**Message from the Provincial**

Dear fellow Brothers in Holy Cross and Friends,

My heart leaps with happiness and joy as we are going to publish Province News Note with significant information and events. As I continue to pen down a few lines for the News Notes, I feel blessed and reminded of the mercy of God that has been bestowed on each one of us and at large in the Province. First and foremost, I express my deepest sentiments of thanks to our former Provincial, Bro. Subal Lawrence Rozario, C.S.C., and esteemed teams for their dedication and tremendous work for the province for the past years.

‘Holy Cross is not a human work but God’s very own.’ As we look back and reflect on our identity and the status of our province for 25 years, I deeply feel God has been working through each one of us through our ministries for the past 25 years. As we rejoice in the 25th Jubilee of St. Joseph Province, we give thanks for the countless blessings, accomplishments, and spiritual growth we have experienced. From humble beginnings, the province has blossomed into a vibrant and dynamic community deeply rooted in the mission of education, evangelization, and service to the most vulnerable. This milestone invites us to reflect on the past with gratitude and look toward the future with a renewed commitment to our charism.

In line with our dedication to the values of the Congregation, we held the Provincial Election, entrusting new leadership with the responsibility to guide us through the next chapter of our journey. We are grateful for the grace of discernment and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to lead our newly elected leaders as they shepherd the community with wisdom and humility.

The Provincial Chapter—2024 was another pivotal event. Representatives came together to discuss, discern, and set the course for the Province’s mission in the coming years. The Chapter offered a space to reaffirm our commitment to Blessed Basil Moreau's & Jacques-François Dujarié’s charism, address the challenges of the present, and envision a future rooted in faith and service.

The Diang, Mariam Ashram Retreat Centre is another milestone in our province. Slowly, the existence of its infrastructure comes into being. Hopefully, it will be inaugurated very soon. I believe it will be a beacon of spiritual renewal, offering a space for deep reflection and encounter with God. As we encourage more faithful to take advantage of this sacred space, we pray that all who come here may experience the peace and healing that only God can give.

Finally, the Rajshahi Juniorate has seen significant developments, nurturing our young aspirants' spiritual and academic formation. It is here that young men are formed in the academic and spiritual dimensions of religious life and their commitment to the mission. Let us pray to our young aspirants and their Formators that they may be strengthened in their calling to serve the Church and the world.

With prayers and fraternal regards,



Bro. Ripon James Gomes, C.S.C.

Provincial Superior, St. Joseph Province

This page is for the New Provincial Administration

Their Photos, Names, and Designations

Silver Jubilee Celebration of Saint Joseph Province (1998 – 2023)

**Br. Jony Gregory CSC**

The Saint Joseph Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated its Silver Jubilee on May 23-24, 2024, at St. Joseph Provincial House, Dhaka, marking 25 years of service and ministry since its establishment in 1998. The two-day event, themed “Celebrating the Legacy, Reappraising the Present, and Reinforcing the Call: ‘Come, Follow Me,’” brought together Holy Cross brothers, clergy, and lay members to honor the province’s significant contributions.

The celebration commenced with a Holy Eucharist led by His Excellency Archbishop Kevin Randall, Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh. A panel discussion followed, featuring prominent speakers, including Bishop Emmanuel Kanon Rozario and Dr. Catherine Daisy Gomes. The day continued with cultural performances and discussions aimed at fostering a sense of unity among the Holy Cross community.

On the second day, participants gathered to bless and inaugurate a Jubilee Monument, followed by an opening ceremony that included speeches of appreciation and the unveiling of a souvenir magazine. Testimonials from former leaders and members of the province highlighted the province’s educational and social impact, particularly through institutions like St. Gregory’s High School and St. Joseph Technical School.

The event concluded with a closing Eucharist and the renewal of vows, led by Archbishop Bijoy N. D’Cruze, OMI. The final segment included a Papal blessing and an honorary recognition award presented to distinguished individuals for their service. Brother Subal Lawrence Rozario, CSC, Provincial of Saint Joseph Province, expressed heartfelt gratitude, underscoring the ongoing mission of the province in Bangladesh.

**Provincial Election**

**Br. Racy Godino, CSC**

The Provincial Election of St. Joseph Province was held on July 17, 2024, with the presence of Br. Nee Bertrand Wayoe, CSC, Fourth Assistant General, Fr. KJ Abraham, C.S.C the Province of North East India and other distinguished guests including Fr. George K. Rozario, CSC, Provincial of Sacred Heart Province, and Fr. Jose Pepe Ahumada, former District Superior of Chile and Peru. The assembly welcomed them warmly before proceeding with the election.

The election for the new Provincial and Councilors was conducted, following the constitutional guidelines for voting. A total of 93 members were present, with only Bro. Sylvester Mridha absent due to illness. Bro. Nee explained the election rules, stating that a candidate must secure an absolute majority (47 votes) to be elected.

The nominees for the Provincial Election were:

1. Bro. Ripon James Gomes, CSC

2. Bro. Nirmal Francis Gomes, CSC

3. Bro. Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC

4. Bro. Kajol Linus Costa, CSC

In the first ballot, Bro. Ripon James Gomes, CSC, was elected as the new Provincial of St. Joseph Province with 50 votes. The assembly congratulated him, and Bro. Ripon expressed his gratitude, asking for support and prayers in his leadership.

Following the Provincial election, Bro. Binoy Gomes, CSC, was elected as the first councilor with 50 votes in the second ballot. In the subsequent vote, Bro. Nirmol Gomes, CSC, was elected as the second councilor with 59 votes. Both accepted their roles, and the assembly congratulated the newly elected Provincial and councilors.

**Provincial Chapter – 2024**

**Br. Dibos Rozario, CSC**

On July 18, 2024 at 8:00 AM the Provincial Chapter began through a Eucharistic Celebration offered by Rev. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, Provincial of Sacred Heart of Jesus Province in the chapel of Pabitra Krush Jnanatapasalaya. At 9:00 AM Estimable Bro. Lawrence Subal Rozario, CSC, President of the Chapter conducted roll calls of the delegates and declared the Provincial Chapter officially open. The theme of the Provincial Chapter – 2024 was *‘The Competence to See and Courage to Act.’* It consisted 61 delegates and 3 observers from the province. Res. Fr. Simon Fernandez, CSC, Representative of Province of North East India and Res. Bro. Bikash Victor D’Rozario, CSC were the moderators throughout the chapter. Rev. Bro. Nee Bertrand Wayoe, CSC, the Fourth Assistant General was a Representative of General Administration, Rome. A few invited guests were Hon. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, Provincial of Sacred Heart of Jesus Province and also Estimable Fr. Jose Pepe Ahumada, CSC (Immediate past District Superior of Chile and Peru)

There were four committees in the chapter, and those were the Formation and Vocation Committee, Religious Life Committee, Apostolic Life Committee, and Government & Finance Committee. The Committees took their time to revise and add to the previous chapter’s legislation. These legislations were discussed, modified or accepted in the general sessions. Many previous decisions were revised or appreciated and some new decisions were proposed as well.

After completing all the legislative work in the chapter, on 22 July 2024, Monday, at 05:00 pm there was a closing ceremony of the provincial Chapter - 2024. There Bro. Subal Lawrence Rozario, C.S.C., Provincial Superior & President of the Provincial Chapter – 2024, addressed the gathering and thanked all the members of the province for their support and assistance for the six years during his leadership, and declared the closing of the Provincial Chapter – 2024.

At 06:30 pm there was a closing mass ministered by Rev. Fr. Simon Fernandez, C.S.C. There were some religious from our neighbouring communities in the ceremony. After the final blessing Bro. Nee Bertand Wayoe, C.S.C., Fourth Assistant, ministered to the oath-taking ceremony for Bro. Ripon James Gomes, C.S.C. (Provincial Elect). Finally, Bro. Subal Lawrence Rozario, C.S.C. handed over the responsibility to Bro. Ripon James Gomes, C.S.C. Provincial Superior, by giving documents and keys to the province office.

**Servant of God Columba O’Neill**

Congregation of Holy Cross (Archive)

On November 5, 1848, John O’Neill was born in Mackeysburg, Pennsylvania, to parents Michael and Ellen (McGuire). He had a congenital foot abnormality and was baptized subconditione just two days later because he was not expected to live. To the surprise of the family, John lived seventy-five years—a life marked by humility and a healing sanctity.

John’s mother spent hours with John each day teaching him to walk. He eventually developed a fairly graceful gait, but it became clear, much to John’s humiliation, that he was physically unable to follow his father and work in the coal mines. John, however, took an interest in shoemaking and went to work as an apprentice for the village cobbler.

During his teenage years, John began to feel “a special call to serve God in the religious state.” Amid the trials of the Civil War, he set out west as an itinerant cobbler, eventually making it all the way to California. During his travels, he attended daily Mass and spent long hours praying as he continued to discern his calling.

The first religious community to which John applied rejected him due to his foot condition. Nevertheless, just as he was not discouraged earlier in life when he could not work in the mines, John remained confident in his sense of calling.

From a fellow cobbler, Johnnie O’Brien, he learned of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Animated by what he heard, John wrote to Fr. Augustin Louage, C.S.C., the Novice Master at Notre Dame. After meeting with Fr. Louage and Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., Superior General, John joined Holy Cross on July 9, 1874 and on September 8 entered the novitiate and took the name Columba.

n August 15, 1876, Br. Columba professed Final Vows in the Congregation. Having taken the “fourth vow” of mission, Br. Columba volunteered to go to India or Molokai to help Fr. Damien with his work among the lepers. Instead, he was assigned to Saint Joseph's Orphan Asylum in Lafayette, Indiana. It was there that the first cures were reported through Br—Columba’s prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

By the summer of 1885, Br. Columba returned to Notre Dame and was assigned to the campus shoe shop, where he remained until his death from influenza on November 20, 1923. On the one hand, not much happened during this thirty-eight-year span at Notre Dame: a brother living a simple life, praying in secret, making and repairing shoes. He seldom stepped foot outside of Notre Dame, except for occasional visits to his sister in Keokuk, Iowa.

On the other hand, Br. Columba's healing ministry spread far beyond the bounds of Notre Dame's campus. Around 1890, Br. Columba began producing and distributing images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and cloth badges of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which he distributed with instructions to pray a novena. Cures began to be reported throughout the South Bend area and beyond.

As word spread, Br. Columba became known as the “Miracle Man of Notre Dame,” just like his saintly confrere who he met, St. André Bessette, who was known as the “Miracle Man of Montreal.” Yet, he remained dedicated to his work as a cobbler. From his shoe shop, he would attend to the many students from campus, as well as the visitors who came from afar. He also wrote literally thousands of letters to those who wrote to him of their physical sufferings and requests for prayers and “favours” through his intercession to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

At his funeral, the Provincial Superior, Fr. Charles O'Donnell, C.S.C., described Br. Columba as “a miraculous man cut from an apparently un-miraculous cloth, he would lead thousands of individuals to experience intimately the healing love of ‘these Two Hearts’: The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

While widely recognized for his saintliness, Br. Columba’s cause took a backseat to other causes within the Congregation. Currently, work is progressing on his cause, with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend preparing the libellus to be sent to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

Servant of God Columba O’Neill, now joins our five other Holy Cross religious whose sanctity and virtue will hopefully one day lead to their canonizations, [Blessed Basile Moreau](https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/blessed-basile-moreau/), [Venerable Patrick Peyton](https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/servant-of-god-patrick-peyton/), [Servant of God Theotonius Ganguly](https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/servant-of-god-theotonius-ganguly/), [Servant of God Flavian Laplante](https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/servant-of-god-flavian-laplante/), and [Servant of God Vincent McCauley](https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/servant-of-god-vincent-mccauley/).

**Holy Cross Juniorate, Rajshahi**

**Brother Alex Martin Pereira, CSC**

With profound thanks and gratitude, we would like to inform you that St. Joseph Province in Bangladesh has opened a new formation house in Rajshahi Diocese for grades 9-10. The province marks a historic moment with this new journey in the Silver Jubilee year of St. Joseph Province. The new candidates coming from two dioceses of the country are currently residing. We have started with 15 new young boys for the first time who have shown interest in becoming a future Religious Brother in the St. Joseph Province. The new candidates arrived and began their journey at Holy Cross Juniorate on January 4th, 2024.

New Juniorate Building was partially inaugurated on 22nd January, 2024. The day was a memorable day for us and We were happy by the presence of respected Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father Thomas Eckert, CSC, Director of Holy Cross Mission Center, Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, DD, Bishop of Rajshahi Diocese, Brother Subal Lawrence Rosario, CSC, Provincial superior, St. Joseph Province, a good number of Priests, Brothers and Sisters. In addition, a reception program was arranged for the new aspirants. A special Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, DD, the Bishop of Rajshahi Diocese, and homely was presided by Father Thomas Eckert, CSC.

**Feast day celebrations:** Throughout the year we have celebrated congregational feast days such as; Saint Andre on 8th January, Blessed Father Baril Moreau on 20th January, St. Joseph on 19th March, Sacred Heart of Jesus and Sorrowful Mother Mary on 14th September. Specially, we celebrated St. Joseph's feast gorgeously at Juniorate. Hostel boys, our respected school teachers, Priests, Brothers and Sisters joined us. Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, Bishop of Rajshahi offered the Holy Eucharist.

**Dhaka visit:** It was a nice opportunity for the aspirants to visit Dhaka. The purpose of the visit was to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph Province. We started our journey on 22nd May and reached Holy Cross Aspirancy, Narinda around 12 pm. On the next day, we visited Mother Teresa's House, St. Gregory's school and College, Luzmibazar church, Wari Cemetary and St. Joseph of Industrial Trade. On 24th May, we attended the Jubilee program at Mohammadpur. We were happy to become part of the program and came to know many Holy Cross Brothers. We also came to know many things about Holy Cross Brothers and their apostolate through different sharing.

**Temporary Professed Brothers & Aspirants gathering & Basketball Tournament:** Again, another opportunity came to visit Dhaka and the purpose was to join the TP Brothers & Aspirants gathering at Mohammadpur. On 14th June we had a session by Brother Placid Peter Riberio, CSC and some sharing of the Brothers. We performed a dance during the program. The program was concluded by afternoon. On the same day by afternoon, Donald Becker Memorial Basketball Tournament-24 was started and we participated for the first time in the tournament. We have won 2 matches among 4 matches.

**Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari**

Br. Anik Rozario, CSC

**Reception and Thanksgiving Ceremony of Directors at Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari**

Res. Bro. Topon Lawrance Serao, CSC and Res. Bro. Clinton Cornilous Mree, CSC were thanked for holding the responsibility of Directors of Holy Cross Juniorate for the couple of years and Res. Bro. Anik Richard Rozario, CSC and Bro. Partho Urban Palma, CSC were handed over the new responsibility to be the new director of Holy Cross Juniorate on 28th April, 2024. The program began with a Traditional Bengali Cultural ritual of washing feet and binding hand batch. There was a special prayer and cultural program. Brothers from Pawran and St. Nicholas Community joined us to say welcome and express gratitude to the New and Obedient directors. The program ended by sharing a grand meal.

**Come and See Programme at Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari**

The precious day came for Holy Cross Juniorate on 15th August, Thursday, when a group of brave boys came to see Holy Cross Brothers' lives. There were about 63 boys who responded to the call of Holy Cross Brothers to see their lives. The boys arrived around 4:30 PM at Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari, Kaligonj, Gazipur. There were 9 aspirants who helped them find their accommodation, having some snacks and explaining every corner of the house to not get into problem to find their common needs. On the entrance day, there was a short inauguration programme followed by a short documentary film about Holy Cross Brothers. The second day was a dazedly bearable day for the boys with lots of History, Information and Sharing about the Congregation and Holy Cross Brothers in Bangladesh from the experienced persons, named, Bro. Liton Francis Reberio, CSC, Bro. Chandan Manual Gomes, CSC, Bro. Anik Richard Rozario, CSC, Bro. Shovon Victor Costa, CSC, Bro. Bablu Pantra, CSC, Bro. Partho Urban Palma, CSC and Provincial of St. Joseph Province, Res. Bro. Ripon James Gomes, CSC. In the evening, it was a great occasion to meet with the different cultures through the cultural night and creative events created by the Come and See boys. The final day was a little different than the other days. They had to go through different co-curricular activities to show their talents and it was really extraordinary. They showed the unbelievable performance of youthhood.

**Ground Breaking of a portion of Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari**

A new construction has begun for the Aspirants for their sanitization purpose. It is being build in the place of old Toilets. It will be holding some bathrooms and toilets which contain the ground floor and first floor, a total of two floors. The work of rebuilding began on 18th September 2024. About 20 labors are working for the fruitful progress of the work.

**3. Holy Cross Aspirancy**

**- Aspirant Utsho Gomes**

**Temporary Professed Brothers and Aspirants Gathering**

14 June, 2024 was a special day for the Brothers of St. Joseph because today there was a gathering of all the Brothers’ aspirants and TP brothers at Provincial house from morning to noon. From today afternoon ‘Brother Donald Becker Memorial Basketball Tournament-2024’ has commenced at Mohammadpur. So the aspirants went there early in the morning and came back at night. Today the Aspirancy team played two matches and we won both matches.

**Reception of New Aspirants**

On June 22, 2024, eighteen new aspirants joined us. They were officially welcomed to Holy Cross Aspirancy as new members. There was a special prayer in the morning and the inauguration of ‘PROTIVA’ and ‘CONSCIOUSNESS’ as well as a special breakfast in the morning. Afternoon the aspirants enjoyed special tiffin, games and Mass. Then a cultural program was organized. The Temporarily Professed Brothers and Provincial Br. Subol L. Rozario, CSC joined us in the afternoon. There was a banquet in the evening. Then the aspirants watched a movie in the evening after the banquet.

**Reception & Farewell of the Directors**

In the morning of July 27, 2024 there was a communion service. Some of the aspirants were busy with today’s program. In the afternoon there was tiffin in the basketball field. Our fellow brother Sunny Tripura was suffering due to being affected by fever. That’s why he was sent to hospital in the afternoon. In the evening there was a special prayer in the chapel for Res. Bro. Ripon James Gomes, CSC and Br. Shimul Andrias Rozario, CSC. Afterwards, there was a ‘Thanks Giving and Welcoming program’ by which the aspirants officially welcomed Res. Br. Shimul A. Rozario CSC as a Director of this house as well as thankfulness was shown to Res. Bro. Ripon J. Gomes, CSC for his service and hard effort for us. After the supper, we watched a movie in the recreation room from 9:30 pm to 11:00 pm.

**Common Birthday**

On August 30, 2024 the aspirants and Directors of Holy Cross Aspirancy celebrated Common Birthday in the house. The rising was at 6:00 am then there was a special prayer followed by breakfast. Res. Bro. Topon Serao, Bro. Alex Pereira, Bro. Anik Rozario, Bro. Rinku and Res. Bro. Ripon James Gomes, CSC, the Provincial Superior of St. Joseph Province came to the Aspirancy early in the morning to attend the meeting of the formation committee. Before the breakfast, the inauguration of two magazines took place in the morning. In the afternoon the guests were welcomed. Then the evening program started by the Holy mass, which was offered by Rev. Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC. There was a cultural program afterwards and a delicious dinner was served in the banquet. Bro. Shovon Costa, CSC went to Chattogram as well as our Pre-novice brothers Shom and Leo went to St. Placid’s Community, Chattogram for community experience.

**Holy Cross Novitiate**

**Sagardi, Barishal**

**Reporter:** Novice Stephen Chayan Tripura

Currently, there are 12 novices at Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barishal. Among them, eight are from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (Astiar Mree, Carry Pereira, Dorshon Chambugong, Johon Roy, Prodip Soren, Pronoy Chambugong, Rudro Gonsalves and Soikat Costa) and the remaining four are from St. Joseph Province (Borshon Corraya, Jason Rozario, Shanto Rozario, Stephen Tripura ).

We are glad to inform you that 16 more Novices will enter Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barishal on October 15, 2024. Five of them are from St. Joseph Province and the eleven are from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province. Then the total number of the novices will be 28.

**Reception and Thanksgiving Program for Assistant Directors**

On June 29, 2024 the Holy Cross Novitiate welcomed Res. Bro. Topon Lawrence Serao, CSC as the new Assistant Novice Master with the traditional ritual `washing of the feet’ and thanked Res. Bro. Shimul Andreas Rozario, CSC for his five years of spontaneous and active services and contributions to the Novitiate.  On this occasion, the Holy Mass was presided over by Novice Master Rev. Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC.

After the Mass, a short cultural function was arranged by Holy Cross Novices and it was meaningful with the presence of Holy Cross Brothers, MC sisters, LHC sisters, some priests, and local neighbours where Res. Bro. Shimul expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all for their generous cooperation and support during his stay at the Novitiate. Res. Bro Topon also thanked the authority for giving him this opportunity to serve the Novitiate and expected support from everyone. The Reception and Thanksgiving program came to an end with a lovely and delicious dinner.

**Novices' visit to Padrishibpur Parish**

Holy Cross Novices along with Directors participated in the Patronal feast of Padrishibpur Parish held on September 6 in the presence of many parishioners. The feast day Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. George K.  Rozario, CSC, the Provincial Superior of Sacred Heart of Jesus Province and it was concelebrated by many other priests.

After having tiffin at Father’s House, we had a tour around the parish campus visiting Dipti Hostel, LHC Sisters’ Convent, Loreto Sister’s Convent and we also visited some houses in the village of Padrishibpur. Then we came to Father’s House to enjoy the feast day lunch.

In the afternoon, there were two friendly Basketball matches with Holy Rosary Seminarians and with Padrishibpur Parish Youth. Holy Cross Novices won both matches. After the basketball match, we visited the Seminary and had a special tiffin with the Rector and seminarians.

**Celebration of Patronal Feast of Holy Cross**

After observing nine days of special novena to Our Lady of Sorrows, on September 13, Holy Cross Novitiate celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows known as Patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The day began with a special Morning Prayer and then the Feast Day Mass was presided over by Fr. Robi H. Gomes, CSC and a wonderful homily was preached by Fr. Placid Rozario, CSC.

The Patronal feast day was attended by Holy Cross Brothers, MC Sisters, LHC Sisters, LHC Novices and Postulants. Right after the Holy Mass, Br. Nicholas, CSC and the Sisters of various communities delivered short speeches of greetings on the occasion of the feast day. At the end, Fr. Vincent Rozario, CSC, Novice Master extended his heartfelt gratitude to everyone for being present and for making the day very special and joyful.  Then the lovely and delicious feast day meal was offered to all.

**Holy Cross Scholasticate, Chennai**

**Bro. Immanual Gomes, C.S.C.**

**Visit of distinguished guests and participation in 25th Jubilee of Bro. Basker, C.S.C:** On 5th January 2024, the formation house at Sterling Towers, Chennai, had the honour of welcoming Bro. Subal Lawrence Rozario, C.S.C. Provincial, St. Joseph Province, Dhaka Bangladesh, Bishop Paul Ponen Kubi, C.S.C., Bishop of Mymensingh, and Bro. Gary Francis Boylan, C.S.C. A special welcoming program was held in the evening to mark their arrival and to celebrate their presence in the community. The following day, 6th January 2024, the distinguished guests joined the community in celebrating the 25-year Jubilee of Bro. Basker, C.S.C., at Loyola Chapel. The evening was filled with joy and reflection, followed by a felicitation program on the Sterling Towers campus. The event was a beautiful expression of gratitude and fraternity within the congregation.

**Way of the Cross at St. Peter's Church, Royapuram, Chennai, and Dinner Hosted by Prof. Bernard D’Samy:** On 8 March 2024, the Director and Scholastic Brothers from Sterling Towers conducted and participated in the solemn Way of the Cross at St. Peter's Church, Royapuram, Chennai. The event was a spiritually enriching experience, reflecting on the passion and suffering of Christ. It served as a meaningful preparation during the Lenten season, fostering prayer and reflection within the community. Following the Way of the Cross, Prof. Bernard D'Samy, retired Professor of Loyola College, Chennai, graciously asked the Director and Scholastic Brothers for dinner with his family. His warm hospitality and delicious meal provided an opportunity for fellowship and deepened the bond between the Scholastics and the Catholic community.

**Pohela Boishakh & Birthday Celebration:**  On 14th April 2024, the Sterling Towers formation house joyfully celebrated the birthday of Bro. Lucas Mona Tudu, C.S.C., Director of the House. The day was filled with activities, beginning with a special prayer and basketball match, followed by a celebratory Mass in the evening. Earlier that morning, the community also embraced the cultural richness of Pohela Boishakh, the Bangle New Year. The festivities included a traditional breakfast of water rice, fish fry, onions, chilli, and other delicacies items, making the day both spiritually and culturally rich.

**Summer Holidays in Bangladesh:** On 24th April 2024, the Scholastic Brothers embarked on their summer holidays, travelling from Chennai Central by train to Howrah, followed by a bus journey from Howrah to Dhaka. The Scholastic Brothers were on their way home for the holidays, marking a time of rest and rejuvenation. The Scholastic Brothers returned to Chennai, India, on 18th June 2024. Their journey home was made by bus from Dhaka to Kolkata, and then by train from Howrah to Chennai. This holiday period, marked by both rest and celebration, was an enriching experience for the brothers, strengthening their bond with their roots and with the spirit of their congregation.

**Scholastic Brothers' participation in Silver Jubilee Celebration of St. Joseph Province, Dhaka, Bangladesh:** On 23 and 24 May 2024, St. Joseph Province, Dhaka, Bangladesh, joyfully celebrated its 25th Jubilee, marking a quarter-century of service and growth. The event commemorated the rich legacy of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Bangladesh, reflecting on its mission to educate minds, form hearts, and serve the marginalized. The Jubilee celebration included special prayers, a Thanksgiving Mass, and programs that showcased the contributions of Holy Cross to the local community. The gathering provided an opportunity to honor the pioneers and celebrate the enduring presence of Holy Cross in the region. The festivities culminated in a fellowship meal, fostering a spirit of unity and gratitude among the participants.

**Participation in 150th Jubilee of Blessed Fr. Basil Moreau’s Entry into Heaven:** On 7 June 2024, the Congregation of Holy Cross—comprising Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters—gathered at Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon, to jointly celebrate the 150th Jubilee of Blessed Fr. Basil Anthony Mary Moreau, C.S.C.'s entry into heaven. The event began with a solemn Holy Mass, honouring the legacy and vision of Blessed Fr. Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The celebration continued with a vibrant cultural program, highlighting the unity and diversity within the Holy Cross family. The evening concluded with a joyful fellowship dinner, marking this significant occasion with gratitude and reflection on Blessed Fr. Moreau's enduring influence on the congregation’s mission and charism.

**Scholastic Brothers of Chennai Formation House Participated in Bro. Donald Backer Memorial Basketball Tournament – 2024:** On 14-15 June 2024, the Scholastic Brothers from Sterling Towers Formation House participated in the Bro. Donald Backer Memorial Basketball Tournament, 2024. The tournament saw eight teams competing, showcasing both skill and sportsmanship. The Scholastic Brothers performed admirably throughout the tournament, advancing to the final after a series of competitive matches. Although they did not claim the championship, they secured the runner-up trophy, a testament to their hard work, dedication, and team spirit. Their participation highlighted the importance of both physical activity and fraternity in formation life.

**The arrival of New Scholastic:** On 18th June 2024, five new Scholastic Brothers arrived at the formation house at Sterling Towers. These Scholastic Brothers are; Scho. Bro. Jim Martin Costa, C.S.C., Scho. Bro. Aronno Richard Cruze, C.S.C., Scho. Bro. Andrias Das, C.S.C., Scho. Bro. Dipto Pio Peris, C.S.C., and Scho. Bro. Dip Peter Costa, C.S.C. They embarked on a new chapter in their religious and academic journey. They are set to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Sociology, and English at Loyola College, Chennai, India. Their official welcome into the community took place on 23rd June 2024, marking the beginning of their formation and studies. This important occasion symbolizes their commitment to both academic excellence and spiritual growth, as they continue their journey in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

**New Assistant Director of Sterling Towers:** On 7th July 2024, the formation house at Sterling Towers warmly welcomed Rev. Bro. Clinton C. Mree, C.S.C., as the new Assistant Director. In addition to his leadership role in the formation house, Bro. Clinton will be pursuing a Postgraduate degree in Sociology at Loyola College, Chennai. The community gathered for a special welcoming program to celebrate his arrival, expressing excitement for the valuable contributions and guidance he will bring to the formation of the Scholastic Brothers. His dual role as a leader and student highlights his dedication to both academic and spiritual growth.

**Bro. Lucas Mona Tudu, C.S.C.'s Visit to Bangladesh and Return:** Bro. Lucas Mona Tudu, C.S.C., Director of Sterling Towers, departed from Chennai, India, to Bangladesh to participate in the Provincial Chapter 2024. During his time there, he took the opportunity to visit the homes of the Scholastic Brothers from Sterling Towers and spent time with his family on holidays. Bro. Lucas returned to Chennai on 8th September 2024, resuming his duties at Sterling Towers.

**2. Pabitra Krush Jnanatapasalaya, Mohammadpur**

**Br. Ankon Peter Rebeiro, CSC**

**Donald Becker Memorial Basketball Tournament-2024**

On 14 June, 2024 we participated in the Br. Donald Becker, CSC Memorial Basketball Tournament. It was a two days Tournament. There were altogether ten teams. The tournament began with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Gourab G. Pathang, CSC. The final match was held between Holy Cross Scholasticate, Dhaka, versus Holy Cross Scholasticate, Chennai. The winner of the tournament was Holy Cross Scholasticate, Dhaka.

**Temporary Professed Brothers and Aspirants Gathering-2024.**

On 13 June 2024, there was TP Brothers and Aspirants gathering at Holy Cross Jnanatapasalaya. There were almost 35 Temporary Professed Brothers and 90 aspirants present at the gathering. Respected Br. Subol Lawrence Rozario, CSC, Br. Satya Richard Purification, CSC, and Sr. Runu Mrong, CSC, shared and inspired the future of the Congregation.

**The Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s feast day.**

We had a nine-day Novena on the occasion of the celebration of the Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s feast day. The first day of novena prayer began on 5 September 2024, at 6:30 pm. We celebrated the feast on 14 September 2024. The feast day’s Holy Eucharistic celebration was offered by Rev. Fr. Gourab G. Pathang, CSC. Aspirants from the Holy Cross Aspirancy, the Brothers community, and temporary professed brothers were present in the celebration.

**Vow Renewal Celebration**

On 29 June 2024, we had a vow renewal celebration. Bros. Martin, Ankon, Pepar, Ayon, Sourav and Clary renewed their religious vows for one more year. There was a holy Eucharistic celebration that was preceded by Most. Rev. Subroto Boniface Gomes.  Res. Br. Subol Lawrence Rozario, CSC, accepted their renewal.

**Provincial House**

**Br. Bikash Victor D’Rozario, CSC**

**A Visit of the Former District Superior *P. José E. Ahumada, C.S.C.***

On Wednesday, July 17, 2024, P*. José E. Ahumada, C.S.C.,* known as Fr. Joseph Pepe, the former District Superior of Chile-Peru arrived from Novitiate with Br. Topon Serao, CSC this morning. He attended the 10th Provincial Chapter of St. Joseph Province held from July 17 to 22, 2024. He witnessed the election of the new Provincial Br. James Ripon Gomes, CSC held on July 17 morning at 11:00 AM. His was invited by the outgoing Provincial Br. Lawrence Subal Rozario, CSC. His visit was a bit longer due to the political unrest and anti-discrimination student movement. He was an eye witness Holy Cross personnel during the reformation of the country and stepping down of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Government. He had to stay back before leaving for USA from Dhaka due to delaying of his Visa getting into the States as a student. During his stay at St. Joseph Province House he visited many of the province apostolates in Bangladesh.

On Thursday August 22nd the Provincial Community arranged a Farewell program for Rev. Fr. Joseph Pepe Ahumada, CSC who left Bangladesh on Friday, August 23rd. After the evening prayer at 6:45 PM (A special farewell prayer was prepared for him) the community gathered together at the TV room and Br. Xavier Rozario, the province steward took the floor and delivered his speech as usual. Later the House Superior Br. Benedict Rozario and the provincial Br. James Ripon Gomes delivered speeches and finally Fr. Pepe shared his feeling before his departure. At last all of us shared and took part in the social and dinner.

**Celebrating Birthdays in the Provincialate House:**

Saturday, June 29th was the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul and the 54th Birthday of Brother Chandon Benedict Gomes, CSC the Principal of St. Joseph International School, Mohammadpur. The Holy Eucharistic Celebration held at the Chapel of the Scholasticate on the 4th floor this morning. Rev. Auxiliary Bishop Subrata Boniface Gomes of Dhaka Archdiocese was the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist this morning at 6:30 AM. It was his first visit to our house after his installation as an Auxiliary Bishop.

Six Scholasticate Brothers renewed their vows during the Eucharistic Celebration and the Provincial Br. Subal L. Rozario, CSC received their vows. After the Holy Eucharist all of them were greeted by the Provincial Brother Subal L. Rozario, CSC. We all wished Br. Chandon B. Gomes after the Mass and there was a special prayer prepared by Brother Bikash Victor D’ Rozario, CSC at 6:45 PM this evening followed by birthday celebration at the TV room.

On July 2nd, Tuesday instead of House meeting this evening at 6:30 PM the Provincialate Community celebrated the birthday of Br. Sumon Anthony Rozario, CSC whose birthday was on Sunday, June 30, 2024. He resides at the Provincial House but he is assigned at APON and very often he can’t come from there. That’s why the House organized and arranged his birthday program on that day. Provincialate Community welcomed Br. Rinku Lawrence Costa, CSC today as a new resident of the house who came back from Lama, Bandarban. He started working at APON (A Drug addict rehabilitation center) in Apongaon 3/4 days a week.

On July 30th the Provincial Community jointly celebrated the 68th birthdays of Brothers Joachim Raton Gomes, CSC (his birthday was on 22nd) & Stephen Binoy Gomes, CSC (his birthday was on 29th) today. A special prayer was prepared and led by Brother Bikash D’Rozario, CSC at 6:30 PM for both the birthday boys at our chapel. After the prayer birthday celebration took place at the Recreation Room followed by fraternal dinner.

On Tuesday September 10th, after the House Chapter led by Br. Sumon Andrew Costa this evening at 6:30 PM reflecting on Constitution-III: Prayer Life paragraph-28 followed by the Birthday Celebration of Br. Shaon Lawrence Palma, CSC Assistant Director of the Scholasticate.

**Healthcare & undergoing Treatment:**

Brother Sylvester Mridha, CSC became very sick and was hospitalized on June 30th at Square Hospital, and had his bypass operation (Open heart) on July 2nd in the morning. It took long time to recuperate. He was in hospital and in house bed for several weeks in recuperating and resting.

Br. Chandon B. Gomes had a Laparoscopic Surgery on July 8th at Asgar Ali Medical College & Hospital. He was hospitalized day before after having several tests done earlier. He was under special diet and care several weeks and now he has recuperated.

**Meetings:**

On Friday September 06, 2024 the following groups had their committee meeting at the Provincialate as announced by the Provincial Br. Ripon James Gomes, CSC

1. Headmaster & Principal Meeting
2. Ongoing formation committee Meeting
3. APON Managing Committee Meeting
4. Education Committee Meeting

**St. Joseph International School, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.**

**Br. Bikash Victor D’Rozario, CSC**

**Orientation Programme-2024 for A Level**

A Historical Event for SJIS: July 13, 2024 Saturday St. Joseph International School arranged, organized and hosted an Orientation Programme for the A Level (AS) students first batch at 10:00 AM yesterday. All the students were welcomed and greeted with flowers by two of our teachers, Marylin Purification & Sonia Siddiqui. One of our teachers, Mr. Ronald Cruise anchored the programme very dynamically and smoothly.

The programme commenced with National Anthem, lighting candles by various dignitaries and new student. Welcoming speech was delivered by the Vice Principal Brother Bikash Victor D'Rozario, CSC and the faculty members were introduced by the Academic Director Mr. Shariful Anwar. He also shared the academic plan including a few information and instructions. Dr. Hossain Uddin Shekhar spoke the importance of the students’ life and their future endeavors. Brother Chandon Benedict Gomes, CSC, the Principal of the school, delivered his concluding speech and the vote of thanks followed by a short cultural programme. At the very end refreshments were served for all.

**Orientation Programme-2024 for Grade III**

St. Joseph International School hosted its 8th Orientation Programme-2024 for Grade III, and for the newly admitted students of Grades IV to IX on Friday, July 12, 2024 at 9:30 AM at the Basketball Court while the whole city was raining cats & dogs. The program was scheduled at 9:00 AM but due to devastating shower it commenced after half an hour. There was no lack of enthusiasm being observed among the freshers during this weather, rather, they wholeheartedly took part in the school program to celebrate the beginning of their journey with St. Joseph International School. Almost 88% students were present and an unexpected parents/guardians were present too. We thank the Almighty and all who were assigned, involved and present to make it a success.

**1st O Leve Graduation Ceremony at St. Joseph International School**

**Celebrating a Milestone in Academic Excellence and Leadership**

The 1st O Level Graduation Ceremony of St. Joseph International School, 97, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh took place on 28th September, 2024 marking a momentous occasion for the school, its students, and the community. The ceremony was a celebration of academic achievement, excellence, perseverance, and the beginning of a new journey for the 51 graduates, who proudly received their GCE O Level Graduations.

The event was honored by the presence of distinguished guests, adding significance to this milestone in the school's history. The Chief Guest, His Excellency Archbishop Kevin Randall, Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh, delivered an inspiring speech, urging the graduates to uphold the values of truth, integrity, and service as they venture into the next phase of their lives. His words emphasized the importance of not only achieving academic success but also becoming responsible as global citizens.

Among the Special Guests were notable figures from diverse fields, including:

- Dr. Prof. Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

- Br. James Ripon Gomes, CSC, Provincial, St. Joseph Province, Bangladesh

- Md. Tariqul Islam, Vice President, St. Joseph Old Boys' Foundation (SJOBF)

- Dr. Niaz Abdur-Rahman, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Bangladesh Eye Hospital, and Vitreo Retina Surgeon

- Dr. Sharif Eusufzai, Retired Internal Medicine Specialist

- Sr. Shikha Laetitia Gomes, CSC, Principal, Holy Cross College, Dhaka

Their presence underscored the school's strong connections with the academic and religious communities, and their heartfelt messages of encouragement left a lasting impression on the students and their families.

**A Day of Celebration and Reflection**

The Graduation Ceremony was led by Bro. Chandon Benedict Gomes, Principal of St. Joseph International School, whose leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping the institution’s commitment to excellence in education. In his opening remarks, Bro. Chandon spoke about the school’s mission to form well-rounded individuals who are not only intellectually capable but also grounded in the values of compassion, service, and ethical responsibility. He commended the graduates for their resilience, particularly through the challenges posed by the global pandemic.

Bro. Bikash Victor D’Rozario, Vice Principal, along with other Brothers, the event committee and the faculty ensured that the day was memorable, seamlessly orchestrating every detail of the program. The excitement and joy in the air were palpable as the graduates, dressed in their caps and gowns, marched into the sound of applause from family, friends, and the school community.

**Academic Achievements and Awards**

Each graduate was recognized for their academic achievements. Certificates and crests were awarded, celebrating not only their hard work but also their journey through personal growth, critical thinking, and collaboration.

In a touching Valedictorian speech, two of the graduates expressed gratitude to the teachers, staff, and families who had supported them throughout their journey at St. Joseph International School. The speech encapsulated the emotional journey of the students, filled with memories of learning, friendship, and personal growth.

**Cultural Performances and Closing Blessings**

The graduation ceremony was enriched by vibrant cultural performances, showcasing the school’s commitment to fostering creative expression. From traditional music to modern dance, the performances reflected the diversity and talent of the student body.

The ceremony concluded with the oath-taking by all the graduates, followed by a celebratory cake-cutting. It was a fitting end to a day filled with inspiration, pride, and reflection as they stepped into a future full of possibilities.

The 1st O Level Graduation Ceremony was more than just a celebration of academic success; it was a testament to the values of St. Joseph International School, which continues to cultivate generations of students who will lead with compassion, integrity, and a commitment to making the world a better place.

This historic event has set a high standard for future ceremonies, marking a new chapter in the school’s history while reinforcing its dedication to excellence in education and leadership. St. Joseph International School proudly sends forth its first graduates, confident that they are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

**St. Gregory’s High School & College**

**- Br. Dibos Rozario, CSC**

**Annual Prize Giving Ceremony**

On 4th March, 2024 The Annual Prize Giving Ceremony of St. Gregory’s High School & College was arranged. His Excellency Archbishop Kavin Randall, Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh, Embassy of the Holy See, Vatican was present as the Chief Guest. Rev. Dr. Br. Subal Lawrence Rozario, CSC, then Provincial of the St. Joseph Province was present as the special guest along with Res. Gregorian Dr. Ajmal Sobhan, Vascular Surgeon (Retired). Res. Br. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC, Principal of the institution chaired the ceremony. All the academic prizes were distributed to the students for their achievements on this auspicious day. The students were delighted for being appreciated for their hard work.

**Science Festival**

The Inauguration Ceremony of the 67th SGHSC Annual (15th National) Science Festival-2024 began at 3 PM, on 7th March. There Hon. Prof. Dr. Md. Shajahan, Dean, Faculty of Science, Jagannath University was the Chief Guest and Res. Mrs. Farhana Shaheen Lipi, Thana Secondary Education Officer, Kotwali, Dhaka was the Special Guest. Res. Br. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC, Principal of St. Gregory’s High School and College was the chairperson of the ceremony. In this 3 days program a lot of projects were displayed by the students of different institutions of the locality and a good number of science related competitive events were arranged for the students.

The Closing Ceremony took place at 4:30 PM on 9th March, 2024. Estimable Dr. Md. Shawkat Akbar, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission was present as the Chief Guest. Res. Gregorian. Dr. Md. Shahidul Islam, Prof., Dept. of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering, BUET and Hon. Md. Aminul Islam, Director, CSRM were there as the special guests. Res. Br. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC, Principal of the institution chaired the ceremony. It was a great opportunity for the students to acquire knowledge through this festival.

**Reception of the College Students**

With a lot of preparation, the orientation and reception program for the new College students took place on 21st August, 2024 at the auditorium of the school premises. In the beginning, the Students of Class XII welcomed the new students with a song. Then the welcoming speech was delivered by Hon. Br. Leonard Chandon Rozario, CSC, the Vice Principal of the Institution. After that One of the teachers from the college section, Res. Mr. Abdul Ruhul Kayum instructed the new students with his inspiring words. Next the Aspirants from Holy Cross Aspirancy performed a marvelous dance on behalf of the new students. The program ended with the insightful and motivating words of Estimable Br. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC, the Principal of St. Gregory’s High School & College.

**Birthday Celebration of Res. Br. Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC**

On 12th September, 2024the house members celebrated the birthday of Res. Br. Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC. Res. Br. Shoylan Zacharias Rozario, CSC conducted the short program. The other house members Bros. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC, the Principal, Res. Br. Leonard C. Rozario, CSC, the Vice-Principal and Br. Dibos J. Rozario, CSC were present there as well. Several Sisters, Fathers and Brothers were invited from the nearby Religious Communities. Former Provincial Rev. Br. Lawrence Subol Rozario, CSC, Hon. Fr. Sushanto Gomes, CSC from Notre Dame College, Dhaka and Estimable Sr. Margaret Gomes, delivered words of appreciation on this occasion. Br. Prodip himself shared his feelings after cutting the cake. The Program ended with a delicious dinner.

**Muktidata High School, Rajshahi**

**Br. Ranjon Luke Purification, CSC**

**Inter-class Science Fair**

The school organized an Inter-class Science Fair Competition. Students from Class Six to Class Ten participated in five groups. They were encouraged to submit projects based on their interests and ideas. All participating students displayed their science-related models. The Chief Guest and the Principal inspected the exhibition and inquired about the various projects created by the students. Finally, the Chief Guest and the Principal gave speeches on the importance of Science and Technology and encouraged all the students.

**Inter-class Football Competition**

The Inter-class Football Competition was held on September 7th, 2024. The event was guided by the motto, “Games do not shape a person’s behaviour, but reveal their personality.” The competition started at 8:00 AM and concluded at 2:00 PM. The Chief Guest was Rev. Father Fabian Marandi, Vicar General, and Brother Ronjon Purification, CSC, Headmaster of Muktidata High School, who was also present. Binoy Dash, the assistant teacher, served as the coordinator. The competition was highly competitive, with eight teams of both boys and girls from Class Three to Class Ten participating in this exciting event.

**Inter-class Debate Competition**

"Beauty of a person is expressed through their words and deeds." With this objective, the Inter-class Debate Competition was held on September 14th, 2024, at Muktidata High School. Students from Class Six to Class Ten participated in the event. Brother Ronjon Purification, the Headmaster of the school, was present as the Chief Guest. Surovi Rozario, the assistant teacher, served as the moderator for the competition. She selected the participants and assigned different motions for the debates to the teams. Some participants argued for the motion, while others argued against it. The audience greatly appreciated the debate competition.

**Narayantola Brothers’ Community**

**Br. Akash Tomas Rozario, CSC**

**Science Fair -2024**

Narayantala Mission High School took a great initiative on 11 June, 2024 by arranging a unique program named “Inter-School Science Fair-2024.” From the morning till the late afternoon, the fair attracted all the students to have a visit. There were many inventions, creativity and general discussions with both participants and others. At that very moment the Headmaster Bro. Soroj Vincent Gomes, CSC arrived along with Chief Guest Mr. Khayrul Huda Chopol, the Chairman Sunamgonj Sadar Upazila and Special Guest Dr. M. Nurul Islam (ex-student). There was a magnificent prize-giving program to encourage the participants and the students who will be inspired to participate next time.

**Teachers' Seminar**

On September 21, 2024 A Teacher’s Seminar took place at Narayantala Mission High School, Sunamgonj, which was organized by the School and sponsored by ECPM Project, Caritas Sylhet Region. At the inauguration programme the Headmaster Bro. Soroj Vincent Gomes, CSC explained the intention and significance of the Seminar.  The resource person, Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC shared a lot on the theme- “The Transformation begins with the Teachers.” Focusing on the theme, he explained about Information, Formation and Transformation, the difference between Knowledge and skill and finally Accompaniment. It was a half-day program and there were 2 sessions. The seminar ended with the final speech of the Headmaster of Narayantala Mission High School. There were 28 participants including Brothers, Sisters and Teachers.

**Birthday Celebration of Bro. Promod Theophil Rozario, CSC**

14 September, 2024 a special day because Br. Promod Rozario, CSC celebrated his 53rd birthday. The day started with Mass, Prayer and wishing him wholeheartedly. After Mass, there was a short wishing program where he was greeted with songs flowers and cards by the hostel boys and girls. In the afternoon Brother was wished once more in the presence of the Brothers, Sisters and Priest of the parish. The Birthday celebrant thanked God and his late parents for his life and vocation and asked for special prayer and blessing.

**Biroidakuni community**

**Br. Jhalok Issac Rozario, CSC**

**Football Competition of Biroidakuni St. Andre Kindergarten:**

On the 29th of August 2024, Biroidakuni St. Andre Kindergarten organized  "Football Competition" for the students. The students of class 3, 4 and 5 took part. The game was enjoyable. In the boys’ football match, class five won the match defeating class four and class three. At the end the Principal of Biroidakuni St. Andre Kindergarten Res. Br. Graner Ritchil, CSC delivered his valuable speech and distributed the prizes among the winner and runners-up with the help of other teachers.

**Academical Activity of Biroidakuni High School:**

On 4th of September Biroidakuni High School arranged a study activity for the students of class eight. They were taken to ‘Panihata’. It’s a place nearby the Indian border. The lesson for learning was to calculate the speed and distance they travelled. There they had chance to express their talents in a short cultural program. Students submitted their lesson tasks to the respective teachers after the program. The study activity was fruitful and meaningful for the students.

**Balsamo Basketball Tournament:**

On 2nd October 2024, Biroidakuni Brother’s Community arranged a basketball competition. It was on the occasion of Mr. William Balsamo’s birthday. He is well known for his philanthropy. He is the prime donner for the Biroidakuni Boys’ Hostel. At that tournament the Parish Priest of Biroidakuni Parish Rev. Fr. Monindra Michael Chiran was present along with other respected guests. In that competition only the hostel boys took part. In the morning there was a Mass remembering Mr. William Balsamo and at 3.30 pm the final match started followed by tiffin. After the game, some of our guests expressed their thoughts and wishes. The prize was distributed among the winners and runners-up team after the concluding speech of Bro. Graner Ritchil, CSC the House Superior of Biroidakuni Brother’s Community. In the evening the Brothers had dinner with the invited guests.

**St. Mary’s School, Alikadam**

**- Br. Lipon Chambugong, CSC**

**Thanksgiving and Reception Ceremony of the Brothers:**

A Thanksgiving and Reception program was arranged in our school. The Most Reverend Arch Bishop Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC was present as a chief guest of the program. On behalf of all of us, he thanked our outgoing headmaster Bro. Soruj Vincent Gomes, CSC for his undoubted contribution that he gave for almost 3 years in the school. We wished him a good beginning in his new apostolic place. At the same time, we welcomed the new headmaster Bro. Provat Placid Purification, CSC in our school and wished him also a good journey as the shepherd of the school.

**Annual Sports:**

St. Mary’s School authority arranged an Annual Sports Day in the school. In the opening ceremony, our boys and girls showed many displays and cheered the audience. Md. Golam Faruq, Alikadam Upazila Education Officer was present as the chief guest in the program while the Headmaster chaired the program. So, it was a wonderful day for all of us. But it was also a sad day. On this day, the mother of Bro. Provat Placid Purification, CSC expired from this world. So, he left for home just after the opening ceremony. In the remembrance of his mother’s soul, we kept a minute of silence in prayer.

**Education Fair-2024**

With the aim of giving knowledge to the students of the schools on science, Geography, Technology, Agriculture, house chores, cultural and co-curricular knowledge the authority of St. Mary’s School arranged an ‘Education Fair’ in the education year of 2024 in participation of different schools in Alikadam.

On 27 February, 2024, the inauguration of the three days programme was announced by Md. Ataul Gani Osmani, UNO of Alikadam Upazila, who was present there as a chief guest and Md. Golam Faruq, Alikadam Upazila Education Officer was the special guest in the program. The opening program was chaired by Reverend Father Bijoy Gabriel Rebeiro, OMI, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the school.

On 28 February, 2024, the second day of the fair an honourable Freedom Fighter of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Mannam was present and enlightened the audience as an honourable guest while Brother Provat Placid Purification, CSC, Headmaster chaired the program.

On the third day, 29 February, 2024, Mr. Dungri Mong Marma, honourable councillor of Bandarban Hill District Council, was present and inaugurated the third day’s program and the ceremony was chaired by Brother Provat Placid Purification, CSC, Headmaster of the school. In the second session Md. Khandakar Tabidur Rahaman, Officer in Charge of Alikadam Thana was present and handed over the prizes to the winners in different categories. In the evening on the same day, a Live Concert was staged by the one and only Women's Band Group of Bangladesh ‘F- Minor’. The members of the ‘F-Minor’ kept the audience in a cheering mood.

**Intra-Class Football Tournament- 2024:**

Intra-class football tournament took place in the school. 17 teams in different categories participated in the tournament. The tournament was inaugurated by Rev. Father Bijoy Gabriel Rebeiro, OMI and was chaired by the Headmaster Brother Provat Placid Purification, CSC. After a long run battle, Eight Teams reached the final. On the final day, Mr. Jony Costa, the regional director of World Vision, Chattogram, was present as a chief guest. He gave inspirational speeches for the finalist teams and for the students as well. Nine Dhansiri (boys), Nine Dhansiri (girls), Eight Jupiter (boys) and Six Doel (girls) are the champions in this tournament.

**Birthday Celebration:**

We celebrated the birthday of Brother Lipon Louis Chambugong, CSC. A birthday is the anniversary of the birth of a person. It’s very important for a person when he can take a pose and think about the past year. It might be time to begin with new zeal. We celebrated the birthday in a homely atmosphere in our house. Fathers and Sisters were invited to take part in the celebration.

**APON GAON Community**

**Br. Shaon Lawrence Palma, CSC**

**Website by Racy:**

APON GAON’s official website was out of order for many days. Bro. Racy Daniel Godino, CSC has given his consent and helping us to create a new website. Special thanks to Bro. Racy for his kindness and generosity.

**Celebrated Bro. Binoy’s Birthday & Bro. Prodip’s Birthday:**

We the Brothers, staff, and patients of the APON family celebrated the birthday of our Respected Director Bro. Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC on 13th September 2024, and our Respected Councilor Bro. Binoy Stephen Gomes’ Birthday on 29th July 2024 at APON GAON Family. Both celebrations were observed in a fitting and meaningful way by the family. We prayed for the Brothers and thanked God for their life and selfless service to the church and society.

**Br. Rinku Lawrence Costa, CSC joins APON family:**

Bro. Rinku Lawrence Costa, CSC joined the APON family in July 2024. He is now a full-time residential staff of APON. A hearty Welcome and congratulations to Br. Rinku Lawrence Costa, CSC.

**Staff**:

Rajibul Alam Bony was sick and was hospitalized for a month and a half. He had been suffering from cancer. Now he has joined APON. Praise the Lord. Thanks for your prayers and financial support.

**Achievements of BARACA during January-June 2024**

**Br. Nirmol Francis Gomes, CSC**

BARACA runs three key projects: Male Therapeutic Community (MTC), Drop-in Centers (DICs) for street-based drug users and sex workers, and DIC-cum-Night Shelters for street boys and girls. With over 30 years of experience, BARACA focuses on addressing drug addiction, vulnerable street children, and marginalized groups through comprehensive rehabilitation, harm reduction, and reintegration programs. These initiatives, including education, health services, family support and reflect on our commitment to sustainable community-based solutions. BARACA’s notable achievements during January-June 2024 are as follows:

BARACA Male Therapeutic Community (MTC) provides structured treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts through Narcotics Anonymous (NA) approach. The program promotes peer support and holistic recovery focusing on eliminating drug use and fostering personal growth.  Notable achievements of MTC during January-June 2024: 64 clients followed drug demand reduction programs; 40 clients sustained a drug-free lifestyle; 40 clients with co-occurring disorders received integrated care; 28 clients were reintegrated into society; 16 clients received skill training, and 17 participated in aftercare; 322 individuals were educated on drug-related issues; BARACA was Awarded for the third time for Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation in 2024*.*

BARACA’s Day and Night Shelter programs focused on reducing harm and improving the lives of street children at risk of malnutrition, drug abuse and diseases like HIV/AIDS. Separate shelters for street boys and girls provide protection and care. Key achievements: Held311 family visits, 31 children attended school, 43 improved their health, and 20 girls received vocational training. 217 children and community members received health services, 162 children improved hygiene and reduced drug use, distributed 3500 awareness stickers and 1615 children received food, blankets and educational materials.

BARACA Male and Female Drop-in-Centers provided services to male and female drug users/sex workers living on the street, i.e. hel 19 social support meetings for 276 participants, 18 individuals received treatment referrals, 54 clients received job search assistance, 21 staff attended training on therapeutic counselling 25 clients received daily nutrition, hygiene, and self-care services; Held 157 counselling sessions and 132 educational sessions with recreational activities for clients.

**Udayan Secondary School, Barishal**

**Bro. Joy Xavier Pereira, CSC**

**Secondary Section**

**Inter-class Football Competition in Secondary Section**

Udayan Secondary School organized the long-awaited Inter-class Football Competition. Students participated with enthusiasm and full energy. It was a spectacular football competition. Class 5 Kakatua became champion from the Junior Group, Class 8 Jupiter from the Inter Group and Class 10 Meghna from the Senior Group. The champion and runner-up team received medal and trophy from the headmaster.

**Rabindra Jayanti**

Udayan family celebrated Rabindra Jayanti with a spectacular cultural programme. The day was celebrated on 25 Boishak, which is a month of Bengali Calendar. Students performed different cultural events like dance, poem recitation, singing songs composed and sung by Rabindranath Tagore. Bro. Joy Pereira CSC delivered a welcoming speech where he explained the significant role of Rabindranath Tagore in Bengali Literature. He explained how Rabindranath Tagore enriched Bengali Literature and world literature. Senior teacher Mr. Sajal Kanti Chowdhury explained the origin of our national anthem which is also composed by Rabindranath Tagore. It was a beautiful and meaningful programme. In the concluding speech the headmaster, Br. Nicholas Tolentino CSC advised the students to read Rabindranath Tagore’s writings to enrich their knowledge.

**Seminar on Teacher’s Morality and Child Protection Policy**

Udayan Secondary School organized a day-long teachers’ symposium for all the teachers. The theme of the symposium was “Teachers’ Morality and Child Protection Policy”. The Principal of St. Alfred’s School & College, Sr. Archana IBVM was the resource person of the symposium. She explained what moral values a teacher should have and cultivate to be a good teacher. She also explained the child protection policy in detail. Involving teachers in different group work she made the programme interesting.

**Primary Section**

**Indoor & Outdoor Sports Competition**

As part of the indoor competition students of the Primary Section participated in Ludu, Chess and Skipping Rope competition. They enjoyed the games a lot. These indoor games are organized to refresh the minds of the kids so that they can concentrate more on their studies. Skipping Rope competition was only for the girls but other activities were open for all the students.

Students enjoyed a lot during their inter-class football competition. It was a competition of skills and students put forward their best effort to win the matches. Students of Class 4 Dahlia became champion defeating Class Five.

**Tree Plantation**

Students of the Primary Section planted trees as part of their environmental awareness programme. Students brought tops, prepared soil and planted trees at the school and under their class teacher’s supervision. It will be their duty to take care of their plants as well. To understand the importance of plants and to reduce pollution they planted these trees. Students of Class 3 to Class five participated in tree plantation activities.

**Co-curricular Activities**

Students of Class One, Two and Class Three decorated their classrooms with beautiful stars and paper-crafted items which were crafted by the students under the guidance of their class teachers. They worked hard and made beautiful paper crafts. They decorated their own classroom with these crafts.

**St. Nicholas Community**

Br. Partho Palma, CSC

**Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph Province at Nagari**

The day began with the glorious joy of the preparation of the “Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph Province”, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Aspirants of Holy Cross Juniorate decorated the Hall room of St. Nicholas School gorgeously. Everybody was delighted to join the program and gathered in the Hall room around 6:30 PM. Bro. Liton Francis Reberio, CSC, Bro. Chandan Manual Gomes, CSC, Bro. Prince Macfield, CSC and Bro. Bablu Pantra, CSC lighted up the candle with the flow of blessing song and inaugurated the “Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph Province” in the presence of Students, Teachers, Aspirants and Hostel boys at St. Nicholas School and College, Nagari, Kaligonj, Gazipur, Dhaka. To light the Candle, Juniorate boys sang a song. Bro. Chandan Manuel Gomes gave a presentation on the History and Ministry of Holy Cross Brothers in Bangladesh. Gathered audiences were enlightened with the historical and memorable speeches of the Brothers. There were also speeches from one of the aspirants of Holy Cross Juniorate and one of the boys from hostel about their experience of Holy Cross Brothers and their ministries in Nagari. At the final touch of the program, we took a group photo followed by a banquet in the Basketball field of School.

**St. Nicholas Day at School, Hostel & Community**

Brothers of St. Nicholas Community organized a devotional and identical festival on the patron saint of the School, Hostel and Community named “Saint Nicholas of Tolentino”. It was celebrated with great courtesy of spiritual ritual. In School, all the students were informed about who he was and inspired to follow his virtues. Students decorated their classrooms and published colorful wall magazine. Hostel boys arranged a very special cultural program which united them in a hall room in the name of St. Nicholas. In the Community, House superior invited the local priests and regional community Brothers to be the joyful part of the dedicated patron saint of the community. There was prayer and resourceful sharing about the legacy of St. Nicholas Community, School and Hostel in Nagori.

**Extension of another floor in the Community Building**

A new construction has begun for our community building extending to another floor. The new floor will hold a Recreation room and some guest rooms. The work of rebuilding has begun on 18th September, 2024. There are about 13 labors working for the fruitful progress of the work.

**News from St. Bernard’s School, Parawan**

Brother Joseph Roxy, CSC

***Celebration of School Feast with Fervor & Devotion***

The feast of St. Bernard, the patron of the school was celebrated on August 20, 2024 with great devotion and fervor by the Brothers, Teachers, staff, students, parents and locality of the St. Bernard’s school, parawan.

At the beginning, the celebration started with the Holy Eucharistic celebration offered by Rev. Father Nayan Gosal. Before we started the Holy Eucharistic celebration Brother Subal L. Rozario CSC placed the garland to St. Bernard’s Statue and Brother Peter Dio, CSC, one of our teachers and students lit the candle before the St. Bernard’s Statue. In the Eucharistic celebration, Rev. Father Nayan Gosal shared about St. Bernard’s life and His work. All prayed and thanked God for his love, grace and mercy invoking his blessings for the year to glow like the light and as small ambassadors of St. Bernard to spread love, peace and tolerance amongst all.

A cultural program was presented by the students where Brother Subal Lawrance Rozario, CSC was the chief guest. The chief guest of the day emphasized Holy Cross Brothers' education, mission, vision and goal. He also encouraged, appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of the Brothers, teachers and students who put up a meaningful programme.

After the cultural programme, there were Art, Handwriting and Essay writing competitions where most of the students participated in different events. Finally, tiffin was provided to all the teachers, staff, students, parents and for the people who came from the locality.

***A half-day monthly recollection***

A half-day monthly recollection was called and organized by St. Bernard’s community, Parawan on 31 August, 2024 where St. Nicholas community and Tumilia Brothers’ community joined and prayed together. Brother Subal Lawrenc Rozario, CSC preached the recollection on the theme of **“Where are the other nine?” Lk. 17:18 Ministry of Gratitude—(Journaling Log of Gratitude).**He also shared about “When you feel gratitude, you're pleased by what someone did for you and also pleased by the results. Unlike indebtedness, you're not anxious about having to pay it back. But it's still great to tell the recipient of your gratitude how much they mean to you.”

After the sharing of Brother Subal Rozario, CSC there was time for personal reflection and in the evening the recollection ended with an Eucharistic celebration offered by Rev. Father Probash Rozario, SJ.  After the Eucharistic Celebration, there was a sharing table together followed by a simple dinner and departure.

**A small try and help**

A small try and help for the flood-affected people. On 25-26 August, 2024 St. Bernard’s school took the initiative and encouraged the students to extend their hands for the needs of the poor, especially for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh. A two-day campaign was run by the students with the help of the Brothers and teachers to collect funds from the students, parents, staff, and from local people who crossed by the school road. Students were so spirited as it was the very first time in their lives to do such volunteer work for the poor and needy. Besides all teachers, parents and well-wishers appreciated and encouraged the students and wish to keep doing this work in the future.

**Moriam Ashram Community, Diang,**

Br. Sumon Joseph Costa, csc

***Pilgrimage/Tirtho (celebration)***:

A journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion. According to the 49-year-old tradition, Diang Moriam Ashram arranged Pilgrimage/Tirtho celebration on 07th -08th February, 2024. His Grace Kevin Randal, DD (Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh) Archbishop Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, Bishop Emmanual Kanon Rozario, Brothers, Priests, Sisters and ordinary peoples participated in the Holy celebration. Almost 7,500 devoted believers attended the pilgrimage.

***Birthday celebration:***

We the members of Diang Brothers community celebrated the birthday of Brother Lawrence Dias, CSC, Bro. Kalison Raphael Chiran, CSC, Brother Sumon Joseph Costa, CSC, Bro.  Bokul Robert Gomes, CSC & Bro. Anik Richard Rozario, CSC with prayer, support & fraternity.

***Silver Jubilee celebration:***

We the member of Diang community and Moiram Ashrom High School attended the Silver Jubilee Celebration program of St. Joseph Province, Bangladesh which was organized by Holy Cross Brothers of Chattagram Diocese. The venue was St. Placid’s School & College and the programme was organized on 11 May, 2024.

***Visit of Superior General & Holy Cross Members at Diang***

Rev. Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Rev. Father Tomas Eckert, CSC and Mr. Michael Jezewak visited the Moriam Ashram community, Moriam Ashram School, Shrine, Retreat Center & the graveyard of Servant of God Bro. Flavian Laplate, CSC on 23rd January, 2024. Brother Nicholas Thilman, CSC from USA & Rev. Father Joseph Pepe from Chilly also visited Moriam Ashram community, Moriam Ashram School, Hostel, Shrine, Retreat Center & the graveyard of Servant of God Bro. Flavian Laplate & Brother Flavian Technical School.

**Death anniversary of Bro. Flavian Laplante, csc:**

We the Brothers of Chattagram Diocese and the parishioners of Diang Parish Mourn the Death Anniversary of the Servent of God Bro. Flavian Laplante, CSC on 19th June, 1981. Brother Silvester Mredha, CSC had a significant sharing on Bro. Flavian Laplante, CSC in the Eucharistic celebration during his sermon. At the same time, there was a meaningful sharing & cultural program on the base of Bro. Flavian Laplante, csc.

***Visiting to Bangle Bouts (Boxers):***

Felix Smolen, and Dylan Cha visited the Moriam Ashram community, Moriam Ashram School, Shrine, Retreat Center & the graveyard of Servant of God Bro. Flavian Laplate, CSC on 23rd January, 2024. In particular, they teach English at Moriam Ashram High School.

**Feast Day Celebration:**

We the Brothers of Ding Community celebrate the St. Joseph Feast Day on 19th March, 2024. The Seven Sorrows of Mary are a popular religious theme and a Catholic devotion. We celebrated the feast day of ‘Seven Sorrows of Mary’ with special prayer, sharing, adoration, & fraternity. On this occasion, Archbishop Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, offered the Holy Eucharistic Mass and Holy Cross Brothers, Sisters & RNDM Sisters participated in the Feast Day celebration.

**Bandura Holy Cross School & College**

**Br. Toren Joseph Palma**

**Inter-class Football Competition**

This summer Bandura Holy Cross School & College organized an inter-class Football competition for all the students. It brought positive impact to our students after passing critical situation in our country. Students of Bandura Holy Cross School & College were very excited to participate in this inter-class Football competition like every year. They passed a joyful moment during this tournament. This year there were 22 teams in three groups.  Class 6 to 7 group A & class 8 to 9 group B and class 10 to 12 group C.  All the teams arranged their own jersey and flag. All the jerseys were very colourful and gorgeous. Inauguration of the inter-class football competition held on August 30, 2024 by the  UNO Md. Kamrul  Hassan (Nawabgonj Upozela)  &  Brother Toren Joseph Palma, CSC (Principal of Bandura Holy Cross School & College). Final match held on September 12, 2024. There were three final matches in three groups. The boys played very well and they presented wonderful competition in all the matches. All the matches were full of excitement and joys. Students supported their own teams and shouted with their full vocals. Finally, there were tears of joy and sadness among the players and supporters. Brother Binoy Stephen Gomes, CSC was the chief guest on the final day and delivered his speech to the students. Finally, the Principal handed over the Trophy and Medal to the Champion and runner-up teams of each group in the presence of the Vice-Principal, Teachers & students.  Our Champion teams were 7 Venus, 9 Cougar and 10 Stars. Big Congratulations and wishes to all the teams.

**Holy Cross Day Celebration**

Celebration of Holy Cross Day of our school is a traditional program, especially for our students. For more than 112 years our students are celebrating Holy Cross Day with great joy, happiness and respect. Holy Cross Day celebration is only not a celebration but it means more for the students. They show true love and thanks to the Holy Cross Brothers those who dedicated their lives and services there for the students. It finds true meaning for the Bandura Holy Cross School & College students. They are proud to be `Holycrossian’. To celebrate this Holy Cross Day meaningfully and joyfully there was a cultural program, a cake-cutting ceremony of individual classes, wall magazine competition, and footfall competition between teachers Vs students.  Rev. Fr. Kamol Corraya (GB, Chairman) as chief guest & Rev. Br. Prodip Louse Rozario, CSC (Former Headmaster of BHCSC) as Special Guest attended the Holy Cross Day with our students and inspired them by their valuable words.

**Don Bosco High School, Bandarban**

**Bro. Albert Ratna CSC**

On June 13, 2023 Bro. Janta Tudu, CSC has come to the Bandarban community for one year community experience and 14th of June Bro. Ankon Peter Rebeiro, CSC has left the Bandarban Community.

Brother Albert Ratna, CSC and Brother Janta Tudu, CSC stayed together in the community as well as worked in the Don Bosco High School. Besides teaching, they did and organized various activities such as teachers’ training on New Curriculum, moral and religious values, youth programmers etc.

Moreover, they have pastoral work with the parish priests, sisters and with the village people. They were involved in parish counsel, LPT and some other committees and helped them to develop various matters.

On August 4th Brother Janta Tudu, CSC, left the Bandarban Community after completing his one-year community and teaching experience, and the same day Brother Jarvas Soren, CSC came to Bandarban community for one year of experience. However due to various school problems he was not able to join in the school and after 15 days he left the community.

Brother Albert staying in Dhaka for his personal and school work.

**Bottomley Home Orphanage & Technical School**

**Br. Joagesh Kormoker, CSC**

**Sewing Course January to June- 2024**

Some girls completed sewing courses successfully and received their certificates. They got 6 months of intensive training. We wish them success in life.

**Certificate Distribution**

Ten boys have completed their studies at Bottomley Home Orphanage Technical School in the department of maintenance. They have studied for two years and successfully completed their technical academic studies and received their certificates.

**Birthday Celebration of Mr. William Balsamo**

We have celebrated Mr. William Balsamo’s Birthday who is a major donor of the institution. The provincial of St. Joseph Province Br. Ripon James Gomes, CSC was present at the celebration as the chief guest.