the Marchpast, while a vibrant team of 180 dancers showcased their patriotic fervor through a colorful dance performance. The highlight of the day was the Girl's Contingent of St. Xavier's School, which bagged the First Prize in the Marchpast Competition, bringing pride and joy to the institution.

Don Bosco School, Bishramganj, also made its presence felt in the grand celebration by participating with two contingents (Boys and Girls) and a strong team of 150 dancers. Their outstanding performance in the Patriotic Dance Competition won them the First Prize, while their Girl's Contingent secured the Second Prize in the Marchpast Competition.



Meanwhile, in another celebration held at the CYLA Playground, Lawngtlai, Don Bosco School, Lawngtlai, took part with its school contingent and NCC cadets. The NCC unit brought immense pride by securing the First Prize in Marchpast for the fifth consecutive year, a remarkable achievement that reflects their discipline and commitment.

Adding to these laurels, the NCC contingents of Don Bosco School, Siaha, Mizoram, participated in the Independence Day celebration at Siaha and proudly bagged the First Prize for the fourth consecutive year. Their determination, hard work, and discipline have consistently borne fruit, bringing honor to their school and the Don Bosco family.

These achievements across different venues stand as a testament to the dedication of the teachers who guided the students with tireless effort and the students whose passion, discipline, and hard work brought glory to their schools. Truly, the Don Bosco Institutions continue to shine, upholding the values of patriotism, teamwork, and excellence.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone—teachers, students, and supporters—who contributed to these milestones of success.

– Fr. Stephen Babu



1ST INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS AND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT MAWPDANG

St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, in collaboration with the Mawpdang Sports Club, hosted the 79th Independence Day Celebration and 1st Inter-School Sports Grand Finale 2025. The event began with flag hoisting by Chief Guest Shri G.L. Mawlong, followed by the National Anthem and a vibrant March Past featuring seven school contingents.

Patriotic acts by four schools showcased India's heritage, while friendly football matches and musical performances added to the festive spirit. The football final saw St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School, Shillong, defeating Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Smit, 2-0.

Competition winners included Tynring Higher Secondary School (Boys' March Past), Don Bosco Secondary School, Mawkasiang (Girls'



March Past), and St. Mary's Mawpdang (Patriotic Act). With over 2,000 attendees, the event celebrated patriotism, sportsmanship, and community spirit.

SALESIAN MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE HELD IN SHILLONG

The annual Missionary Formation Course for the Salesian Family of South Asia was inaugurated at Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong. The course brought together 20 Salesians and 15 sisters from various provinces of India and concluded with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from September 10-21, 2025.

Fr. Joseph Palamthattel (Sunny), SPCSA Delegate for Missionary Animation, coordinated the program, which included expert-led sessions, visits to formation houses, mission centres, and villages, as well as interactive experiences with diverse



communities. The sessions and other enriching missionary dimensions highlighted key aspects of GC 29, focusing on Salesian formation and mission. This annual course aims to deepen missionary understanding and foster practical engagement in Salesian works across South Asia.

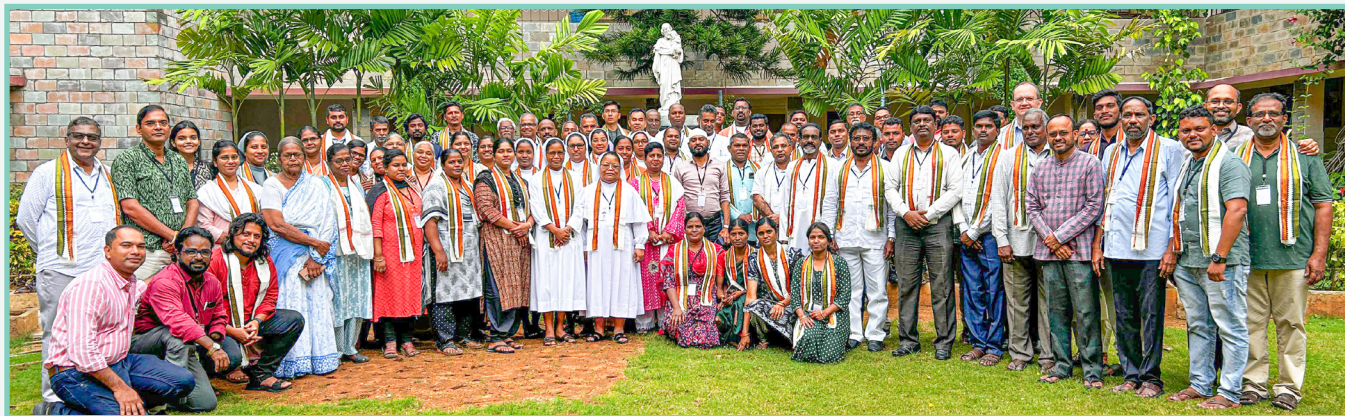
NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS HELD IN HYDERABAD

The National Convention for Migrant Workers was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad, on August 16-17, 2025. The two-day gathering brought together Salesians, priests, religious, lay collaborators, and NGOs actively involved in the welfare of migrants across India.

The convention featured presentations and discussions aimed at strengthening collaboration and enhancing initiatives to support migrant workers and their families. Representing the

Shillong Province, Fr. Alexius Dkhar took part in the deliberations, contributing insights from the region's context.

The event reaffirmed the Church's commitment to accompany and empower migrants, while fostering joint efforts to address their challenges with dignity and justice.



BOSCOM EXECUTIVE MEETING IN SONADA

The Executive Members of BOSCOM, South Asia, organized their meeting in Salesian College, Sonada from 19 to 21 August 2025 with the theme 'Artificial Intelligence in the Salesian Mission'. Fr. Joseph Pauria, Provincial of Kolkata, celebrated the Holy Eucharist on the inaugural day. The General Councillor for Social Communication, Fr. Fidel Maria

Orendain, addressed the gathering virtually, highlighting the importance of authentic communication rooted in genuine relationships rather than mere gadget management. Fr. Michael Makri, Executive Member, was also present for the meeting.

The three-day meeting engaged in discussions on media formation, youth accompaniment, and integrating AI responsibly into Salesian education and pastoral outreach. They concluded with a renewed commitment to harnessing technology responsibly while prioritizing human values, creativity, and service to young people.



SCHOOL WEEK AT NONGSTOIN

St. Peter's Higher Secondary School, Pyndengrei, celebrated its much-awaited School Week 2025 from 19 to the 22 of August with great enthusiasm and participation from both students and teachers. The four-day event was filled with a variety of activities that highlighted the talents, creativity, and sportsmanship of the students.

The celebrations began with exciting games and sports events such as Chess, Checkers, Arm Wrestling, Ludo, Obstacle Race, Tug of War, Tic Tac Toe, Mawpoint, Fill the Bottle, Tunnel Ball, Longest Line, Roll Ball, Chicken Race, and Square Ball. These activities provided healthy competition and brought out the spirit of teamwork and determination among the students.

In the field of Arts and Education, students showcased their creativity and intellectual skills through Sketching, Class Decoration, Stone Painting, Face Painting, Declamation, Essay Writing, Short Story Writing, Poetry Writing & Recitation in Khasi and Hindi, Science Exhibition, Spelling Bee, and Short Film Making. These events offered a platform for students to express their ideas and talents in diverse ways.

The Cultural Varieties were the highlight of the week, featuring colourful and entertaining performances such as Fancy Dress, Fashion Show, Cosplay, Singing, Dancing, Food Fest, Flower & Salad Arrangements, and the much-anticipated Mr. & Miss St. Peter contest. These events brought



vibrancy and joy, leaving the audience thoroughly entertained.

Overall, the School Week 2025 was a grand success, fostering unity, discipline, creativity, and sportsmanship among the students. It was a memorable occasion that reflected the all-round development and vibrant spirit of St. Peter's Higher Secondary School, Pyndengrei.

The celebration concluded with the gracious presence of Fr. Genesius Wanniang, Provincial Economist, who delivered an inspiring speech and imparted his blessings to the students. Also present was Fr. Marius Thongni, the Secretary of the School, who addressed the gathering with his words of encouragement. Their presence and messages added great value to the closing ceremony, marking the event as a truly unforgettable one.

DON BOSCO SIAHA AND LAWNGTLAI EXCEL AT KALA UTSAV 2025

Don Bosco Schools of Siaha and Lawngtlai shone at Kala Utsav 2025, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Education to promote arts and cultural heritage among students.

At the district-level event held at the DRDA Office, Don Bosco School Siaha bagged top positions, including first prizes in Vocal Music Solo, Traditional Storytelling, and Visual Art (2D), along with other awards in dance and 3D art categories.

Meanwhile, Don Bosco School Lawngtlai won the first prize in Cultural Group Dance, impressively integrating traditional dances of Mizoram while also showcasing talent in folk song, orchestra, and painting.

The achievements highlighted the creativity and cultural pride of the students, bringing laurels to their schools and contributing to the vision of *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*.



CATHOLIC STUDENTS FAITH FORMATION FOR DON BOSCO SCHOOLS IN TRIPURA



The Don Bosco Schools of Shillong Province in Tripura organized their first-ever Catholic Students' Faith Formation Weekend from August 22-24 at Don Bosco School, Naba Sardar. The programme, themed "With Don Bosco, Pilgrims of Hope", brought together over 350 Catholic students from Classes V-XII and 19 parishes across Tripura.

The three-day event, coordinated by Fr. Remol Marak, Fr. Nicholas Sun, Fr. Jitendis, and the VSDB sisters, began with a solemn Eucharist and featured enriching sessions on Catholic faith, Mass celebrations, and interactive competitions such as quizzes, gospel singing, tableaux,

painting, and speeches. Pre-novices of Herma added vibrancy with music, liturgy, and dance.

The programme concluded with a valedictory Eucharist presided over by Fr. Babu Stephen, prize distribution

for competition winners, and heartfelt reflections from students and staff. Organizers expressed gratitude to all schools, staff, and students for their support. The weekend marked a milestone in the faith formation of young Catholics in Tripura, fostering unity, joy, and commitment to living the Gospel.

CAREER GUIDANCE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OF TRIPURA

A two-day Teachers' Training on Career Guidance for Don Bosco Schools of Tripura was held on August 29-30 at St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Pathaliaghat, coordinated by Fr. Babu Stephen, Principal of St. Xavier's.

Eighty teachers from eight Don Bosco schools participated in the sessions, which were animated by Fr. Gabriel Karunaraj SDB, National Director of Don Bosco Job Placement Network, Fr. Joseph D'Souza Kamalesh SDB, Professor at Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, and Mr. Sebi Chacko, Regional Coordinator, AIDA-Don Bosco Job Placement Network, Dimapur.



The training focused on the importance of career guidance, higher education opportunities, youth employment, and practical tools for mentoring students. Participants appreciated the interactive methodology, expertise of the resource persons, and the relevance of the inputs for the needs of Tripura.

DON BOSCO SMIT ALUMNI MEET 2025

Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Smit, held its Alumni Meet 2025 on 30 August as part of the school's Jubilee celebrations, which will conclude in November. The event brought back over 250 former students to their alma mater, a place that has shaped more than 1,200 graduates since its establishment. The gathering was graced by former Principal Fr. Edmund Gomes, who recalled the school's humble beginnings and urged alumni to form a vibrant association, and current Director Fr. Sylvester Synrem, who blessed the gathering with prayers.



Principal Br. Albert Longley Dkhar inspired the alumni to see themselves not merely as former students but as lifelong torchbearers of Don Bosco's vision. A highlight of the meet was the formal election of the first office bearers of the Don Bosco Smit Alumni Association, with Mr. Baggio Kharumnuid as President, who pledged to strengthen ties with the school and organize regular programmes. The day was filled with cultural performances, songs, and dances by alumni, teachers, and students, creating a joyful atmosphere of family spirit and gratitude. The alumni left the campus deeply moved, pledging

to uphold Don Bosco's legacy of reason, religion, and loving-kindness in their lives and to work together for the growth of their alma mater and the wider community. With hearts full of gratitude, they affirmed that the spirit of Don Bosco remains alive in them and that the Jubilee is a reminder that their past is blessed, their present full of opportunities, and their future filled with hope to continue the dream of Don Bosco.

5TH INTER-DON BOSCO SCHOOL SPORTS MEET 2025 AT MANDWI

The 5th Inter-Don Bosco School Sports Meet 2025 was held on 30 August at Don Bosco School, Mandwi, with eight Don Bosco schools of Tripura participating in football and volleyball competitions. The event was inaugurated with a colourful ceremony attended by dignitaries, teachers, students, and well-wishers, while the St. Xavier's School Band, Pathaliaghat, added vibrancy to the occasion.

The matches, held at Gourmani Ground and the Mandwi campus, showcased spirited performances, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Don Bosco School, Mandwi, emerged as double champions by winning the Girls' Volleyball and Girls' Football tournaments. Other winners included St. Xavier's School, Pathaliaghat (Boys' Volleyball) and Don Bosco School, Agartala (Boys' Football).



The dignitaries lauded the players for their discipline and determination and congratulated the winners. The well-organized event concluded with the distribution of trophies and a vote of thanks, leaving behind a memorable day of unity, talent, and youthful enthusiasm among the Don Bosco Schools of Tripura.

DIOCESAN PRIEST BECOMES A SALESIAN COOPERATOR



The Salesian Family joyfully welcomed Rev. Fr. Sylvester Nongsiej, a diocesan priest of Nongstoin Diocese, as a Salesian Cooperator. Fr. Sylvester made his solemn Promise on August 31, 2025, at Umdang Parish, in the presence of Fr. Jose Anikuzhikattil (AL), Provincial Delegate, Fr. Marius Thongnibah, Rector and Parish Priest of Pyndengrei, Sr. Happyline Shadap, FMA

Delegate, along with FMA Sisters and a large gathering of Cooperators from Shillong Province.

A native of Mawranglang village under Mawkyrwat Parish and presently the Parish Priest of Umdang, Fr. Sylvester expressed deep joy and gratitude to God on this memorable occasion.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT ORGANIZED BY ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE

St. Anthony's College, Shillong organized a large-scale annual Youth Retreat from September 5-7, 2025, at St. Anthony's School grounds, attracting over 6,000 participants. The event, led by Fr. Daniel Poovannathil and his team, focused on themes of faith, repentance, healing, and the Holy Spirit, featuring confessions, Eucharistic adoration, and testimonies. The retreat was considered a significant success, providing a spiritually uplifting experience for the young people.



DON BOSCO SCHOOL, LAWNGTLAI HOSTS SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR STUDENTS

The spiritual retreat kicked off on 10 September 2025 with a solemn ceremony at St. Francis Xavier Church. Students gathered eagerly to embark on this spiritual journey. Rev. Fr. Nelson Joseph, the Principal of Don Bosco School, Lawngtlai, warmly welcomed Rev. Fr. James Zodinliana from St. Thomas Church, Aizawl, the Retreat Preacher, setting the tone for a meaningful experience. The school's Brass Band added to the festive atmosphere with a welcome song and devotional hymn. The Retreat was attended by Fr. John Changsan, the Parish Priest, Fr. Synshar, the Vice Principal, and the dedicated faculty members, underscoring the school's commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of its students.

The retreat from 10 to 12 September 2025, brought together students from classes 7 to 12 for the first time. Rev. Fr. James Zodinliana's inspiring reflections and thought-provoking sessions addressed life issues relevant to young people in today's world, with a special focus on the Mizoram context. The students actively participated, singing lively hymns and engaging deeply with the spiritual themes.



Classes 9-12 attended the retreat on 10 and 11 September 2025, accompanied by their teachers, while classes 7 and 8 participated on 12 September. The retreat concluded with the students taking resolutions, reflecting their newfound understanding and commitment to their faith and life situation. Both students and parents



expressed heartfelt appreciation for the retreat, acknowledging its positive impact.

The retreat has set a promising precedent, providing a platform for students to deepen their spiritual growth and to look at their life situation. Don Bosco School Lawngtlai looks forward to continuing its commitment to holistic education, nurturing the faith and spiritual life its students. Heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. James Zodiniana for his inspiring reflections and guidance during the Spiritual Retreat. His dedication and passion have left a lasting impact on our students, fostering spiritual growth and renewal.

– Fr. Nelson Joseph

STUDENTS DAZZLE IN 'SISTER ACT' MUSICAL



Students of St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School staged the famous musical 'Sister Act' on the school premises in a three-day production that concluded on 13 September. The lively performances, filled with music, humour, and energy, captivated audiences and showcased the students' remarkable talent.

The event was attended by students from neighbouring schools, heads of institutions, and parents, who lauded the creativity and teamwork behind the production. The musical highlighted the school's dedication to fostering artistic expression and cultural appreciation among its students.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) FOR YOUNG SALESIANS ON YOUTH MINISTRY



The Training of Trainers (TOT) on Youth Ministry, organized by Don Bosco Youth Animation – South Asia (DBYA-SA), was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong, on September 19–20, 2025. Twenty-eight young Salesians from the provinces of Delhi, Kolkata, Dimapur, Guwahati, and Shillong took part in the two-day programme.

The sessions, animated by Fr. Patrick Lepcha (Director, DBYA-SA) and other resource persons, focused on the vision of Salesian Youth Ministry, mentoring and

accompaniment, Educative Pastoral Plans, counselling, vocational guidance, and new forms of ministering to young people, including engagement in digital spaces.

A highlight was the evening encounter with youth, where participants listened to the expectations of young people, followed by cultural performances. The programme concluded with a fraternal gathering and an exposure trip to Laitlum Canyon and Wahrashi Falls.

Participants expressed deep gratitude to DBYA-SA and the Shillong Provincial community for the enriching and well-organized experience.

– Fr. Ritonbor Kharkongor

MEETING OF PROVINCE SECRETARIES IN KOLKATA

The secretaries of the provinces of South Asia gathered for their annual meeting in Provincial House, Kolkata, from 18 to 20 September 2025. Fr. Joseph Pauria, the Provincial, was the main celebrant and the chief guest for the inaugural Mass and the inaugural programme on 18 September. In his online animation talk, Fr. Biju Michael, the Regional, spoke on the significant role





of the Secretaries in the provinces. Other sessions were on rules and procedures regarding irregularities in religious and priestly life, documentation and archives, and updates by some SPCSA networks.

On 19 September, the participants had the privilege of going for a pilgrimage to our Lady's

Shrine in Bandle. The secretaries were also given time to share their strength and challenges in carrying out their ministry. Our province secretary Fr. George Shining also attended the meeting and it was an enriching experience for everyone.

JOINT ANNUAL QUINQUENNIAL IN SILOAM



The annual quinquennium for the young Salesians of Shillong and Guwahati provinces was held jointly at Siloam from September 22 to 25, 2025. A total of 49 participants took part in the gathering, including 47 priests and 2 Salesian brothers, all within five years of their perpetual profession.

The sessions were animated by Fr. Albert Johnson, (INT), who guided the young confreres through various themes related to Salesian life and apostolate. Each day included

input sessions in the morning and evening, while the afternoons were dedicated to group work and sharing of experiences.

The participants expressed deep appreciation for the enriching programme, which strengthened fraternity and renewed enthusiasm for Salesian mission and ministry. Special gratitude was extended to Fr. Jeewan K. Lakra, Vice Provincial of Shillong, and Fr. Bivan R. Mukhim, Vice Provincial of Guwahati, for the meticulous planning and coordination of the event. The annual quinquennium continues to be an important moment of reflection, renewal, and accompaniment for young Salesians as they grow in fidelity to their vocation and commitment to the mission of Don Bosco.



CONVOCATION CEREMONY HELD AT DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL



Don Bosco Technical School (DBTS) hosted its ITI Convocation Ceremony on 30 September 2025 at 10:00 AM in Anton Hall, to celebrate and felicitate the graduating trainees of the ITI, Functional Vocational Training (FVT), and Tata LEAP programs.

The event was graced by Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh, MLA of East Shillong Constituency, as the Chief Guest, and Shri John Lakiang, MCS, Director of the Directorate of Employment and Craftsmen Training (DECT), Meghalaya, as the Guest of Honour. The ceremony was also attended by alumni, well-wishers, and members of the Don Bosco community.

Fr. Shiningstar Dkhar, Principal of DBTS, warmly welcomed the gathering and congratulated



the graduating trainees for achieving a 100% pass percentage. A total of 281 trainees were felicitated during the ceremony. Special recognition was given to trade toppers and trainees with 100% attendance, who received awards for their dedication and performance.

Fr. Sagi Stephan, Rector of DBTS, encouraged the graduates to stay connected by joining the Association of Past Pupils, and to continue contributing meaningfully to society. In his address, Shri John Lakiang commended DBTS for its outstanding work in imparting quality education, skill training, and instilling the dignity of labour, thereby creating meaningful opportunities for the youth of Meghalaya.

Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh, in her keynote speech, urged the graduates to leverage their skills to build their own enterprises and contribute to local development in their own villages rather than solely depending on government employment.

The solemn occasion was enriched by vibrant cultural performances presented by the students of DBTS, making it a memorable day for all in attendance.

– Fr. Shiningstar Dkhar

For You I Study
For You I Work
For You I Live
For You I Am Ready
Even To Give My Life



ANNUAL CONCERT AT SUNNYSIDE

The Mission: Dare to Dream and Hope,' was staged by the Novices of St. Dominic Savio Novitiate, Don Bosco Sunnyside on 16 August, 2025, at 2.00 pm, in the auditorium of the house.

The play was to honour our Father and Founder St. John Bosco, as the day was also kept to remember his birthday. The program was blessed to have Bah Ronnie V Lyngdoh, MLA of Myllem Constituency, as the chief guest. In his speech, he thanked Fr. Paul O Lyngkot, the Rector and Novice Master, for inviting him to be the chief guest, he also did praise the works of the Salesians and the performance put up by the Novices.

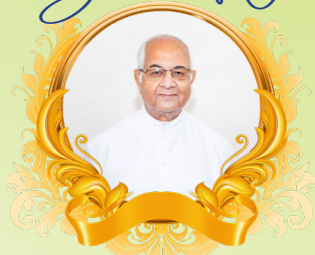
The audience for the programme consisted of Sisters, Brothers, Seminarians, VSDB novices, Oratory children, well-wishers and neighbouring Catholic families.

The play which came to an end at around 04.30 pm was followed by tea and departure.

– Cl. Aldo Kharkongor



Golden Jubilee of Ordination Golden Jubilee of Profession



Fr. Anthony Lendakadavil



Fr. James Mani Oravunkachalil

Silver Jubilee of Ordination



Fr. Benedict Kharlyngdoh



Fr. Paul O. Lyngkot



Fr. Festus E. Shadap



Fr. Peter Syiemlieh



Fr. Giles Thyрниang



Fr. Christopher Warlarpih

Silver Jubilee of Profession



Fr. James Doungel



Fr. Gabriel Jalong



Fr. Thomas Marak



Fr. Lucas Murmu



Fr. Gervasius Nongkseh

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