

# Sharing



VOL. 31, ISSUE 3, BISHOP'S HOUSE, P.B. NO. 519, 797109, NAGALAND SEP - DEC 24

A large, glossy red Christmas ornament is the central focus of the lower half of the cover. It is tied with a gold, shimmering ribbon that forms a bow at the top. The ornament is set against a background of green pine branches. The text "Merry Christmas" is written in a white, cursive font at the bottom of the image.

*Merry Christmas*



# ORDINATIONS



**DN. ANGOTO SAVIO ROTE**

27<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

St. Francis Xavier Church, Kidima

**DN. NOKEDUZO JOHN KOTSO**

27<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

St. Francis Xavier Church, Kidima



**DN. ISAMDING KEVIN**

**DISWANG MSFS**

28<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

St. Paul Church, Peren



**DN. ZHOPA CHARLES**

**KHAMO SBD**

31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024

St. Mary Church, Lozaphuhu



**DN. PELEVITO KIPFE**

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025

St. Paul Church, Phesama



**DN. ZAPHUVIZO DAVID SALE**

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Mary Help of Christians Church, Jakhama

# **SHARING**

## **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

*Rev. Fr. Guatilo Alex Tep*

09485210215

## **EDITORIAL BOARD:**

## **PUBLISHER**

DIOCESE OF KOHIMA

Bishop's House

P.O. Box -519

Kohima- 797 001

Nagaland - India

**COVER AND LAYOUT :** *Flora Kent*

## **ADDRESS FOR SUBSCRIPTION:**

The Editor, (Sharing)

Bishop's House

P.B. No. 519

Kohima - 797 001,

Nagaland, India

Email: [sec.kohimadiocese@gmail.com](mailto:sec.kohimadiocese@gmail.com)

## **CONTENTS**

- *Diocese News*
- *Regional News*
- *Articles*
- *World News*

The Sharing is published quarterly by the Diocese of Kohima. All the news, articles, questions, reader's reactions, etc. are to be addressed to the Editor. Your articles, news item could be submitted through Whatsapp and mail attachment. Please include your name and mailing address.

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

# *Bishop's Programme*

## December 2024 - February 2025

### DECEMBER 2024

1	Sun	Kohima: Communio Sunday
2	Mon	Kohima
3	Tue	Kohima
4	Wed	Kohima
5	Thu	Kohima
6	Fri	Kohima
7	Sat	To Mokokchung
8	Sun	VK Town: Silver Jubilee
9	Mon	Kohima
10	Tue	Dimapur – CMC Synasis
11	Wed	Kohima
12	Thu	Kohima
13	Fri	Longsa: : Lotha Women Association Convention
14	Sat	Eckisingram – Zeliang Catholic Women Convention
15	Sun	Razeba: Silver Jubilee of Women Association
16	Mon	Kohima
17	Tue	Kohima
18	Wed	Dimapur – Regional Animators meeting (BH.D- 2.30-4.30) Senate (BH. D- 5.00 7.00 pm)
19	Thu	Dimapur – Priests meeting (HC campus - 9.00 – 3.30) 5.00 Recollection
20	Fri	Kohima - Consulters meeting (BHD 8.30 am)
21	Sat	Kohima
22	Sun	Pfutsero – Porba – Golden Jubilee
23	Mon	Kohima
24	Tue	Kohima - Dimapur
25	Wed	Kohima – Christmas Day
26	Thu	Kohima
27	Fri	Kidima – Ordinations – Deacons Savio and John
28	Sat	Poilwa – Golden Jubilee and priestly Ordination – Deacon Kevin MSFS
29	Sun	Peren - Feast of the Holy Family;; Golden Jubilee of St. Thersa Church Peren -
30	Mon	Tening – Golden Jubilee of St. Peter's Church Nchan
31	Tue	Lozaphuhu – Priestly ordination of Deacon Charles SDB

### January 2025

1	Wed	Kohima
2	Thu	Kohima
3	Fri	Pesama: Priestly ordination of Deacon Pelevito Patrick Kipfe SJ
4	Sat	To Kerala
5	Sun	Kerala
6	Mon	Kerala
7	Tue	Kerala
8	Wed	Kerala

9	Thu	To Dimapur
10	Fri	Dimapur-Kohima
11	Sat	Kohima – Khonoma – ACU convention
12	Sun	Khonoma – ACU Convention
13	Mon	Kohima
14	Tue	Kohima
15	Wed	To Atoizu
16	Thu	Atoizu – Youth Jubilee
17	Fri	Kohima – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Death anniversary of Fr. Manoj Manuel
18	Sat	Thenizumi – Chakhesang Youth conventon
19	Sun	Tuensang – NCWA Convention
20	Mon	Return to Kohima
21	Tue	Kohima
22	Wed	Kohima
23	Thu	Kohima
24	Fri	Dimapur – Consulters meeting
25	Sat	To Patna
26	Sun	Patna
27	Mon	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI – Bhubaneswar
28	Tue	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI – Bhubaneswar
29	Wed	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI – Bhubaneswar
30	Thu	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI – Bhubaneswar
31	Fri	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI – Bhubaneswar

### February 2025

1	Sat	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI
2	Sun	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI
3	Mon	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI
4	Tue	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI
5	Wed	36 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly CCBI
6	Thu	To Kerala – Medical treatment
7	Fri	Medical treatment
8	Sat	“ “
9	Sun	“ “
10	Mon	“ “
11	Tue	“ “
12	Wed	“ “
13	Thu	“ “
14	Fri	“ “
15	Sat	“ “
16	Sun	“ “
17	Mon	“ “
18	Tue	“ “
19	Wed	“ “
20	Thu	“ “
21	Fri	“ “
22	Sat	“ “
23	Sun	Return from Medical treatment
24	Mon	NEIRBC meeting - Bongaigaon
25	Tue	“ “
26	Wed	“ “
27	Thu	“ “
28	Fri	“ “

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil  
Bishop of Kohima





## Shepherd's Voice



**Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Lay Faithful,**

Once again we are at the threshold of another Christmas and the jubilee year 2025. It is a beautiful occasion and the best time:

*When we think of many people with love that is special.*

*And wish them all things that make them special.*

*Praying for them for the gifts that make them special*

*To make their new year that is special.*

A year has rolled by since the last Christmas celebration. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one personally for your support – material and spiritual – for the growth of our diocese, through which we try to reach the joy of Christmas to as many people as possible and continue our mission of spreading God's love.

The year 2024 has been a year of turbulence for the world with continued war in Ukraine and Middle East, and natural calamities due to climate changes and the unrest in our own neighbouring state Manipur. After an eventful year 2023 with the celebration of the golden jubilee of the diocese on October 28-29, 2023, in Nagaland too we experienced an effect of the turbulence by way of prolonged monsoon that caused landslides blocking many highways and byways, including the National Highway from Dimapur to Kohima for many weeks.

Let us hope and pray for a better year 2025, when we celebrate the jubilee 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". The jubilee is a time of rest, review, restoration and reconciliation with the following characteristics: Pilgrimages (to designated Churches in the diocese and Rome); Reconciliation (restoration of social justice and personal reconciliation through confessions), Prayer (being open to God's presence) Liturgy (public prayer of the Church), Profession of faith (identity of the baptized), Indulgence (experience of God's mercy). Let us pray that through the celebration of the jubilee in the year 2025 peace (shalom) may reign and all peoples of the universe live in peace, harmony and prosperity. For the jubilee year 2025, the Cathedral Church of Mary Help of Christians, Kohima is officially designated as the Church for pilgrimages and one can obtain plenary indulgences granted by the Church upon fulfilling the conditions laid down,

Another good news that I want to share with you is that during the last meeting of the North East India Regional Bishops Council (NEIRBC) it was decided to gear up the whole Church in the North East India towards the great Jubilee 2033. It was suggested to have nine years of preparation for the great jubilee (novena), in line with what the region did for the Centenary of

*Sharing: September - December 2024*

the Catholic Church in the Northeast in 1990. Each of the Archdioceses and dioceses in the region will keep one year in their respective diocese with a specific theme, inviting the bishops and representative from the region for the common celebration. NEIRBC will also issue a pastoral letter each year on the relevant theme of the celebration during the year.

Kohima diocese will celebrate it in the year 2028 during the month of October, commemorating the 80 years of the arrival and stay of the first Catholic missionaries to Nagaland with specific emphasis on the laity, who played the vital role in the establishment and spread of the Catholic faith in Nagaland.

Despite many challenges, the diocese has grown in number and service. We have begun Diocesan Annual Eucharistic Procession during the last Sunday of October. We have upgraded some of schools in the interior districts and built up better facilities and tries to give best services possible for the overall and holistic development of our students and communities. The diocesan associations, Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA) and Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) have also been active and committed to carry out their mission. The triennial NCYM convention in Lazami was a grant success. We have had many jubilee celebrations – silver and golden- of various institutions, groups and communities. Our educational institutions – schools, colleges and university – are doing well in academic and curricular activities. St. Xavier College, Jalukie and St. Joseph College, Jakhama have excelled in NAAC accreditation with "A" grade and await the result of our NEISSR's grade. We thank God for the vocations to priesthood and religious life. Besides the many women religious profession we will have five priestly ordinations this year (two diocesan and three religious).

Once again I take this opportunity to thank each and every one for the continuous support given to our mission and ministry. I wish you all a very happy and graced-filled Christmas and a prosperous and joy-filled year 2025.

Yours in Christ,

+ 

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil

Bishop of Kohima

Most Rev. (Dr.) James Thoppil  
Bishop of Kohima  
P.B. No. 519, Kohima  
Nagaland - 797 001, India





## From the Editor's Desks

**D**ear Readers!!!

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we are invited to reflect on the profound mystery of God's love made manifest in the birth of Jesus Christ. This season of joy and gratitude offers an opportunity to come together as a community of faith, to renew our hope, and to remember the true meaning of Christmas—a message of peace, goodwill, and compassion for all.

In a world that often feels fractured and divided, Christmas reminds us of the power of love to transcend all barriers. The birth of Christ in a humble manger speaks to the humble way in which God enters our lives—not with grandeur or power, but in simplicity and vulnerability. In the same way, we are called to bring Christ's light into our own lives and to share that light with others. Whether we gather with family and friends, or extend a hand to those in need, we have an opportunity to be vessels of Christ's love.

This Christmas, let us be mindful of the importance of community. The early Church was built upon the gathering of believers, coming together not only for worship but for mutual support and fellowship. In our own diocese, we have witnessed the power of community in action—through our parishes, schools, ministries, and outreach programs. We have seen the faces of Christ in those who give of their time and resources to help the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the marginalized. These acts of kindness, large and small, reflect the true spirit of Christmas and are a testament to the love of God that continues to shine brightly among us.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us also take a moment to remember those who are struggling. The holidays can be a difficult time for many, especially those experiencing loss, hardship, or isolation. Let us reach out with compassion and solidarity, offering not just material gifts, but the gift of presence, understanding, and prayer. In doing so, we become the hands and feet of Christ in the world, extending the love and grace that He so generously offers us.

This Christmas, let us renew our commitment to live as witnesses of that hope. Let us embrace one another with the same love that Christ shows us. And as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may we remember the gift of life, the gift of grace, and the gift of love—gifts that we are called to share with all whom we encounter.

SHARING extends our warmest wishes for a blessed and joyful Christmas. May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes, and may His light guide you in the year ahead.

**Rev. Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep**

**BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL, HR. SECONDARY SECTION, PUNGRO**

Pungro, August 19, newly established Little Flower Secondary Section in officially blessed and today with a ceremony distinguished guests, Kiusumew, the local Rev. Dr. James of Kohima.



2024 — The Flower Higher Pungro was inaugurated attended by including Shri S. MLA, and Most Thoppil, Bishop

In his address, Bishop highlighted the of the Catholic the development of expressing gratitude for the cooperation extended by the fathers, sisters, and local populace. He emphasized that growth and development are gradual and collaborative processes. Drawing a parallel between the condition of roads and human nerves, he urged both the administration and MLA to address the poor road conditions, asserting that proper connectivity is essential for the area's advancement.

Thoppil significant role community in Pungro,

The Bishop also underscored the Catholic Church's commitment to serving the community, with the hope that the students and residents will act as catalysts for societal change. He stressed the importance of mutual cooperation between teachers and administration to foster a supportive educational environment.

MLA Shri S. Kiusumew, visibly moved by the performances of the students, affirmed his commitment to the area's development. He acknowledged the collective dedication of the community towards Pungro's progress and assured that road repairs would be prioritized. Additionally, he requested the Bishop to consider introducing a Science stream at the school.

Reflecting on the transformative impact of the Catholic Church, the MLA noted the significant strides made in education, particularly for girls, and recognized the contributions of priests, religious sisters, and the Bishop in providing new opportunities.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by various performances by the students, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm. The event highlighted the collective effort and shared vision for the future development of Pungro.

- Correspondent

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* - Nelson Mandela



## ANNUAL CATECHIST RETREAT FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024



Annual Catechist retreat was held at Mount Tabor, Kohima from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024 . The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Glanson Pulladan VC and team from Ave Maria retreat centre, Zhadima. The team consists of Fr. Glanson, Sr Rita Humtsoe FCC, Miss Elizabeth and Miss Veronica.

There were 114 Catechists for the retreat from 42 Parishes and Centers. Due to various reasons Catechists from 25 Parishes and Centers could not attend the retreat.

**1st Day :** Arrival and Introduction session. The Catechists arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> evening followed by registration by sr Rita kera MSMHC the coordinator of Pastoral. Due to blockage and bad road condition some parishes could not turn up and some reached at night.

The retreat began with introductory session and some information regarding Catechist service condition, pilgrimage etc. by Fr. Sabu Chenackal the director of Newman Pastoral Center. He informed the gathering about the transfer of Sr Ethel Yanthan UFC the previous Coordinator and express words of gratitude to her for the service she rendered for the diocese and the Catechists. He welcomed Rr Rita Kera MSMHC the new coordinator of the Pastoral center.

*Sharing: September - December 2024*

**2nd Day :** The day began with meaningful prayer led by the retreat team. The solemn Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima Diocese and concelebrated by Fr. Glanson VC , Fr. Sabu Chenackal and Fr Alex Tep. During the homily bishop spoke on the power of Eucharist which is Jesus himself. He also encouraged the Catechists to read often the pastoral letters of Timothy and Titus which gives us guidelines to live a true Christian life.

After the Holy Mass, the meeting was held where Bp. James had interaction with them and exhorted them to cultivate christian values as leaders. He also reminded them of the service condition of the Catechist. The Catechists raised their clarification, doubts and suggestions regarding sacraments, ID card for Catechist etc.

The morning hour session the talk was given by lay resource persons Sir Elias Lotha, Sir Johnny Ruangmei ,CAN President and Sir Jonas Yanthan. And the rest of the session was preached by Fr. Glanson.

**3rd Day :** It was a day of prayer, fasting and reconciliation where the Catechists volunteered to fast half day in preparation for the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation except few who were



under medication. From 2: 00pm to 4:00pm the confession was held where 12 priests from neighbouring parishes of Kohima cathedral, Christ King kohima village and Don Bosco, Chiephobozou, Phesama and Jakhama College came to administer the sacrament of reconciliation.

**4th Day:** A day of healing and deliverance where Fr Glanson led the Catechists through creative gestures and symbols of prayers to get reconciled with the priests and religious working in their own

parishes . Everyone had a tangible experience of the Lord

The retreat concluded with Holy Mass in the afternoon followed by short praise and worship. Due to bad road conditions we ended our retreat early at 3:30 pm. Majority of them departed after the tea while others on 24th morning. Everyone felt the transformative power and healing touch of God during the days of the retreat. We are grateful for His bountiful gifts showered on us.

## TEACHERS' DAY CUM CULTURAL FEST 2024



St. Clare School celebrated Teachers' day cum cultural Fest 2024 on Thursday 5th September 2024. All the students gathered at 8.30 am in the high school ground where students were instructed by Fr Stephen D Souza about the seating arrangements in the hall. In view of teachers' day, the students themselves conducted several programmes in order to thank the Teachers. The programmes included several choreographies, entertainment, games for the teachers, Skit on education, creative presentation on famous characters of the world, Fancy show, and presentations on Sumi tradition and so on.

Fr Stephen D Souza, Headmaster of the School in his address thanked all the teachers for their selfless service to the institution and asked

teachers to be creative in order to completely dedicate themselves to the betterment of the education. All the teachers were given gifts on the occasion of the teachers' day. Immediately after the programme all the students were given chance take photos along with the teachers. On this occasion refreshments were served to the students as well as to the Parents.

- **Correspondent**

*“If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes.”* - **Guy Kawasaki**

## 34<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION DAY CELEBRATED AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE JAKHAMA

St. Joseph's College, Jakhama (Autonomous) celebrated its 34th Graduation Day with Nagaland's Governor, La Ganesan, as the special guest and Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil the Bishop of Kohima as the guest of honour. Over 1,000 graduating students received their certificates, marking a significant milestone in their academic journeys.

In his address, the Governor commended the college for its commitment to providing a nurturing environment that empowers students academically, professionally, and personally. He highlighted education as a cornerstone of societal progress and emphasized the importance of

integrating spiritual and moral values, which he believes are essential for shaping responsible future citizens. The Governor also congratulated the college for achieving an 'A' grade from the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC), reaffirming the dedication of the institution's management, faculty, and students.

Reflecting on the significance of college life, the Governor encouraged graduates to cherish their memories and use their skills to contribute to nation-building. Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima, the guest of honor, also extended his congratulations to the graduates and faculty on the NAAC achievement.



The ceremony featured the presentation of awards to outstanding graduates, performances to enliven the event, and recognition of students' accomplishments across various disciplines, making it a memorable celebration for the college community.

- *Correspondent*

## AKULUTO RANGE STUDENTS' UNION INTER SCHOOL COMPETITIONS IN ST. CLARE SCHOOL AKULUTO

Akuluto Range Students' Union organized Inter school competitions cum Literary Event in St Clare high School Premise from 10th to 13th September 2024 (Tuesday to Thursday). In view of the competitions a social work was organized on 11th September to get ready the ground for the sports. Students from Royal school, Hilto Children home school and St Clare school helped out the students' union to get ready the ground. Different schools from in an around Akuluto

participated in the inter school competitions namely Hilto children home School, JNV, Government higher secondary school and the host school St Clare. On the first day, the chief guest was Mr KihikaSumiChishi, NPS O/C Cyber Crime Police Station who in his address asked the students to be competitive on the ground, not just to win the game but to learn how to face the opponents, face the hurdles, face the troubles and remain strong to achieve the goal. He also gave



some guidance on Cyber Crime and asked everyone to be careful about the internet world. The winners of all events were awarded with a certificate and St Clare School was declared as overall champions of 6th interschool competitions. Fr Stephen Dsouza principal of St Clare school in his final message thanked the students' union for systematically conducting the Interschool competitions. The President Mr Bokai T Achumi, President of ARSU thanked St Clare institution for hosting the interschool competitions.



- **Correspondent**

**VISIT OF MISS NAGALAND AND MISS DIMAPUR TO ST. CLARE SCHOOL AKULUTO**



St. Clare School had an opportunity to have educational awareness program featuring Ms. Neiketunuo Sechü (Miss Nagaland 2023), Ms Ilihika Aye (Miss Nagaland 2nd runner-up 2023), and Ms Chumei Phom (Miss Dimapur 2nd runner-up 2023), who travelled a long way from Kohima to Akuluto. Dr Sukhai Zhimomi, Medical Officer PHC Akuluto took the initiative to bring the guests to the School. They were accompanied by their mentor Ms Sheli Chishi.

The guests came to the school at 11 am. Br Edmond warmly welcomed the guests with the welcome address. Addressing the students, Ms Neiketunuo Sechü emphasized the importance of education,



urging students to stay in school and value qualifications over appearance. Ms Ilihika Aye spoke on the significance of physical health, hygiene, and menstrual care. Miss Chumei Phom

highlighted the importance of mental health and managing stress. The program concluded with a vote of thanks from Sir Krishna for the valuable insights shared by the guests. - **Correspondent**

## **VESTITION & FIRST PROFESSION OF SABS NOVICES, CORPUS CHRISTI PROVINCE, DIMAPUR NAGALAND**

The Vestition and First Profession of eight SABS novices: Linda Mary Lyngkhoi, Beolaresi Hansepi, Teresa Lamthew, Catherine Yanthan, Carolen Yimchunger, Esther Langmai, Martha Tango Konyak and Rachel Thongpangnaro, of Corpus Christi Province, Dimapur, was a deeply spiritual and joyous occasion, held on the 14th of September, 2024. Six of them are from Eastern Nagaland and one each from Assam and Meghalaya respectively. Novice Rachel Thongpangnaro is the first novice from the Chang community to be professed as a religious sister. The ceremony was presided over by the Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, and concelebrated by 35 priests. The novices, surrounded by their parents, relatives, and members of various religious communities, made their first commitment to the religious life, marking



a significant milestone in their spiritual journey. Sr. Catherine Elavumkal SABS, the Provincial Superior accepted their vows and welcomed them to the family of SABS. Sr. Elsa Paikada, General Councillor was also present to witness the function. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly professed sisters, as they embark on this beautiful path of service to God and His people. We pray for abundant blessings in their mission.

- **Correspondent**

## **TEACHER TRAINING SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS OF ST ANTHONY SCHOOL, ZUNHEBOTO, ST PETER SCHOOL ATOIZU & ST CLARE SCHOOL IN ST CLARE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Teachers of St Anthony School Zunheboto, St Peter School Atoizu and St Clare School had teaching training seminar in St Clare School Akuluto Auditorium on Saturday 21st September 2024 from 9 am to 2 pm. The seminar was organized by Fr Jacob Charalel, Secretary of Catholic Education Board of Kohima Diocese,

Nagaland (CEDOK) and Chancellor of Kohima Diocese. The Speaker of the sessions was Mr Joseph Laldinmawia Manager, Product and Marketing as well as Trainer from the Harper Collins Publications. He was accompanied by two members of Harper Collins Publication namely Mr Nungsang Jemjer, Zonal Manager of Sales Department and Mr Himato Kappo, Territory

Manager of Sales Department. The seminar began at 9.30 am in the morning. Fr Stephen D Souza the Headmaster of St Clare School welcomed all the guests with a welcome speech and by offering them bouquets and gifts. In the first session the speaker spoke about the innovative methods of teaching to the students. In the second session he concentrated on the character and behaviour of a teacher and in the final session he emphasized on effective way of teaching. The seminar concluded with the fellowship meal prepared by the Catholic community. - **Correspondent**



## **NAGALAND'S LAY LEADERS GATHER TO DEEPEN COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL MISSION**



The Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) organized the 4th Edition of the Lay Leaders and Catechist Conclave from September 27 to 30, 2024, at the Mount Tabor retreat center in Kohima, Nagaland. Co-hosted by the Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA) and Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM), the event brought together 200 lay Catholic men and women to explore Catholic Social Teaching and Church doctrines. Resource persons including priests, nuns and lay leaders, led discussions and fireside chats, focusing on themes of human dignity, social justice and service to those in need.

The conclave's primary objective was to deepen participants' understanding of the Church's social mission, emphasizing the importance of serving

those in need and advocating for justice and peace. Key topics included human dignity, the common good, rights and duties, the option for the poor, the dignity of work, workers' rights, care for creation and solidarity. The event also aimed to create a cascading system of information dissemination, ensuring that insights and teachings from the conclave would be shared across parishes and mission centers throughout the Diocese of Kohima.

Drawing inspiration from the "Degree on the Apostolate of the Laity," the conclave highlighted the indispensable role of laypeople in the mission of the Church, encouraging active apostolic engagement in the community.

- **Correspondent**



## PICNIC OF NAGALAND UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC YOUTH

Catholic of Nagaland University had a day out to Tishi River (Sutemi Village) near to Akuluto Town on Wednesday, 2nd October 2024 on the day of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi. The Picnic was arranged by the NCYM of NU officials namely the President Ms Neizetuonuo Bernadette Dziivichii, General Secretary Ms K. Chunchun, Finance Secretary Mr Colin Hega, Liturgy Incharge Ms Kelevonu Angela Thapo, and Music Secretary Mr Avupi Benedict Khizo. It was arranged with the guidance and suggestion of Fr Stephen Dsouza, Capuchin the Parish Priest of St Clare Church Akuluto who is their Spiritual guide. The purpose of the outing was to strengthen the bond of the students, to know one another, to mingle and enjoy the oneness of one another. Around 25 students began their journey to Tishi river from Nagaland University at 8.30 am in three different vehicles and reached the destination at 10 am. Fr Stephen Dsouza and Br Edmund joined the students around 11 am. Tishi River has a beautiful landscape with the flowing of streams and greenery around. All the students after reaching



the spot began to cook the food. Thereafter Fr Stephen and Bro Edmund conducted several games which included filling the water in the bottles, breaking the balloons, running race in the water and picking the tea cups. Thereafter students spent time playing in the water, swimming and enjoying in the beautiful nature. Around 2 pm all gathered round the banana leaves, sitting in the river bank to have the common meal. Thanks to Mr Vixeshe Peter the chairman of Sutemi Village who granted permission to have the picnic in Tishi River. **- Correspondent**

## CLEANLINESS DRIVES ON GANDHI JAYANTI DAY BY ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, KIUSAM TOWN.



St John's School Kiusam Town celebrated Gandhi Jayanti Day as the Cleanliness Drives' Day with the theme "Be clean. Be healthy" on 2nd of October. The students gathered at 7am in the school campus. There was brief talk by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu on the importance of the day. The whole assembly said the

prayer before taking-off. The head teacher Adani David instructed the students to different direction to pick up litter along the footpath and public places. Students and teachers collected rubbish and burn in the public waste bins. After two hours of cleaning, students were asked to wash their hands, educating them to be cleaned. Some public leaders and individuals who out of the good will sponsored sweet packets and cash for the children to enjoy.

In commemorating the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, Rev Fr. Thomas appreciated the students and teacher for actively participating and educating people for the cleanliness. He also asked students to repeat "Cleanliness is next to godliness." He added saying cleanliness of the body, mind and soul lead towards the godliness. Cleanliness will ultimately bring feeling



of mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially well-being of the person. Before, dispersing them to their homes, Fr. Thomas said; go home and begin to be cleaned by washing hands as often as possible, brushing teeth, taking bath, cleaning rooms, washing clothes, and keeping clean home and surroundings.

The gathering ended with distribution of sweets and leaving sweet covers in the waste bin.

- Sir Adani David

## ALL NAGALAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GAMES MEET 2024 HELD



All Nagaland Catholic Schools Games meet 2024 held at Chumoukedima brought together over 1000 students from 35 schools across Nagaland in a spirit of competition and camaraderie. Organized by the Commission for Education Diocese of Kohima (CEDOK), the two days event featured competitions in football, volleyball and Basketball for both boys and girls in the junior and senior categories. The games were hosted at various venues including St. Joseph Hr Sec. School, Chumoukedima, Tenyphe Village, St. Anthony School, Tenyphe and Carmel Hr Sec. School, Chekiye Village.

Shri. Keoshu Yimkiung, Advisor, Youth Resources and Sports, Govt. of Nagaland, graced the inaugural function as special guest on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Acknowledging the contribution of the Catholic Church to Education and Sports, he said, "the games meet is not just an event; it is festival of passion, discipline, teamwork and respect for one another". He encouraged the

students to celebrate not only sportsmanship but also unity, comradeship, and shared spirit of excellence. He added, "Games are the reflection of our collective commitment to fostering holistic development, where academic and athletics excellence go hand in hand with spiritual growth". He encouraged the students to participate not for the sake of winning, but for the joy of participating.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Charalel, Secretary, CEDOK, welcomed the Guests, invitees and delegates for the meet and said that the meet is organized to provide opportunities for students in Catholic Schools from all over the state to come together, interact with each other, learn from one another and build up community spirit among students, irrespective of tribal affiliations. Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, the Vicar General of the Diocese invoked God's blessing on the participants and organizers and wished that the gathering foster healthy competition and promote sense of community and fellowship among our youth.

The excitement in the event was evident with hundreds of spectators in attendance. The Catholic community assisted in providing food and volunteer assistance to help the successful conduct of the event. The participants left the venue with enriching experience and satisfaction. “We did not get any trophy, but we are satisfied because we could participate, learn many things and get so many new friends” said one of the participant.

The curtains came down with the concluding function in the late evening of 10<sup>th</sup> October with Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima gracing the occasion as Special guest. The Bishop in his message acknowledged the special grace of God over the meet in keeping the venue free from rain, while all surrounding areas had heavy rain. While

thanking the organizers for the successful conduct of the games, he encouraged the participants to celebrate not just victories but also the friendship and experiences that emerged from this event. Bishop Said, “The meet help the participants to shed the shells of individualism to become collaborative and co-operative”. He assured them that there are no losers in the game as all learn something new from the participation. Shri.Nozasol Charles, State Information Commissioner, Govt. of Nagaland joined the Bishop in giving away the trophies to the winners. St. Francis De Sales Hr Sec. School, Medziphema emerged over all Champions of the event. Rev. Fr. Philip Y Lotha, Joint Secretary, CEDOK proposed the vote of thanks.

**- Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Charalel**

## SECOND VOCATION CAMP OF THE DIOCESE HELD AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH CHÜMOUKEDIMA



The Second Vocation Camp of the Diocese began at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Chümoukedima on 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 with the theme “The Harvest is plentiful but labourers are few” (Lk 10:2). A total of 197 children from 20 Parishes/Centres participated in the camp. There were 39 Religious sisters from 19 different religious congregations and 10 priests from men Religious congregations and dioceses.

On the first day during the introductory session, Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep, the vocation promoter introduced the Fathers, Sisters, Children and Welcomed everyone, while the words of welcome was accorded by Rev. Fr. Anthony Samy, the

Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Chümoukedima.

On the first day of the Camp i.e. 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, Rev. Fr. Marcus Yanthan celebrated the Holy Eucharist, which then was followed by the rally of orientation for the Children. The day’s sessions on were animated by:

1. **Rev. Sr. Rinet FCC, Aspirants Mistress – NirmalaJyothi Provincial House, Dimapur**  
Topic: **God is calling you. Are you ready to respond?**(Itanagar Mission)
2. Rev. Fr. Michael SDB, Dean of Studies - Salesian College, Dimapur



Topic: **To be Priests & Religious in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

- 3. Rev. Fr. Benjamin Hopong, Parish Priest – St. Mary’s Church, Lakhuti  
Topic: **The Harvest is plentiful but Labourers are few**

On the Second day of the Camp (Sunday), the campers attended the Holy Eucharist along with the parishioners, with Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhous as the main celebrant. Then the Fathers and Sisters addressed the children separately on the charism of their congregations.

The camp was filled with activities like party games, singing, dancing etc. with video shows prepared by the Brothers. The boys were taken care by Brothers Thomas and Timothy from Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur while the girls were taken care by CMC Sisters. The food and other logistics arrangements were taken care by the Parish Priest with the support of the Parish Youth, Sisters and Brothers.

The camp ended on 14<sup>th</sup> October morning with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Pradeep SJ, the vocation promoter of the Jesuits, followed by Breakfast.  
**- Correspondent**

**ST. XAVIER’S HR. SEC. SCHOOL MELURI CELEBRATED ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE**



St. Xavier’s Hr. Sec. School Meluri celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The monolith was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima and was unveiled by Shri. Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, MLA. The glorious celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> was a blessed and a grand one. There were more than four thousand people comprising of school staffs, students, managing board members, parents, alumni, past principals, headmistress, priests, sisters, invitees and many other public leaders and dignitaries.

Shri. Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, MLA, gave advice to the parents and students to be a responsible person to build the society together

with common effort. Telling that parents should never close the eyes from the many social evils prevalent in the society rather they should cooperate with the law making bodies in order to eradicate it. He also encourages the students to be aware of the evils prevalent in the present society and to stay away from such evils. He also spoke about the role of Catholic education in changing the society to a better society. He also stressed on the importance of opening science streams and college for the people of Meluri area. He promised that from his end he will do his best to help and cooperate with the diocese of Kohima for the opening of the college and science streams.



Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil Bishop of Kohima while addressing the gathering emphasized about the role of Catholic Church in the field of education. Catholic Church tries its best to foster the Gospel value in the lives of many people especially students. He said that the Gospel value and education should go hand in hand in order to bring change in the society.

Smt. Asano Sekhose, Chairperson NBSE, gave a congratulatory note to the principal and the school for successfully reaching the 50<sup>th</sup> glorious years. She also further encouraged the school to

give its best in imparting the quality education to the people of Meluri area.

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee was a resounding success because of the hard work of school community, the contribution of many generous souls and the esteemed presence of the special guest Shri. Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, MLA, Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Smt. Asano Sekhose, various dignitaries, public leaders, invitees, priests, sisters, catechists, pastors, students, parents, parish communities and various committees of the jubilee. **- Correspondent**

## FCC NIRMAL JYOTHI PROVINCE, DIMAPUR

**“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.” (Song of Songs 6:3)**

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024, FCC Nirmal Jyothi Province, Dimapur is marvelously blessed with the gift of two newly vested sisters. Sr. Salomi Ronghangpi (Karabi) and Sr. Lucy Pill Yana (Nyishi) who are hailing from the



Dioceses of Diphu and Itanagar respectively. Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil DD, Bishop of Kohima was accorded a warm welcome as he arrived by the people in traditional attire and the congregation gathered at the gate. Rev. Sr. Jolly Jose the Provincial Superior warmly welcomed the august gathering. It followed the solemn celebration of the Vestition and first Profession of two of our Novices at St. Clare Higher Sec. School auditorium, Kacharigaon. Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil DD, Bishop of Kohima officiated the Divine Liturgy concelebrated with many priests of the Diocese

and priests from outside Nagaland. Rev. Sr. Lilly Maria the Provincial Superior of St. Clare Province, Imphal, Mother Aloschia and sisters from various communities were present for the joyful occasion. Sisters belonging to various congregations, parents and relatives of our two newly vested sisters, our catholic community and special invitees took active participation in it. Our Sisters, Aspirants along with Apostolic Children led the melodious choir. We had a short felicitation to congratulate the Newly Vested Sisters soon after the Eucharistic Celebration. **- Correspondent**

*“The first work of the whole Church is to give the Gospel to the whole world.”*

## **CANDLES LIGHT MARIAM PROCESSION AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH KIUSAM TOWN**



A devotional Candles light Mariam procession was held at St. John's Church Kiusam Town on 31st October. Traditionally, the Catholic church keep the month of October 'a month of Rosary.' During which the community goes around praying rosary with the families in every member of the church and conclude with the procession on the last day of a month. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu addressed the gathering. In his reflection he said that the prayer of "Hail Mary..." (Lk 1:28) is deeply the meaningful prayer. Biblically, it is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation of Jesus' birth.

The second part is a prayer of request to Mary to intercede for us. He added, we pray to Mary because Jesus her Son has given us His Blessed Mother as our great spiritual mother (Rev.12:17), a heavenly supporter who will intercedes for us. When we pray the rosary, it gives us strength, hope and an opportunity to reflective life as a good Christian. St. John Paul II, a Pope called the rosary his favourite prayer, "as Mary kept upon the mysteries, pondering them in her heart. (Lk. 2:19.)" So, Fr. Thomas said if God Himself has acknowledged that Mary is full of grace (Lk 1:26-28) than let us invite Mother Mary the mother of God to teach us how to be free from sin and be graceful in our life. Samuel Kurak, a catechist welcomed everyone and announce the procedure of the solemn procession. The whole crowd said the prayer and between Mariam songs were sung. The march was culminated with the solemn Holy Mass celebrated in the church.

*-Maria Thripila*

## **CATECHISTS' DAY AND VISIT FROM MALAYSIAN PILGRIMAGE TEAM AT MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHEDRAL, KOHIMA**





On the occasion of Catechists' Day, observed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024, a Malaysian pilgrimage team of 33 members, led by Deacon Sherman, joined the faithful for a solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration. Deacon Sherman, who preached the homily, delivered an inspiring message on the *Shema*, calling the congregation to love God with their entire being, in heart, soul, and strength.

Following the Holy Eucharist, the parish catechists were recognized and honored for their devoted service in faith formation and evangelization. Their dedication to the mission of the Church was warmly acknowledged, reflecting their vital role in the spiritual growth of the community.

Later, Bishop offered the pilgrims a guided tour of the cathedral, explaining the rich significance and symbolic elements within the sacred space. This interactive session provided the pilgrims with deeper insights into the heritage and spiritual artistry embodied in the cathedral's design. As a token of appreciation and cultural exchange, the Bishop gifted each pilgrim a traditional Naga tribal muffler, symbolizing the bond of unity in faith. The Bishop concluded the gathering with a prayer, seeking blessings for the pilgrims and wishing them a fulfilling journey in their spiritual endeavors. The day concluded with a shared meal, fostering fellowship and mutual enrichment among all present.

- **Correspondent**

## **LITTLE FLOWER HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, KOHIMA, CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**



Little Flower Higher Secondary School, Kohima, commemorated its 60th anniversary, on 8<sup>th</sup> November, celebrating a remarkable legacy of quality and value-based education in Nagaland. The Diamond Jubilee event, held at the school's campus, drew distinguished guests, including

Minister of Higher Education and Tourism, TemjenImna Along, who attended as the special guest.

Minister TemjenImna Along, in his address, highlighted the importance of unity and resilience among young people and praised Catholic

institutions for their dedication to holistic education. He noted, "The ethos of Catholic institutions is not the corporate way of earning money; it is a holistic education where education is the focus." Minister Along applauded the Catholic missions for fostering personal growth and values, emphasizing the role these institutions play in nurturing the youth of Nagaland.

The minister also stressed the need to build a united community, underscoring the importance of humility, hard work, and resilience over material pursuits. He urged students to cultivate these values for a thriving society.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil DD, Bishop of Kohima, spoke of the school's journey as Nagaland's first Catholic institution, which began six decades ago amidst many challenges. Acknowledging those who have contributed to its growth, he stated, "Education should not only prepare one for a living, but for life, fostering social, cultural, and economic development." The bishop

called for education that nurtures character, competence, compassion, and commitment and fosters a counter-culture to competitive models, promoting collaboration and inclusivity. As the school celebrates its 60th year, Bishop Thoppil prayed for its continued success in shaping future leaders who uphold values of justice, knowledge, and integrity.

The event also featured speeches by Kohima Deputy Commissioner Kumar Ramnikant and Provincial Rev. Sr. Mabel Gothorp FMA, both of whom attended as guests of honour and congratulated the school on its milestone achievement.

The jubilee celebration was further enlivened by vibrant performances, including songs, skits, cultural items and dances by the students, creating a joyful atmosphere that underscored the school's commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also cultural expression.

- **Correspondent**

## **CATECHISM DAY IN ST PETER'S PARISH, KIPHIRE**



St Peter's Parish, Kiphire celebrated Catechism Day on 10th November, 2024 with the theme "To know Jesus through Mary".

In preparation for the Catechism Day, various competitions were arranged on 9th November. All together 215 children were present for the various competitions and had a fun filled day. They were

divided into three groups namely St. Augustine, St Paul and St Elizabeth. Some of the competitions were Group Song, Duet, Solo, Quiz, Bible Reading, Bible Quote Recitation, Dance, Drama, Skit, Fancy Dress etc. Our Catechism teachers include Sr. Alice SABS, Miss. Elizabeth Gangmei, Mrs. Elizabeth Sentila, Mrs. Maria. Mrs. Clare and Mrs. Helen. It was a day of learning with so much



fun and laughter as Fathers, Sisters, Teachers and Youths were there with us all throughout the competitions. We concluded the competitions with a sumptuous lunch. And on 10th November, we

celebrated the Catechism Day in the Parish Church with Rev Fr. Philip Magh, the Parish priest as the main Celebrant. The prizes were distributed to the winners after the Solemn Mass.

- **Correspondent**

## REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVED AT KOHIMA WAR CEMETERY



Remembrance Day Programme was held at Kohima War Cemetery on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 which was attended by the British Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. Andrew Fleming. In his special address, Dr. Andrew Fleming acknowledged the Chief Minister and the State government for hoisting 'Remembrance day' since the battle of Kohima. He stated that the Commonwealth War Graves Association assisted by the Nagaland State does a remarkable job in the maintenance of the War Cemetery, the resting place of so many heroes. Speaking on the Battle of Kohima, Fleming stated that the bravery of the British and Indian forces and few allies from Australia and Canada, many of them still plays a critical part in our history. He said that we are

gathered here today not only to remember those who have fallen but also those who participated in this historic battle and stated "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it and, we dare not, to forget".

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima invoked God's blessing on the occasion. He remarked that the Catholic Cathedral is a memorable place for the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the great battle because it was in the Cathedral that both the parties – the British and Japanese came together for the first time for a reconciliation programme.

The Chief Minister, Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio called to the attention of the words inscribed on the Kohima Epitaph: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today." stating that these words serve as a lasting reminder of the sacrifices made, urging us to carry forward the torch of remembrance and respect for those who served. He also expressed his utmost appreciation to Dr. Andrew Fleming, for being the initiative behind the Remembrance Day program and for taking all necessary steps to ensure a successful partnership with the British High Commission and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in the observance of this global event in Kohima.

The Kohima War Cemetery is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, it is the resting place of 1,420 Allied soldiers, and also the

place where 917 Hindu and Sikh soldiers were cremated according to their faith. Seventy-nine years ago, the people of this land witnessed one of the fiercest battles of World War II—the Battle of Kohima. It was here that Allied and Indian forces joined hands in a courageous stand, halting the advance of enemy forces and shifting the tides of war.

Later in the program, a vintage car rally was flagged off by the British Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. Andrew Fleming and the Chief Minister, Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio, in the presence of his colleagues, Ministers, Advisors and MLAs and other officers from the Central and State Government and Armed Forces, Ex-servicemen and former Army Veterans.

- Correspondent

## **SJCKT ORGANIZES CLEANLINESS DRIVE TREK TO MT. SARAMATI.**

A two-day trekking expedition to Saramati Mountain, organized by St. John’s Catholic Church Kiusam Town (SJCKT), concluded on November 16. The trek, led by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu and Samuel Kurak, featured a team of 11 participants who not only scaled the challenging terrain but also undertook a cleanliness drive to promote environmental responsibility.

The journey began on November 15 from Thanamir village. Along the way, they cleaned three rest camps, aiming to reduce litter and pollution while protecting the local ecosystem and wildlife. The trek also underscored the importance of preserving air, water, and soil quality to maintain ecological balance. Mount Saramati, one of Southeast Asia’s ultra-prominent peaks standing at 3,826 meters (12,552 ft), has become a popular destination for trekkers. Despite its allure, the mountain presents a challenging climb, deterring some adventurers each year.

The first day saw the team trekking for over six hours to the base camp. The day concluded with prayer and thanksgiving, followed by a meal and rest. On November 16, the team began their ascent, equipped with torches to navigate the dark trails. After three hours, they reached the summit and witnessed a spectacular sunrise.

For the first time in the mountain’s history, the group celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the summit with the theme “How great are your works, O Lord”



(Psalm 92:5). Due to strong winds from the west, the Mass was held on the eastern side of the peak. The cleanliness drive continued at the summit before the team began their descent, carrying with them unforgettable memories of the experience. The group included guides and porters, with some participants carrying their own backpacks. Upon their return, each member received a certificate of participation; Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, Samuel Kurak, Felix Limsheba, Philip Tsuthong, Andrew Khiungju, Felix Tothong, Lucy Kiutangshe, Maria Thripila, Lucy Khasesii, Maria Tsusang and Repong

- **Samuel Kurak**

*We won't have a society if we destroy the environment.*

– Margaret Mead



## **CATECHISTS DAY & LEADERSHIP TRAINING HELD AT ST PETER'S PARISH**

A two-day program for catechists and leaders of various teams took place at St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire (SPPK), bringing together more than fifty participants from nine different churches. The gathering featured representatives including team leaders from the Catholic Women's Association, Catholic youth, catechism teachers, unit leaders, and the church council. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu served as the resource person for the leadership training, where he emphasized the theme "The Secret Leadership of Jesus." His discussions centered on the qualities that define effective leadership, particularly in the context of modern challenges posed by artificial intelligence and technology. Fr. Toretkiu encouraged participants to familiarize themselves with Catholic social teachings to maintain clarity in their roles as good Christians. The program concluded with a Holy Eucharist on Sunday, November 3, led by Rev. Fr. Johnson V.U., with the assistance of Rev. Fr. Philip Magh, Fr. Marius



Patton, and Fr. Toretkiu. In his homily, Fr. Johnson praised the catechists for their vital contributions to the spiritual growth of the community, stating, "Catechists are the backbone of the Church's spiritual paths." He urged leaders to remain grounded in prayer and called on the community to offer support in their collaborative efforts. The event was organized and hosted by Fr. Philip Magh and his team, who welcomed attendees and arranged a brief felicitation ceremony where catechists received gifts as tokens of appreciation. The day concluded with a shared meal.

**- Sr. Rosemary SABS**

## **KIUSAM TOWN CELEBRATES TSONGLAKNYI FESTIVAL**



The Tsonglak Committee of Kiusam Town celebrated Tsonglaknyi, a festival of the Tikhirs, at Kiusam town in Kiphire district on Thursday. According to an update, V Asuthong, second GB, addressing the gathering, stated that the term 'Tsonglaknyi' is made up of two words: "Tsong," which means shield, and "lak," which means sanctification.

He added that in ancient times, it was a feast for menfolk. On this day, menfolk would cleanse their weapons and other valuable assets. It was the most important festival celebrated among the Tikhir people. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu stated in his

speech that in ancient times, there was a practice of cleansing weapons and shields. Today, this value of cleansing and sanctification continues by introspecting, renewing the spirit of prosperity, and building relationships through sharing and caring.

In ancient times, it was a feast for men who would rise early to perform this sanctification. He added that this value of discipline and hard work continues in everyone's life, as hard work and success are intertwined to reap a good harvest. The event featured cultural dances, a feast, and a friendly volleyball match.

**- Stephen Tishiba**

## **THANKSGIVING MASS CELEBRATED AT CHRIST KING CHURCH PHUVKIU**



Rev. Sr. Carolen Yimkhiunger of the Sisters of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SABS) celebrated a heartfelt thanksgiving Mass at Christ King Church on Sunday. The ceremony, attended by a diverse gathering of community members, was warmly welcomed by Rev. Fr. Shyjesh, the center in-charge.

The Eucharist, officiated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, served as an occasion to express gratitude for the many blessings received. The celebration began with a vibrant procession led by men in traditional attire, accompanied by singing and dancing as they made their way to the church.

Fr. Toretkiu was joined by several concelebrants, including Rev. Fr. Siju, a provincial consulter, and fellow priests from the region: Jacob from Manipur, Satheesh from Sitimi, Akhil, and Leo Chase from St. Paul Parish, Pungro. The event saw participation from nuns, public leaders, village council members, catechists, and invited guests from neighboring villages.

In his homily, Fr. Toretkiu reflected on the words of Jesus, stating, "If anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all" (Mk 9:35). He emphasized that true greatness lies in humility and committed service to God's people,



urging the congregation to recognize God's presence in one another. He encouraged Rev. Sr. Carolen, the newly professed, to embrace life's hardships with

gratitude, drawing inspiration from St. Teresa of Kolkata. He also encouraged living in the present with enthusiasm and looking to the future with confidence, as exemplified by Pope John Paul II.

Following the Mass, a short felicitation program was held, with Andrew Shulikiu serving as the master of ceremonies. Public leaders and church officials

shared their thoughts, and children and youth presented special dances and choreographed performances. Rev. Sr. Carolen expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the gathering, and the event concluded with a traditional dance performed by the men of the community,

followed by a communal lunch for all attendees.

This celebration not only marked a personal milestone for Rev. Sr. Carolen but also fostered a sense of unity and gratitude within the community.

**- Samuel Kurak**

## **CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT PRE – CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN NAGALAND UNIVERSITY**



Today in Bethlehem a rescuer was born for you. (Luke 2:10). Catholic youth of Nagaland University organized a pre-Christmas celebration on 20th November 2024 at 6 pm in Rajiv Gandhi Park, Lumami. All invitees gathered around bonfire in the cold winter, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The executive members of CYM organized a short programme which included singing of Carols, address by Sir Albert, fun time and so on. Fr Stephen Dsouza, Spiritual guide and Parish Priest

of St Clare Church along with Br Edmund Mughavito sang a Kannada Carol to add joy to the celebration. Immediately after the Programme dinner party was served to all. Thanks to all the youth for their contribution to arrange the festal meal. Around 40 people witnessed beautiful pre-Christmas gathering in the beautiful surrounding of Nagaland University. In December all will be leaving NU Campus for their winter vacations to celebrate the birth of Christ in their home towns.

**- Fr Stephen Dsouza, Capuchin**

## MISSIO DAY FOR CATECHISTS OBSERVED AT NEWMAN PASTORAL CENTRE CHUMOUKEDIMA

The Catechist trainees hailing from the Archdiocese of Imphal and the diocese of Kohima who began their Catechetical formation in February 2023 at Pastoral Training Center Sangaiprou in the Archdiocese of Imphal amidst the ongoing violence in Manipur had successfully completed their course on 30th November 2024 in Newman Pastoral Centre, Chumoukedima, Nagaland with MISSIO day at St. Joseph’s Parish Church Chümoukedima, Nagaland.



Fr. Sabu Chenackal, the director of Newman Pastoral Center welcomed the gathering on behalf of the pastoral center and 28 Catechist trainees to the occasion of the MISSIO and said, “ This marks the first time such a ceremony is being conducted in our diocese of Kohima, making it truly historic.”

His grace, Archbishop Linus Neli, the bishop of the Archdiocese of Imphal was the main celebrant who conferred MISSIO to 28 trained catechists and concelebrated by 22 priests.

Archbishop Linus Neli spoke of the two calls that the catechists received i.e Divine call and Ecclesiastical call. He said that catechists are authorized labourers to carry out the mission in the Church. MISSIO means “send forth” to preach, to teach and to heal. He exhorted them saying, “ being a Catechist is a vocation and it is not to be exchanged with salary”. Word of God and personal prayer would be our strength in our vocation and that they are to be the hinges to the Parish and the people of God”, he added.

The trained catechists made their promises which was followed by conferring of MISSIO where a Bible, crucifix, Rosary and Diploma certificates

were given to each of them. It was truly a heart touching ceremony as many witnessed it for the first time.

After the Holy Mass, there was a short felicitation programme where CMC postulants sang congratulation songs followed by presentation of gifts, special number and vote of thanks by the trainees.

The day wrapped up with a sumptuous meal served for all at the Newman Pastoral Center. Indeed it was a grand success and memorable event blessed with the warm presence of Archbishop Linus Neli, Bishop Jose Mukala, Rev. Fr Paul Ngaoni, the chancellor of Archdiocese of Imphal, many Fathers, Sisters, Parish representatives and a few of their family members and relations.

**- Correspondent**

*“ Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand.”*

**- Mother Teresa**



# NAGALAND CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES FROM SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 2024

**1**

*NCYM Day Celebrated at St. Xavier Church, Zhavame on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024: Holy Eucharist, NCYM Day Programme and Futsal match was played between Host Parish Youth & NCYM OBs.*



**2**

*Core Team Kohima Diocese with NERYC Team visited clients at Shalom Rehabilitation Centre and Silas Welfare Care and Society on 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2024.*



**3**

*The Orientation programme for the Young Catholic Students (YCS) on 6<sup>th</sup> October at Mary Help of Christians Cathedral*

*Mrs. Neisevonuo Anna, Former YCS Coordinator was the resource person*

*The Orientation programme was attended by Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director, NCYM, Rev. Sr. Mariyam Chothe, MSMHC, Lady Animator, NCYM OBs, FMA sisters, FMA Novcies and 65+ students.*



**4**

*YCS Animation and Students Training Programme organized by NERYC in collaboration with Kohima Diocese was held on 13<sup>th</sup> October at Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima.*

*The Animation & Students Training Programme was attended by Rev. Sr. Mariyam Chothe, MSMHC, Lady Animator, NCYM OBs, FMA sisters, FMA Novcies and 65+ students from St. Francis de Sales, Kohima & Mary Help of Christians Cathedral Kohima*





**5**

The 6<sup>th</sup> National Youth Conference was held at Jalandhar, Punjab from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. Mr. Paul Magh received the National Youth Award (male category)

7<sup>th</sup> Representatives from Kohima Diocese. Attended by Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurain, Rev. Sr. Mariam, Dr. Rosou Ronald, Mr. Sedengulie Leo, Ms. Esther Kajiri, Ms. Magdalene and Mr. Paul Magh.



**6**

National Students Leadership Training Programme (NSLTP) held from 30<sup>th</sup> October-4<sup>th</sup> November at Seva Kendra, Kolkata.

Attended by 5 YCS members and two Animators from Kohima Diocese viz. Augustine, Theodora, Loretta, Portia and James and Silvia and Angelina as animators led by Rev. Sr. Mariyam Chothe.



**7**

Orientation Programme held for the Young Catholic Students at Holy Cross Parish, Dimapur on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024.

Attended by 172 students; Holy Cross & St. Anthony's Tenyiphe catechism students, NCYM OBs and Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director, NCYM participated in the said programme



**8**

The 4<sup>th</sup> NCYM Outreach Programme to St. Xavier Seminary, Jalukie. Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian celebrated Holy Eucharist at St. Thomas Church, Mhainamtsi during the Outreach visit.



**9**

The NCYM OBs held a programme with the seminarians; animations, ice-breaking session, exhortation speech and a session was held on 'Where Faith Meets Mental Health'. The Seminarians welcome NCYM OBs with a welcome song and welcome address delivered by Rev. Fr. Carolus, Rector.





## KIDS (KOHIMA, IMPHAL & DIPHU) ZONE BEC CONVENTION REPORT 17<sup>TH</sup> TO 19 OCTOBER 2024



### DAY 1 – 17.10.2024

The Zonal convention of the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) commenced at 3: 30 pm with a solemn flag hosting ceremony, by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima Diocese. This poignant moment marked the beginning of the spiritual gathering. The Holy Eucharist followed immediately with the enthronement of the Holy Bible in procession to the altar. After the entrance hymn Fr. Peter Zeliang, coordinator of BECs Kohima diocese, warmly welcomed and introduced distinguished guests Sir. John Mahendra Gurung from Sikkim, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Rev. Fr. Hippolytus Toppo, BECs coordinator of the regional North East of India, and participants. Bishop James Thoppil was the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist, con-celebrated by 14 esteemed priests, hailing from various parts of the region. Bishop James delivered an inspiring homily emphasizing the significance of the Holy Eucharist and the word of God in nourishing faith and community.

After the Holy Mass Fr. Paul the coordinator of the Kids Zone of Imphal, Kohima and Diphu diocese acknowledged prominent personalities and presented tokens of appreciation with the traditional shawls. The evening session began at 7:00 pm with the vibrant praise and worship led by Catechist Benedict and the team from Tenyiphe.

After which Fr. Hippolutus Toppo gave an inspiring talk on the Theme: “BEC the heartbeat of the Church and Family”. He shared personal experiences, insights and successes from attending conventions across dioceses. He explained that the Zonal convention was a precursor to next year’s Silver Jubilee celebrations scheduled to unfold in Guwahati, marking a milestone in the North East region journey.

At 7:00 pm the three participating dioceses Imphal, Kohima and Diphu presented Bible skits, and Report Documentary presentation competitions, emceed by Bro. Pare Peter and Miss. Ruptalon, Judges Fr. Solomon Vizo, Fr. Joseph Dale and Sr. Genevieve CMC. Mr. John Touthang from Imphal diocese shared a heartfelt testimony on how BEC transformed his life and family. Fr. Hippolytus announced the results:

#### Bible skit:

1st Imphal

2<sup>nd</sup>Kohima

3<sup>rd</sup>Diphu.

#### Report Presentation:

1st Imphal

2<sup>nd</sup>Diphu

3<sup>rd</sup>Kohima.

At 8:30 pm the day ended with a serene night prayer led by Fr. Thomas assistant priest of Khonoma, guiding participants in seeking God's divine blessings and protection.

## **Day 2 – 18.10.24**

The day began with praising and worshipping the Lord, by the team of Archdiocese of Imphal. It was followed by Bible Enthronement and the seven steps of gospel sharing conducted by Fr. Paul Ngaolouni the Zonal director of KIDs zone BECs. In the gospel sharing "peace to everyone or peace to this house" was selected unanimously the Word of Life. The task was to pray for peace and be agents and instruments of peace. In concrete, greet and wish everyone with peace and bring peace and tranquility to everyone and to the environment by using less plastics and cups and use of dust bins and pray a decade of holy rosary for peace.

The first session of the day was on "The Influence of BECs in the Church and the Society in Sikkim by Mr. John Mahendra Gurung, personal secretary to the Chief minister of Sikkim and a faithful promoter of BECs in Sikkim. In his talk Mr. John Gurung highlighted the influence and the importance of BECs in the Church and the society. He said that the future Church is going to be BEC Church and it is defined as BECs of the people, for the people and by the people. BECs play a great role in bringing changes in the lives of the people and the society. He also highlighted the role of priests in promoting and supporting BECs. He in lighter way said that Modiji and Yogiji too promoter BECs in their talks by saying 'sub kesaat, sub kevikas' meaning 'with everyone and for everyone' which is the motto of BECs. Mr. John Gurung concluded the talk by stating that if we are united we will be saved, and if we are divided then we will be destroyed.

The second session was exhorted by Rt. Rev. Jose Mukala bishop emeritus of Kohima. He began the exhortation with the humble beginning of BECs in the NE especially in the diocese of Kohima. He

claimed that parishes as the headquarters of BECs just like the early Christian communities which did not have any structures as headquarters. He also shared about the history of the seven steps of gospel sharing how it evolved and how it was formulated and structured as the seven steps. He moved on to say the importance of BECs in building up good communities and building the future Churches.

After the second session there was a small break and little action song was played to enhance and entertain the audience. After a short break the third session began. This session was on "the Structure and Vision of BECs" by Rev. Fr. Hippolytus, the North East, Regional Director of BECs. He first explained what is BECs in simple terms, it is nothing but hearing the Word of God, Understanding the Word of God and doing the Word of God. He emphasized this by teaching the audience with action. He advised that if we do these three things then we are doing BECs. He highlighted the importance of BECs in the present scenario. The CCBI has approved from the year 2000 till now by stating that BECs as the pastoral priority of the present time, and it has to be promoted in every diocese and parishes of Indian Catholic Church, and it has to be in their annual pastoral plan. Fr. Hippolytus also had a buzz session among the participants to discuss among them on why BEC is considered as the pastoral priority of the people. The people discussed among themselves and shared their opinions as well. One of the participants said that it is important because we may be Catholics for so many years, but never reflected and experience the Word of properly and never had much influence upon us, but when it was discussed and reflected in BECs, we had a good experience of the Word of God and we get inspired by it, says Mr. Joseph from Imphal archdiocese. At the end of the session Fr. Hippolytus distributed the Action Plan for 2033 for everyone and asked to make their plan to spread BECs in every parishes they belong to and help the one which do not have so far in their neighborhoods.



After the third session there was lunch break and all had a sumptuous lunch and proceeded to have a short tour to see the Heritage and tourist village of Khonoma. The people were guided by touring guides in groups and they had a good and pleasant experience of visiting the villages.

After a short visit of Khonoma village there was Eucharistic and Word of God procession from the village to the parish. For that people all gathered in the centre of the village and began the Eucharistic and Word of God procession at 3 pm. The Eucharistic procession began with a small exhortation by Rt. Rev. James Thoppil bishop of Kohima. The Eucharist was held by Rt. Rev. James Thoppil and the Word of God was held by Re. Fr. Hippolytus and had a pious and prayerful procession from the village to the parish centre. The faithful participated the procession with their ethnic attires. The procession concluded with the blessing of Eucharistic Lord. Soon after the procession there was solemn Eucharistic celebration presided by Most Rev. Dominic Lumon archbishop emeritus of Imphal along with 20 priests from three dioceses of Kohima, Imphal and Diphu along with all the participants of the convention.

After the Eucharist there was felicitation for some of the special invitees including the archbishop emeritus. After that there was break for dinner. After the dinner the session began with a small exhortation by Most. Rev. Dominic Lumon archbishop emeritus. In his exhortation he highlighted the importance of BECs in the growing

communities as well as the mourning communities like Manipur.

After a short exhortation Bible recitation competition began for OT and NT. After that there was cultural dance competition by each diocese. The winners of the OT recitation were Imphal, Diphu and Kohima as first, second and third respectively. The winners of NT recitation were Diphu, Kohima and Imphal as first, second and third respectively. The winners of the cultural dances were Imphal B group got the first prize, Kohima A& B got the second prizes and Diphu B got the third prize. The day was concluded with a prayer and greeted good night's rest to everyone and dispersed.

### **Day 3 - 19.10.2024**

On 19th October 2024 , **Diocese of Diphu** , KARBI Anglong took a lead the last day of BECs Zonal Convention, by welcoming Most Rev. BISHOP Benny Varghese with Angami Shawls . BISHOP Benny Varghese is one of the Resource Persons for the Kid Zone. After the first talk ,Praise and Worship was led by Diphu Diocese BECs Family .

At 10 am Most Rev. Bp. Paul Mattekatt , BISHOP of Diphu and along with him a Guest Father's from Kerala Diocese was welcome by Zonal BECs Family with Angami Shawls . He Officiated the Holy Eucharistic Celebration and in His Homily , he emphasized that the People or the church leaders needed to be Enthusiastic and Dynamic to Proclaim the Good News of Christ.The last day BECs was celebrated with a Heavy Lunch Prepared by Khonoma Parishioners.

**-Correspondent**

## **CHURCH IN NORTHEAST INDIA PREPARES FOR JUBILEE 2025**

The Catholic Church in northeastern India set the preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 in motion by revisiting 'Ecclesia in Asia,' an apostolic exhortation issued by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1999.

This was done at the three-day annual regional pastoral conference at Jubilee Memorial Hall of *Sharing: September - December 2024*

North East Diocesan Social Service Society, Guwahati.

"It is 25 years since Saint Pope John Paul II issued this apostolic exhortation, Ecclesia in Asia, a document intended to serve as the blueprint for the expansion of the Catholic Faith in Asia. As the



silver jubilee year of the Ecclesia in Asia coincides with the Jubilee of Hope 2025 proclaimed by Pope Francis, a revisit to the document would help us have an Asian understanding of who Jesus is and what his mission was in general and a North East India understanding in particular,” said Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati in his presidential address.

Welcoming the delegates from 15 dioceses of the region, the archbishop, who is the president of the North East India Regional Bishops’ Council (NEIRBC), said, “As the people of the Asia, where Jesus Christ was born, the people of North East India are thirsting for the living water that Jesus alone can give. May our revisiting of the ‘Ecclesia in Asia’ help us with stronger resolve to be unstinting in our efforts so that all the people of North East India have life, and have it in abundance.”

The August 26-28 event was attended by 150 delegates from the region, including archbishops, bishops, provincials, secretaries of various commissions, special invitees and resource persons from across the region.

Addressing the delegates on the occasion, Salesian Bishop George Pallipparambil of Miao and the chairman of the Commission for Evangelization of NEIRBC, echoed the words of Saint Pope John Paul II. “Just as in the first millennium the Cross was planted on the soil of

Europe, and in the second on that of the Americas, we pray that in the Third Millennium, our revisiting of the Ecclesia in Asia will lead us to a great harvest of faith in this vast and vital continent of Asia.”

Father Kuriakose Poovathumkudy, professor of Oriens Theological College, Shillong, Meghalaya, presented the keynote address that summarized the ‘Ecclesia in Asia’ and underlined the obscurity surrounding the document even after 25 years and how the Christians in Asia are required to reclaim the Asian identity to make the document relevant in the local context of North East India.

Explaining the dynamics of the Regional Pastoral Conference 2024, Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima, NEIRBC secretary general, said, “The Church in North East India is known for vibrancy and the whole Church in India looks towards North East India for its unique ways of going about its ministry and service to the people. Let this conference, as we revisit a relevant apostolic exhortation, help us to be filled with greater zeal for mission and evangelisation to become an inspiration and role model for the rest of the country and Asia in general.”

Along with Ecclesia in Asia, the conference also studied two other papal documents. Father Stanislaus Chiliankhum, rector of the Oriens College, presented a paper on Evangelii Nunciandi



and *Evangelii Gaudium*, important apostolic exhortations by Saint Pope Paul VI in 1975 and Pope Francis in 2023, respectively, that stressed the mandate and joy of proclaiming the Gospel.

The conference had panel discussion on evangelization in the post covid present scenario, catechesis in North East India from the past to the present from different perspectives, group discussions on synodal way of being Church, general discussion on effective ways of evangelization in the light of 'Ecclesia in Asia' and

use of AI tools for work of evangelization and its ethical concerns in the present-day context.

Setting the tone of the Jubilee 2033, the greatest of all the jubilees as it marks the 2000th anniversary of Jesus' Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, the conference also saw a paper presentation on 'Year 2033' by Manoj Sunny, secretary for the Office of Evangelization of Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

- *Correspondent*

## NORTH EAST INDIA REGIONAL BISHOP'S COUNCIL (NEIRBC)

After the North East India Pastoral Conference, the Bishops of the region gathered at the Archbishop's House, Shillong, for their second annual meeting. During the meeting it was decided to gear up the whole Church in the North East India towards the great Jubilee 2033. It was suggested to have nine years of preparation for the great jubilee (novena), in line with what the region did for the Centenary of the Catholic Church in the Northeast. Each of the Archdioceses and dioceses in the region will keep one year in their respective diocese with a specific theme, inviting the bishops and representative from the region for the common celebration. NEIRBC will also issue a pastoral letter each year on the relevant theme of the celebration during the year. A general program as suggested in the meeting is given below:

**2024: ITANAGAR:** Focus/Theme: "EUCCHARIST, MISSION & EVANGELIZATION"  
(Inauguration of the Maha jubilee)

**2025: BONGAIGAON:**  
Focus/Theme: "CHILDREN"

**2025: AIZAWL:**  
Focus/Theme: "BEC"

**2026: DIBRUGARH:**  
Focus/Theme: "PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS"

**2027: DIPHU:**  
Focus/Theme: "CATECHESIS"

**2027: AGARTALA:**

Focus/Theme: "SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY / CHANGE"

**2028: TEZPUR**

: Focus/Theme: "SACRAMENTS"

**2028: KOHIMA:**

Focus/Theme: "LAITY"

**2029: MIAO:**

Focus/Theme: "YOUTH"

**2030: IMPHAL:**

Focus/Theme: "(BIBLE) GOSPEL AND CULTURE"

**2031: NONGSTOIN:**

Focus/Theme: "FAMILY"

**2031: JOWAI:**

Focus/Theme: "VOCATION AND FORMATION"

**2032: GUWAHATI:**

Focus/Theme: "ECUMENISM"

**2033: TURA:**

Focus/Theme: "WOMEN"

**2033: SHILLONG:**

Focus/Theme: (Marian Year) "MOTHER MARY, POPULAR DEVOTIONS / PIETY"

Our diocese will celebrate it in the year 2028 during the month of October, commemorating the 80 years of the arrival and stay of the first Catholic missionaries to Nagaland with specific emphasis on the laity, who played the vital role in the establishment and spread of the Catholic faith in Nagaland.

- *Correspondent*



**PAUL MAGH RECEIVES ICYM NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD 2024**

Mr. Paul Magh received the prestigious National Youth Award 2024 from the Northeast Region (Male), awarded by the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), during the 6th National Youth Conference 2024 at Jalandhar, Punjab from 21-25 October. The NCYM in a social media post congratulated him along with all Catholic youth of Nagaland celebrating his dedicated service and achievements. He had previously served as the NCYM Music Secretary and Representative to NERYC from 2021-2023.



Leo (Treasurer), Esther Posarho (Jt. Secy.), and Magdalene Rongmei (Editor).

The NCYM team led by Rev. Fr. KoktoKurian (Director) and Rev. Sr. MariyamChothe (Lady Animator) participated at the 6th ICYM National Conference in commemoration of 25 years of ICYM at Trinity College, Jalandhar, Punjab. Also in the team were Dr. RosouPohena (President), Mr. Sedengulie

**CBCI Commission for Youth - ICYM National Youth Award winners from Nagaland over the years**

1. Thomas Kez - Nagpur, 1995
2. Catherine Dzüvichü - Delhi, 1997
3. Nikhi N. Pohena - Bhopal, 2004
4. Jievitho Augustine Nyuwi - Jalandhar, 2013
5. Kuotseituo John Keditso - Gurugram, 2018
6. Paul Magh - Jalandhar, 2024

- Correspondent





## THERE IS HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

- Deacon Pelevito Patrick Kipfe SJ



Have you any room for hope this Christmas? The song titled ‘Way Maker’ by Sinach is a heart rendering melody for Christmas. It perfectly blends the emotions and future glory of what the baby born in Bethlehem would signify. Love is not a passive commodity to be consumed. Rather, it is an active agent to choose what’s best for the human fraternity. Indeed, in a world strife with broken humanity, Jesus is the answer to everything that is ravaging the earth. He is the way maker, he is certainly the miracle worker, and he is going to be the light to our darkness. If Christmas is born out of conflicts and persecution, our present scenario is no different. While the Roman empire overshadows the chosen race, God sends His beloved Son to convey the message of hope and love in its purest form. This gives us the freedom to hope and hold firm to the beautiful mystery that unfolds in the little manger of our hearts. What is the meaning of Christmas for me as a Christian?

Do Christmas bring newness in my life each year? Christmas is just round the corner. Soon the stars will be hoisted on tall bamboo trees in the state of Nagaland. The children will flock the streets and trudge along the vicinity belting out oldies Christmas carols. Old time favourites such as Bony M and Abba will once again make people grooving to soulful melodies that ring a bell of Christmas joys. Amidst the festivities and its frolic raptures, the season of Christmas has much more to offer than external elevations. What would the prophesy of 21<sup>st</sup> century Christmas be like?

The significance of the celebration lies not in killing the fattest swine or a rollicking picnic on the most luxurious resort. None of those capitalizes the depth of what Christmas stands for to every believer in God. What does it profit, when you decorate your house with shimmering lights costing a fortune and yet spitting out false witness against your neighbour? The warmth and glow have to be illumined from within so as to transmit the fragrance of heavenly joy to your neighbour. Pope Francis in his apostolic letter “Desiderio Desideravi”(no 10) states that “*Christian faith is either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist.*”

We live in a century smeared with violence served on a platter. On a daily basis, the mortality rate is on the ascending order. It is alarming and shell-shocking to witness battles fought on ground of supremacy. The culture of love has been replaced with the culture of hatred. Do we really care for the existence of another human? Even if we don’t, God does. He loved us first, therefore we ought to follow the example he displayed. Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sums up brilliantly saying, “*Peace is not merely a distant goal. It is a process. It is the small acts of kindness, forgiveness, and understanding that build a future worth striving for.*” The vehicle of life runs on love, respect and hope. Let us remind ourselves to refuel our tanks constantly. This Christmas, let us learn to become champions of hope.

**Let us fight not with arms and ammunitions, but with love**  
**Let us stare not with aggression and hatred, but with smile**  
**Let us respond not with clenched fist, but with compassion**  
**Let us envision not with fear, but with unsurmountable hope**

**WISHING YOU A JOY-FILLED CHRISTMAS 2024**



## MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE

- 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Mr. S. Ashiho John Mao (91 Years) a devout Catholic with great missionary zeal from Holy Cross Parish, Dimapur.
- 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Rev. Sr. Carmine Lobo UFS (71 Years), served at Sacred Heart Parish Chizami, Phek in the early years of 1976-77.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Mr. Chena Humtsoe the uncle of Rev. Fr. John Ntonse (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish 4th Mile, Chümoukedima)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Aug:** Rev. Sr. Norbetha Ekka PDDM (69 years) served at Mt. Tabor retreat house in 1980.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mrs Annamma Joseph (85) the beloved mother of Rev. Fr. Sunny Joseph Kudumbakuzhy (Bishop's House Dimapur)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mrs. Vilhusono Antonia (72 Years), the beloved wife of Sir. Rocus R. Chasie, a very prominent and committed Catholic leader (SFS Parish, Kohima).
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mr. Andrew Veigas (88 Years) beloved Dad of Rev. Fr. Gerald Veigas (Capuchin House, Dimapur).
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sept :** Mr. Eugene Kuek (81 Years) the beloved father of Deacon Sherman Kuek - an active Missionary from Malaysia who reaches out to Nagaland Mission anytime we are in need.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Rev. Fr. Joy Thomas (57 Years), the first cousin of Rev. Fr. Tomy (Parish Priest, St. Xavier Parish, Meluri).
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept:** Mr. Panii Gregory (71 Years), the beloved eldest brother of Rev. Fr. Benjamin Nakho Msfs (St. Francis De Sales Parish, Medziphema).
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mr. Zhaselie Thomas, the paternal uncle of Rev. Fr. Leo Chasie (St. Paul Parish, Pungro).
- 30<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Mrs. Zarboni Yanthan, Beloved Mother of Sir Jonas Yanthan (CAN Advisor).
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Mr. Gerald Fernandes (69 years) the beloved elder brother of Rev. Fr. Richard Fernandes (St. Dominic Parish, Chiephobozou).
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Rev. Sr. Philo George SH (65 Years), member of SH Amala Province, Assam.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Mr. George Kannanthadathil, the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Tresa George SH (St. Joseph Children home. Burma Camp)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Mr. Joseph Iniyappanavar (85 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Elizabeth Iniyappanavar UFS (Candidates Directress Tabor UFC Provincialate).
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov:** Rev. Sr. Merine Chenkarayil (52 Years). She worked in Nagaland at Holy Redeemer Parish Tobu in the year 1994.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** Rev. Fr. Phimu Ashuli Joseph SJ (48 Yeas) of Kohima Jesuit Region.





1. Congratulations! God has blessed you with a new baby. How do you envision bringing up this child in the light of Christian ideals?

*As a Christian, I would raise my child with love, care, and the teachings of Jesus Christ at the heart of everything. I believe in teaching my child about kindness, forgiveness, and the importance of faith. Prayer, attending church, and understanding the Bible would be essential parts of our daily life. I would also encourage my child to live a life of service to others, to be compassionate, and to always trust in God's plan for them.*

2. We are in the 'Year of Prayer'. Could you share why daily prayer is important?

*Daily prayer is important because it helps us stay connected with God. It's a moment to express gratitude, seek guidance, and ask for strength. Prayer helps keep our hearts open to God's will and reminds us of His presence in our lives. It also brings peace, helps us grow spiritually, and strengthens our faith, making it easier to navigate life's challenges.*

3. Could you please enlighten the readers some of the challenges you face daily while carrying out your responsibility as a Catholic Lawyer? How do you address them? What influence can you have as a Catholic officer on others?

*As a Catholic lawyer/in-house counsel, one of the challenges I face is balancing my professional responsibilities with my moral beliefs. Sometimes, I do encounter matters*

*and factual situations that conflict with my faith, such as defending actions that may go against Catholic teachings by pressing and arguing only on my rights. However, amidst all the responsibilities of defending my employer and my rights, I always endeavour that my actions should show that I am a lawyer with a difference, and try to influence colleagues and subordinates with equity, fairness and good conscience.*

4. What message would you like to leave for the readers?

*The message I would like leave for the readers is HOPE. Every one of us has unique problems we go through and no matter weight of the laden, God is always there, to help and lighten our burden, let us hold on to him. Since this is an advent season, I pray that the readers upkeep their hopes, and foresee the silver lining in different walks of our life. Soon Christmas is coming, a season of love and good tidings, but I would term it as a season of hope. A hope of salvation for mankind, health for the sick and aged, a hope of success and employment for youths, hope of parents that their children excel in their studies, new parents with a hope of raising kind, compassionate and God-fearing children, and the endless hopes of the whole humanity.*

With this hope let us strive to have positive influence on those around us and creates ripples of love, kindness and hope by trusting in his plan and remembering that every small act of love and kindness makes a difference.



**Diocese Eucharistic Procession on 27<sup>th</sup> October at Mary Help of Christians**



**Remembrance Day At Kohima War Cemetery on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**



**Visit from Malaysian Pilgrimage on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024**



**Reception of 7 New Families (22 Members) at Chessore on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

## DEAR SUBSCRIBERS

It has been more than 2 years that Sharing has not received any New Subscribers. Therefore please note that we will issue the hard copy of Sharing only to the New Subscribers starting from 1st January, 2025 onwards. All the previous subscription remains cancelled. The soft copy of Sharing will be made available in the 'Kohima Diocese' website and other Watsapp group messages.

### SHARING

Bishop's House, P.B.No. 519

Kohima 797001, Nagaland - India

sec.kohimadiocese@gmail.com / 9485210215

One time Sponsorship (Cover Page) @ Rs. 5999 only!!!

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

1 Year Rs. 120

2 Years Rs. 240

3 Years Rs. 350

4 Years Rs. 450

5 Years Rs. 500





**SHARING EXTENDS  
PRAYERFUL WISHES TO  
MR. THOMAS & MRS. RUTH**

