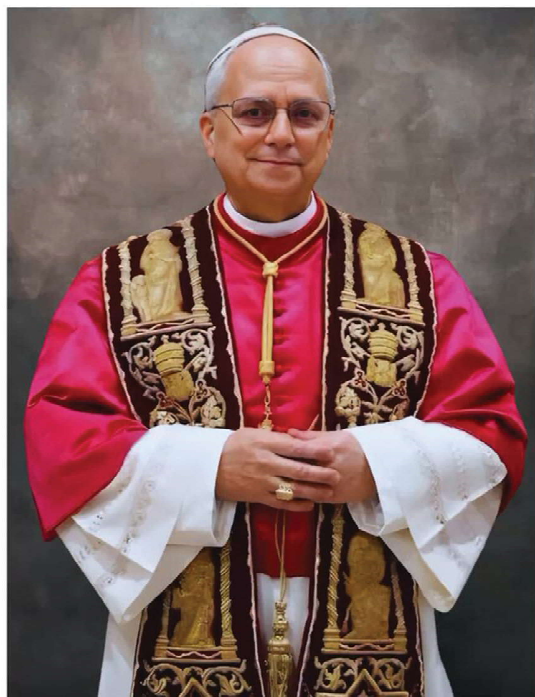


Sharing



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Leone PP. XIV



KOHIMA 2025

5TH REGIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION 2025

Organised by

**NERYC - ICYM NE
(INDIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT
NORTHEAST)**

Host

**NAGALAND CATHOLIC YOUTH
MOVEMENT (NCYM)
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHEDRAL,
KOHIMA**

Date : 27th - 30th June 2025





THANK YOU PAPA FRANCIS

1936 - 2025



SHARING

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rev. Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep

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ADDRESS FOR SUBSCRIPTION:

The Editor, (Sharing)
Bishop's House
P.B. No. 519
Kohima - 797 001,
Nagaland, India
Phone no: +91-9485210215
Email: sec.kohimadiocese@gmail.com

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The Sharing is published quaterly 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

April - September 2025

JUNE

1	Sun	Ascension: Longsa – Pastoral Visit -
2	Mon	Longsa – Pastoral visit –Mt. Tabor - Retreat
3	Tue	Kohima
4	Wed	Kohima
5	Thu	Kohima
6	Fri	Kohima
7	Sat	Mt. Tabor – Retreat; Dimapur – Vestition – GSS, Dimapur
8	Sun	Pentecost – Zunheboto – Pastoral Visit
9	Mon	Zunheboto – Pastoral visit
10	Tue	Kohima
11	Wed	Kohima
12	Thu	Kohima - meeting
13	Fri	To Tening – Pastoral visit
14	Sat	Tening – Pastoral visit
15	Sun	Holy Trinity - Tening – Pastoral visit
16	Mon	Tening – Pastoral visit
17	Tue	Tening – Pastoral visit
18	Wed	Tening – Pastoral visit
19	Thu	Kohima
20-26,		Annual retreat for Sisters, Mt. Tabor
21	Sat	Tesophenyu – Pastoral Visit
22	Sun	Corpus Christi - Tesophenyu – Pastoral Visit
23	Mon	Tesophenyu – Pastoral Visit
24	Tue	Kohima
25	Wed	Kohima
26	Thu	Jakhama
27	Fri	Dimapur – 50 hours of the Adoration begins – NE Youth convention - arrival
28	Sat	Kohima – NE Youth Convention, Finance committee meeting (2.30 pm, BHK)
29	Sun	Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul: Kohima – NE Youth Convention Mass,
30	Mon	Kohima – NE Youth, Departure, Retreat for Priests,; Mt. Tabor , Meeting of the Regional Animators and Chairman of Commissions- Mt. Tabor (5.00 pm)

JULY

1	Tue	Kohima
2	Wed	Kohima
3-31 :		US – for MCP

September

5-9		Retreat – 1- for Catechists
6	Wed	Returns from the US
7	Thu	Medziphema – Blessing of St. Thomas Church at Tsüüma – Chumöukedima - DF
8	Fri	Chumöukedima – DF, Consulters meeting (Pastoral Centre)
9	Sat	Bangalore
10	Sun	Bangalore
11	Mon	Bangalore
12	Tue	Bangalore
13	Wed	Bangalore
14	Thu	Bangalore
15	Fri	Feast of the Assumption – Independence day
16	Sat	Kohima
17	Sun	Kohima
18	Mon	Retreat
19	Tue	Retreat
20	Wed	Retreat
21	Thu	Retreat
22	Fri	Retreat
23	Sat	Retreat
24	Sun	Kohima
25	Mon	Kohima
26-30		Retreat -2- for Catechists
27	Wed	Kohima
28	Thu	Kohima
29	Fri	Phesama: Pastoral visit
30	Sat	Phesama: Pastoral visit
31	Sun	Phesama: Pastoral visit

AUGUST

1	Mon	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
2	Tue	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
3	Wed	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
4	Thu	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
5	Fri	Shillong – NE Bishop's meeting
6	Sat	Shillong – NE Bishop's meeting
7	Sun	Kohima



Shepherd's Voice



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Kohima!

The months of April and May have been very significant for each of us and for the Church. On **April 21st 2025**, the Catholic Church and the world bid farewell to **Pope Francis**, a humble shepherd and prophetic voice who led the Church for over twelve years. His life and ministry reminded us that the Church is called to be a "field hospital," reaching out to the wounded, the forgotten, and the marginalized. His simplicity, his love for the poor, his bold calls for justice and care for our common home, and above all, his firm emphasis on mercy and fraternity, have left an indelible mark on the history of the Church. As he once beautifully reminded us, *"Death is not the end of everything, but a new beginning"*. We entrust him to the eternal embrace of God.

On **May 8th, 2025**, the conclave of Cardinals elected **Pope Leo XIV**, the new shepherd for Catholics worldwide. In God's providence, the See of Peter has not remained vacant for long. We rejoice and pray for the new Pope as he takes up this great responsibility of guiding the Church in these complex times.

His election is a beacon of hope, reminding us that the Lord never abandons His flock.

Now we are passing through a very critical time in history. The tension between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine has spilled over to other parts and nations—India and Pakistan, Iran and Israel, many of the African nations has strife within or outside the national borders with world powers supporting overtly or covertly, directly or indirectly. These perilous situations can lead to much suffering to humanity and nature and even lead to extermination of many. It is in this context as believers we need to hold fast to our faith and hope especially in this year of special jubilee when we travel as pilgrims of hope. The de-escalation of tensions and the easing of conflicts among world powers is the need of hour and peace is always possible when dialogue, respect, and justice prevail over violence and pride. Let us, as Disciples of

Christ and as *Pilgrims of Hope*, commit ourselves to building peace — in our families, in our communities, and in our world.

I also congratulate Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) under the able guidance of its Director Rev. Fr. KoktoKurian and its executive who hosted the 5th Regional Youth Convention. I thank all those who collaborated with them, especially Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA), Cathedral parish community and many others who generously helped in various ways.

I conclude by praying that the legacy of Pope Francis and the ministry of Pope Leo XIV inspire us to be a Church that is merciful, inclusive, and courageous, guide us to deeper communion with Christ and one another.

Yours in Christ,

+ James Thoppil

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



Sharing: April-May 2025



From the Editor's Desk

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF, GRATITUDE, AND HOPE

Dear Readers,

The past months have been a time of profound emotion and reflection for all of us. In the month of **April**, we bid farewell to **Pope Francis**, a shepherd who reminded the world that the Church is not a fortress but a home for all — especially the poor, the wounded, and the forgotten. His legacy of compassion, care for creation, and relentless call for mercy will continue to echo in the heart of the Church. In God's providence, the month of **May** witnessed the election of **Pope Leo XIV**, the 267th

successor of St. Peter. His first words from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, "*Peace be with you*," rekindled hope in millions of hearts.

With hearts filled with gratitude, we also thanked our parents whose love and dedication shape the very fabric of our lives. In the month of **May**, we joyfully celebrated **Mothers' Day**, honouring the women —

mothers, grandmothers, and spiritual mothers — whose unfailing love, hidden sacrifices, and quiet strength nurture not only their families but also the faith of our communities. In June, we turned our hearts in gratitude to all **Fathers** and those who have

United in prayer and mission, let us walk as Pilgrims of Hope, confident that Christ leads His Church and His people!

embraced the sacred role of fatherhood. To all mothers and fathers, we extend not only our deepest appreciation but also our prayers — that they may be continually strengthened and blessed in their noble vocation of shaping lives and building the domestic Church.

The month of **June** also concluded with a moment of great joy and hope — the

Regional Youth Convention (RYC), which brought together more than 2000 young people from across the Northeast to our Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima from the 27th to the 30th of June. It was a powerful witness to the vibrancy, faith, and enthusiasm of our youth.

As we navigate these significant moments — grief for our beloved Pope, gratitude for mothers and fathers, the hope of new beginnings with Pope Leo XIV, and the renewed energy from our young people — we are reminded that the Church, like life itself, moves forward. We journey together, carrying the light of faith through every joy and sorrow.

United in prayer and mission, let us walk as **Pilgrims of Hope**, confident that Christ leads His Church and His people!

Rev. Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep



PARENTS - TEACHERS MEET AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL KIUSAM TOWN



St. John School Kiusam Town had parents and Teachers meet at Tikhir Tribal Council, hall on 28th of March 2025. A meeting began with a prayer said by Apong Pastor Ditavong Village. Sir Adani David a head teacher

welcomed everyone to the gathering. There were sharing from different representative. Mrs Shongmo, a teacher representative who shared the performance of students and feedback. Mr Chanato T.

Tikhir, share from the parents representatives. In the varia some of the parents who articulated their views.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu gave a concluding remark. He said that the role of Parents and Teachers met. It was a wonderful discussion exploring how both parties can work together to instil education and wholesome development in a child. Parent-teacher feedback was so encouraging and brought wonderful suggestions for improving integrity-building efforts. Fr. Thomas thankparents and teachers of St. John School, Kiusam came to encourage the young children.

- **Stanley**

SFPS CONDUCTED SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

St. Francis Parish, Shamator, conducted a Spiritual Renewal platform with the theme: "Rekindle Passion and Intimacy with God" on 1st of April, 2025 by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu. This is to revitalize the believer in relationship with God. The talks were



on: The Milestone; Reflecting on the Journey of Faith, Why a Grown-up Faith Requires Action? How Do I Live a Christ-like Life? Sacrament of Reconciliation and concluded with Holy Mass. Later, Fr. Thomas gave talked to the Catholic teachers the importance on the Eucharist and sacraments. - **Sr. Martha**

THE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL PROGRAM HELD AT LEANGKONGER

On 2nd of April, 2025, the spiritual renewal program was held at Nazareth Church in Leangkonger Village, Shamator with the theme; "Embracing the Mystery." This program allowed them to explore the awe-inspiring mystery of the



universe and the beautiful, ongoing creation of God in us, through us, and in all. It's about embracing the unknown, cultivating a sense of wonder, and deepening our connection with the Divine. It was a whole day session conducted for the

community. Mr. Athong expressed the vote of thanks at the end of the program. Rev. Fr. John Poji, a parish priest too appreciated Fr. Thomas for the opportunity to explore and deepen their faith. **- Mr. Andrew**

ANNUAL SPORTS MEET HELD AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL KIUSAM

The annual sports and games meet of St. John School, Kiusam Town, was formally inaugurated on Friday 4th of April, 2025 by Kiusam Extra Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Wetso Lasushe, NCS, in a ceremony attended by public leaders, parents, pastors, Dobashis, and Gaon Buras.

Addressing the gathering, Lasushe urged students to participate with dedication, teamwork, and perseverance. He emphasized that the true spirit of sports lies not merely in winning or losing but in the joy of participation, learning, and growing together.



"The celebration of sports should teach us the value of friendship, discipline, and shared experiences," Lasushe said, while also commending the school faculty, parents, and community leaders for their role in shaping the future generation.

The event opened with a prayer by Pastor Taichang of Kiusam village. The school's Principal,

Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretciu, delivered the welcome address. The program included a series of performances and ceremonial activities such as a welcome song, flag unfurling, march-past, torch lighting, drill display, cultural dances, and a special presentation by kindergarten students.

Catherine served as the master of ceremonies, while Head Teacher Sir David delivered the vote of thanks. The inaugural ceremony concluded with an exhibition football match between a team of special invitees and school staff.

- Adani David

FIRE DESTROYED ONE HOUSE AT KIUSAM TOWN

A family home was completely destroyed by a devastating fire on Saturday 6th of April around 4 pm at Sunrise Colony in Kiusam Town. The cause is not known how it started, fortunately, there were no injuries in spite of many who try to put off the fire. The neighbours and many others came together and prevented in spreading to nearby homes. The house



sustained significant damage and is currently uninhabitable. The family is temporarily accommodated in the relatives.

St. John's Catholic Church, Kiusam Town members had gone to meet a family, during

the state of shock, complete lost and emotionally distress. They prayed with them and gave them provisions, clothes, pots and a meagre amount for the immediate relief. A child who is presently studying at St. John School Kiusam in class 6 was assured to provide textbooks and other necessary needs as the child lost everything.

- Samuel Kurak

Sharing: April-May 2025



CLARITE CARNIVAL 2025 IN ST CLARE SCHOOL



St. Clare School came alive with joy and vibrant celebrations on Monday April 07, 2025 as the much-anticipated Clarite Carnival 2025 commenced with Parents Day, a colorful Food Fest, and the inauguration of the Annual Sports Meet.

The event, held at 9 am in the school auditorium, witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 300 parents and well-wishers. The day's proceedings were graced by Fr. Johnson Ayila, Principal of St. Anthony School, Zunheboto, who served as the Chief Guest.

The programme began with a solemn prayer by Br. Mughavito Edmund, followed by a melodious Welcome Song by Class 5. Students from various classes put up a series of engaging and meaningful performances, including choreographies, mime shows, traditional and couple dances, a fancy-dress tribute, and theatrical

skits—each celebrating values such as gratitude, environmental awareness, kindness, and biblical teachings.

In his address, Fr. Johnson Ayila expressed appreciation for the school's efforts in nurturing talent and fostering parent-student relationships. He officially inaugurated the Sports Day 2025, scheduled from April 8–10, with an inspiring message on sportsmanship and unity.

Following the cultural segment, the school campus transformed into a bustling fairground as the Food Fest kicked off. Parents, students, and guests enjoyed an array of homemade delicacies, traditional dishes, and sweet treats, lovingly prepared by different classes and parent volunteers.

- Correspondent

CHRISM MASS 2025 CELEBRATED AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, VISWEMA

The Holy Chrism Mass and Priesthood Day 2025 organized by the Diocese of Kohima at St Joseph Catholic Church, Viswema on April 10 drew an estimated 1,500 attendees. The attendees included 138 priests, religious sisters from various congregations, leaders from the Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA), and Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM), as well as church members and youth from neighbouring villages.

While the event is usually held at Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, the mother church of Nagaland, the 2025 celebration was hosted for the first time by St Joseph Catholic Church, Viswema, under the shepherdship of Rev Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. According to a press release, the Chrism Mass includes two key Catholic traditions: the



blessing of three oils—catechumens, chrism, and the sick—by the Bishop, and the renewal of priestly vows.

In his sermon, Rev Dr Thoppil noted that it is particularly directed to the priests and that the Chrism Mass reminds them of the 'oneness in Christ' through the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Orders, and the unity they share with their Bishop and the presbyterate. The renewal of one's priestly relationships, identity, and mission is essential for a flourishing and healthy ministerial life, he added. He stressed that this can begin by taking time during the season of Lent to prepare for the Chrism Mass, reflecting on the promises that recall the words and postures of ordination, and recommitting to a deepening relationship with the Holy Trinity, one's Bishop, and one's presbyterate.

The Bishop also highlighted to the congregation that priests today face many difficulties and challenges in carrying out priestly promises,

including uncertainties, which can lead to dejection and discouragement. Thus, he requested prayers and support for the priests from the congregation so that they can carry out their mission with renewed dedication.

Earlier, before entering into the Lectionaries of the Holy Chrism Mass, Rev Fr Emmanuel Patton, the Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Jakhama, welcomed all the presbyterate and the congregation to the event. Later, after the Holy Mass, the laity associations of CAN, NCWA, and NCYM, along with the Viswema Catholic Community, organised a short felicitation programme for the priest attendees, the release added.

- Correspondent

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND INSTITUTIONS ORGANIZE CONDOLENCE SERVICE AND PRAYER PROCESSION FOR POPE FRANCIS

In a deeply moving tribute to the late Pope Francis, Catholic institutions across the Diocese of Kohima organized condolence services and prayer processions in response to the directive issued by the Bishop of Kohima.



At St. Xavier Parish, Jalukie, a solemn condolence service and prayer procession was held on April 23 at 8:30 AM to honour the memory and spiritual legacy of the late Holy Father. The event witnessed the participation of over 1,500 faithful, including the St. Xavier Catholic community, faculty and students of St. Xavier Higher Secondary School, and St. Xavier College, Jalukie.

The condolence service took place at Jalukie Town Traffic Point, graced by the presence of the Parish Priest, clergy, religious sisters, community elders, and educators. Rev. Fr. Dr. Francis, Principal of St. Xavier College, delivered an introductory address highlighting the life, ministry, and global impact of Pope Francis. Sir Gabriel presented a short biography of the pontiff, while Fr. Albert Renao led the faithful in invoking God's blessings for the repose of the Pope's soul.

Following the service, a solemn prayer procession commenced from Jalukie Town Traffic Point, proceeding along Fr. Mani Road towards St. Xavier Parish Church. Participants carried banners bearing images of the late Pope, creating a spirit of reverence and reflection. The procession culminated at the parish church, where a candlelight prayer service was held in memory of Pope Francis.

At the diocesan level, the Bishop of Kohima is scheduled to preside over three Requiem

Eucharistic Celebrations at the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral in Kohima, St. Joseph Parish in Chümoukedima, and Holy Cross Parish in Dimapur, respectively.

The faithful across the Diocese continue to offer prayers and remember the profound legacy of Pope Francis, a beloved shepherd and servant of peace.

- Correspondent

BLESSING & INAUGURATION OF THE NEW MULTI-PURPOSE PARISH HALL AT CHRIST KING CHURCH, PHUVKIU

On 23rd April 2025, the Christ King Church, Phuvkiu, witnessed a joyful and grace-filled occasion with the blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed parish hall. His Excellency Most Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, graciously blessed the auditorium, and Fr. Joy Palachuvattil, Provincial Rector of Prabhu Prakash Province Nagpur, had the honour of inaugurating it.

This newly built structure is a multi-purpose auditorium, thoughtfully designed to serve both the school and the parish community, offering a versatile space for various programs, gatherings, and celebrations.



During the felicitation program, heartfelt gratitude was extended to Fr. Shyresh George, the

Parish Priest, and Fr. Akhillgnacious, along with the entire parish community, for their dedicated efforts and meticulous execution of the project.

On the same day, during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, 41 children and youth received the Sacrament of Confirmation, a spiritually enriching and memorable moment for the entire community. The event concluded with a joyful fraternal agape, strengthening the bonds of fellowship and unity.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to Fr. Shyresh, Fr. Akhil, and everyone involved in making this remarkable milestone a reality. - **Correspondent**

A JOYOUS CELEBRATION—COMMITMENT TO SERVE

On 24 April 2025, the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (CMC) Sanjoe Province celebrated a significant milestone with the Vesting and Religious Profession of Seven Novices. Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima along with other 51 Priests presided over the ceremony, filling the atmosphere with joy and vibrancy. Rev. Sr. Dr. Kaisa Rosalind CMC, the Provincial Superior accorded a warm welcome to the gathering.

Bishop James encouraged and challenged the entire congregation especially the Novices with



a powerful and thought provoking homily. Our limitations are not a hindrance to God's call. Despite our human limitations we celebrate the courage and determination of these novices to live the Religious Life in the service of God and the Church. Our

Religious Profession is not just a commitment to a particular way of life but a call to an ongoing spiritual growth and renewal. One of the biggest challenges of



today's world is to resist the temptation to go in the way of the world. Religious Profession does not mean an end to struggles in life to the difficulties but a beginning of a real journey that the apostles and martyrs have walked.

Following Jesus requires a willingness to let go of our attachments and follow Him wholeheartedly.

The day added more colour and grace with the presence of a good

number of Religious Sisters, Church leaders and faithful from far and near.

God be praised for such a wonderful day filled with an abundance of grace and blessings. **CONGRATULATIONS DEAR SISTERS.**
– **Correspondent**

THREE-DAY YOUTH CONFERENCE HELD AT ST. PETER'S PARISH KIPHIRE

St. Peter's Parish Kiphire hosted a three-day Youth Conference under the theme "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Love," drawing more than 200 young participants from nine villages and towns, from 25th to 27th April, 2025.

Organized by the Catholic Youth Movement of St. Peter's Church under the leadership of Youth President Ziroba Philip and his team, the conference featured a series of activities including talks, praise and worship sessions, a candlelight procession in honor of the late Pope Francis, adoration, self-examination, reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist, and a talent night. The event aimed to help the youth discover their uniqueness and vitality while fostering unity in transformation.

Rev Fr Thomas Toretciu, associate priest of St. John Church, Kiusam Town, served as a resource person. Speaking on the importance of the Sacraments, he said, "Our life is nourished by prayer and strengthened by love. It is the Sacraments that journey with us in the path of life." He emphasized that through Baptism believers are

cleansed, through Confirmation they are strengthened, and through Reconciliation they seek forgiveness. He also spoke on the Holy Eucharist as a thanksgiving meal and

Philip emphasized the power of prayer, while Moses encouraged the youth to know God and live according to divine values.

The conference opened

with a prayer led by Rev Fr Marius Patton, assistant priest, followed by a welcome address from Ziroba Philip. In his concluding remarks, Fr.



highlighted Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick as vital Sacraments guiding Christian life.

In a second session, Fr Thomas addressed the importance of building healthy relationships, stating that "the climax is doing what is good for everyone" and underscored the values of respect, trust, sincerity, and honesty.

Other speakers included Rev Fr Philip Magh, parish priest of St Peter's Parish, and RY Moses, assistant professor at Zisaji Presidency College. Fr.

Philip Magh expressed gratitude to the youth leadership team, church members who prepared meals and logistics, Fr. Marius Patton for his role as spiritual director, and the SABS Sisters for assisting with adoration, worship sessions, and preparations for the Holy Eucharist.

The three-day conference concluded on Sunday with a solemn Eucharistic celebration attended by the parish community.

– **Fr. Marius Patton**



KOHIMA DIOCESE HOLDS REQUIEM EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS FOR LATE POPE FRANCIS



The Diocese of Kohima, under the leadership of its Chief Shepherd, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, organized three official Requiem Eucharistic Celebrations to pray for the repose of the soul of the late Holy Father, Pope Francis. These solemn Masses were held at three major parishes of the Diocese, allowing the faithful to come together in mourning and remembrance.

The first Requiem Mass was celebrated on April 24 at Holy Cross Church, Dimapur, followed by the second on April 25 at Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima. The final Mass is scheduled to take place on April 26 at St. Joseph Church, Chümoukedima.

During the Eucharistic Celebration at the Cathedral, Bishop James Thoppil paid heartfelt tribute to the late Pontiff, who passed away on Monday in the 12th year of his

papacy. In his homily, the Bishop noted that the entire world is mourning the loss of a beloved spiritual leader. "What was special about Pope Francis was his charismatic personality, his simplicity, his sense of closeness to people, and the fresh—often unconventional—vocabulary



he brought into papal discourse," he said.

Highlighting Pope Francis' many contributions, Bishop Thoppil remarked on the series of historic 'firsts' associated with his papacy: the first Jesuit pope, the first

Latin American pope, and the first non-European pope in over a millennium. He also noted that Pope Francis led the Church in the wake of another major historical moment—the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, the first such event in 600 years.

Bishop Thoppil further reflected on some of the most memorable and impactful quotes of Pope Francis, such as: "Don't forget to pray for me," "Don't forget the poor," "The smell of the sheep," "The Church as a field hospital," "Throwaway culture," and "Incisive feminine presence." These were not mere words, he said, but expressions that the late Pope embodied throughout his life and ministry.

Quoting the Pope himself, the Bishop reminded the congregation, "Death is not the end of everything, but a new beginning."

The Requiem Mass was attended by dozens of priests, religious men and women, and hundreds of faithful who came to pay their respects and pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Pope Francis.

- Correspondent

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SR. MERCY, SABS CELEBRATED WITH GRATITUDE AND JOY



Religious Profession, marking 50 years of dedicated service to God and to the Church. The event was graced by the presence of Most. Rev. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima, fathers, sisters, friends and members of local community, who shared the joy and honor Sr. Mercy for her unwavering commitment and contributions to the Church and to the Society.

Sr. Mercy set off for mission in 1978, in places like Hundung, Imphal, Ukhrul and Chandel. Later

she continued her service in Nagaland, in the Places of Shanti Bhavan, SABS Provincial House, Mokokchung and Tuesang. Teaching and educating the young hearts and minds remained her passion. For the past 13 years till date, Sr. Mercy continued her dedicated service in Marangatupilly, Kerala. Her life is a beautiful testimony of faith, dedication and love for education – touching countless lives with her wisdom and kindness.

The Celebration commenced with a solemn celebration of the Holy Mass at SABS Provincial House Chümoukedima, presided over by His Excellency Most Rev, James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima. The homily

reflected on Sr. Mercy's journey of faith and service, appreciating the impact of her work over the past five decades. Recalling the manifold blessings of the Lord upon her, Bishop acknowledged with profound love and gratitude.

Following the Holy Mass, there was a short felicitation Program, congratulating the jubilarian. The Jubilarian also expressed her sincere gratitude to God and to everyone. The event concluded with fellowship meal, shared with joy and gratitude.

- Correspondent

SACRED HEART CHURCH, KHUZAMA CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

Sacred Heart Church, Khuzama Celebrates Golden Jubilee with Renewed Faith and Commitment

The Sacred Heart Church Khuzama joyfully celebrated its Golden Jubilee on April 26 and 27, 2025, under the theme “Be Strong and Let Your Heart Take Courage” (Psalm 31), marking 50 years of vibrant Catholic faith in the community.





The two-day celebration commenced with a poignant tribute to the late Pope Francis by Mr. L. Kenneth Punyü, Advisor of the Angami Catholic Union, who opened his address by honoring the beloved pontiff's legacy. Stressing the importance of Christian virtues, he called on the faithful to embrace faith, courage, and truth in their daily lives. The highlight of the Jubilee was the solemn Eucharistic celebration led by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop

of Kohima. He was joined by Rev. Fr. Valerian Castelino, SJ, Regional Superior of the Kohima Jesuits, as Guest of Honour, along with a host of priests. Emphasizing the identity of the Church as *One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*, Bishop Thoppil urged the faithful to rededicate themselves to a renewed mission of faith and evangelization, both personally and as a community.

Bishop also administered the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation to children, marking a significant spiritual milestone for the parish on its 50th anniversary. He reminded the faithful of their call to be instruments of God's mercy, bringing healing, hope, and building the living Church — the true temple of the Holy Spirit.

- Correspondent

FIAT MISSION: 6TH GREAT GATHERING OF MISSIONS HELD IN CHANGANASSERY

began daily at 8:00 a.m. with catechetical sessions followed by the Holy Eucharist. The opening Mass was presided over by Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church.

A notable highlight was the visit of Mar Thomas Tharayil, Archbishop of Changanassery, to the Kohima Diocese stall. Donning traditional Naga attire, he addressed the media and interacted warmly with visitors, many of whom enthusiastically tried on the cultural attire.

On the third day, bishops from North East India concelebrated the English Latin Rite Mass, with Most Rev. Linus Neli of Imphal as the chief celebrant. Among the concelebrants were Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Most Rev. John Thomas, Bishop Emeritus of Itanagar, and Most Rev. Dr.

Thomas Menamparambil, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati. The choir was led by priests and religious from Northeast India.

The FIAT Mission served as a unique platform for missionaries across India to share their apostolates. It also fostered a spirit of unity, allowing participants to witness and experience the richness of the various Catholic rites in India, praying and learning together.

- Correspondent



The FIAT Mission, marking the 6th Great Gathering of Missions, was held from April 28 to May 4 at Changanassery, Kerala. The Diocese of Kohima was represented by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep, Sr. Larisha, and Sr. Mini of the Providence Sisters. The event brought together hundreds of faithful each day for mission exhibitions, spiritual instructions, and retreats. The program



THANKSGIVING HOLY MASS FOR THE FIRST RELIGIOUS NUN HELD AT ANATONGRE VILLAGE

A thanksgiving Holy Mass for the Rev. Sr. Catherine Tsumongshe, UFS was held at St. Mary's Church, Anatongre Village on Sunday 4th May 2025. Rev. Fr. Philip Magh, Parish priest of St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire officiated the Holy Mass. He was concelebrated by 8 priests from different parishes and centres. The celebration was solemnized in the presence of delegates from different villages, towns, catechists, public leaders, village chairman and many different officials representatives.

Rev. Sr. Catherine Tsumongshe is the first to be professed as religious nun from Anatongre Village. She is the second person to be professed as nun from the whole tribe of Tikhir. Tsumongshe was born to Mr. Yutsumong Joseph and Mrs. Yangchola. She was the fifth child among six children. She did her schooling at Loyola Hr. Sec. School, Kiphire. Later Tsumongshi Catherine joined the Ursuline Franciscan Congregation in the year 2019 after completing the HSLC. After a year of Candidacy, she was sent for Higher Secondary Education at Assisi Hr. Sec. School. She entered Pre-Novitiate in the

year 2022 and novitiate in 2023. Having joyfully embraced religious life, she stands as a witness to God's faithfulness and her unwavering commitment to this way of life. Her motto is; "To love Jesus and do everything for His Glory" (cf Isaiah 43:4).

Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu in his reflection illustrated through the light of John's gospel chapter 21:6, Jesus asks His disciples to; "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." The disciples followed the direction of Jesus. The catch was in abundant and couldn't haul it. Rev. Sr. Catherine responded to the vocation that God has call upon to do His mission. Sr. Tsumongshe has brought blessing to her life, family, tribe and to the village of Anatongre. Fr. Thomas said in her interviewed to Sr. Catherine, she is happy and has brought joy in family. Her biggest weapon would be prayer, and in her mission to where she is asked to go, she will do it with love, joy and compassion. Rev. Fr. Thomas quoted the gospel of John 10:10 where Jesus mentioned "I have come so that

you might have life in its fullness." Fr. Thomas wishes Sr. Catherine to live a life to its fullness through her ministry wherever she is sent for the mission.

In the beginning of the Holy Mass Rev. Fr. Philip, parish priest



welcome everyone. Rev. Sr. Lucy SABS, gave the commentary of the ceremony. Catholic Women Association was the choir of the celebration. During felicitation program Madam Maria organized the sequence. Rev. Sr. Arila Angela said the invocation. Edward Yangthong, catechist, St. Mary's Church, Anatongre gave the welcome address. Then there was congratulation song and cake cutting ceremony. There were speeches from Chairman, Anatongre Village Council, Dr. Fr. Obed Yimchunger, Vice Principal, St. Joseph's College Autonomous Jakhama, Mr. Thomas Kiumusu, Church Secretary of St. Peter's Church, Kiphire. Sr. Catherine thanked everyone for the love and support she is receiving. There was presentation for the delegates of priests and the program concluded with the thanksgiving fest serve to all.

- Fr. Marius Patton



COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION DIOCESE OF KOHIMA HONORS RANK HOLDERS

On 6th May 25 the Commission for Education Diocese of Kohima (CEDOK) felicitated NBSE rank holders from Catholic schools as well as Catholic schools with 100% pass result during a function held at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Chümoukedima, on Tuesday. An update from CEDOK

Yhome lauded the Catholic Church for rendering relentless service to educate the people of Nagaland. He emphasised on the importance of promoting domestic education or vocational education in schools to make learning more practical. He also

Rev. Thoppil also congratulated the toppers and appreciated their hard work, perseverance and determination and highlighted the contribution of Catholic schools to the educational progress of the state. The bishop stated that students getting top positions and schools bringing out 100% result in far flung districts like Kiphire, Shamator, Noklak, Tuensang, Meluri, Peren etc. are a testament to the quality of education the Catholic schools impart. He further challenged the students to be catalyst of change by permeating



stated that a total of 57 rank holders (45 HSLC and 12 HSSLC) were felicitated besides 22 schools with 100% result (15 HSLC and 7 HSSLC) on the occasion. The toppers were felicitated with certificate, memento and cash award.

Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, advisor of School Education and SCERT, and Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, attended the occasion as special guests. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.

pointed out that success is measured by how and what one could give back to the society.

According to him, literacy is not only to confine the ability to read and write but also includes psychological and emotional growth. He further encouraged the gathering to look beyond traditional system of education by promoting AI and other advance technology of learning and imparting knowledge.

the society with gospel values of justice, peace, truthfulness and brotherhood. The president of Naga Students' Federation (NSF), Medovi Rhi, also exhorted the students on the occasion. He thanked the Catholic community for the steadfast commitment in the mission to inspire with academic excellence and promoting moral integrity among the people of Nagaland.

Lungyihangle Nring, the state Topper rank No 1, from St. Paul Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, also spoke on the occasion.

- Correspondent



RETREAT HELD AT ST. THOMAS CHURCH, PHELUNGRE

Retreat at St. Thomas Church, Phelungre, with the theme “Faith Deepening & Growing in Spiritual” on 6th and 7th May 2025. This Retreat was in preparation for 50 years of a significant journey and fostering a sense of unity in faith. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, the preacher, highlighted on the importance of the need of God in our life. He said, since ‘Christ is the law of the Spirit, He gives life and He has set us free from the law of sin and death.’ We are invited to be Holy. Holiness involves



separation from sin and a commitment to living a life that honors God (Lev. 11:44-45, 1 Thes. 4:7) he added with reference. A prayerful retreat added more meaningful with the Praise and worship team of CYM, St. Thomas Church, Phelungre. The community did pray to accomplish a newly constructing Church. — **Simon Anar**

DIOCESE OF KOHIMA EXTENDS HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XVI

On 9th May, 2025, the Catholic Community in Nagaland (Diocese of Kohima), joins the Universal Church in profound joy and thanksgiving at the election of **His Holiness Pope Leo XIV**, formerly **His Eminence Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost**, as the 267th successor to the Apostle Peter and Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Leo XIV (born Robert Francis Prevost, September 14, 1955) is an American Catholic prelate who served as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America since 2023. He previously served as Bishop of Chiclayo in Peru from 2015 to 2023, and was prior general of the Order of Saint Augustine from 2001 to 2013. In 2015 Cardinal Prevost became a naturalized citizen of Peru as confirmed by Peru’s National Civil

Registry. Born in Chicago, Prevost spent the early part of his career there working for the Augustinians. He served in Peru from 1985 to 1986 and from 1988 to 1998 as a parish pastor, diocesan official, seminary teacher and administrator. He was made a cardinal in 2023.



In an official message released from the Bishop’s House, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, conveyed warm

congratulations to the newly elected Holy Father on behalf of the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Diocese. His Excellency remarked that the election of Pope Leo XIV is a moment of grace and renewal for the Church and a visible reminder of the abiding guidance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

Bishop Thoppil further emphasized the unifying role of the papacy in a global Church: “There is no white or black Catholic, no Latino or Asian Catholic, no European or American

Catholic. There is only one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. This is the beauty of our faith—a



Church that transcends cultures, languages, and borders, united under one faith, one baptism, and one Shepherd."

His choice of the name Leo, brings to our mind Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903), who in 1886 established the Catholic hierarchy in India, sowing the seeds of a strong, self-sustaining and missionary Church in our land and the prophetic words of Pope Leo XIII in 1883, "*Filiitui, India, administritibisalutis*: (Your sons, O India will be the heralds of your salvation). It was Pope Leo XIII who brought out the first land mark social encyclical of the Church, (*RerumNovarum*) that paved the way for the social teaching of the Church.

Pope Leo XIV's choice of name signals a commitment to social justice that is very much in line with the late Pope Francis' global ministry. The new Pope is not a stranger to India. He visited India two decades ago when he was the Prior General of the Saint Augustinian Order to attend a priestly ordination.

Reaffirming the Catholics filial devotion to the Holy Father, the Bishop called upon all parishes, institutions, and communities to offer fervent prayers for Pope Leo XIV, that he may be strengthened with divine wisdom, pastoral courage, and a heart filled with love for all peoples. "Let us pray that Pope Leo XIV may be a bridge-builder, a father to the poor and marginalized, and a voice of peace and justice in our troubled world," the Bishop urged.

As the Church celebrates this historic moment, the Catholic Church in Nagaland join in jubilation and prayer, welcoming Pope Leo XIV with open hearts and firm faith.

Ad multos annos, Holy Father!
Long live Pope Leo XIV!

KIGWEMA CELEBRATES FIRST PRIESTLY ORDINATION IN VILLAGE HISTORY



In a historic and joyous celebration, the Catholic community of Kigwema witnessed the ordination of its first priest, Rev. Fr. David Sale, OFM Cap, at a solemn Eucharistic celebration held at his native village. The ceremony marked a red letter day for the Mary Help of Christians Parish, Jakhama, the Capuchin Order, and the Diocese of Kohima.

The ordination Mass was presided over by Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima, who, in his homily, reflected on the sacredness of the priestly vocation. Drawing from the readings selected by Fr. David, the Bishop emphasized that priesthood is not merely a career but a divine call to serve, to be a mediator between God and His people, and to be salt and light in the world. He encouraged the new priest to be rooted in prayer and devotion, especially to Mary, Mother of Priests, and to radiate Christ's love through his ministry.

The Bishop also expressed deep gratitude to Fr. David's family for offering their son to the Church, reminding them and the wider community of their ongoing role in supporting him through prayer and encouragement.

Adding to the significance of the occasion, Rev. Fr. Robin Victor D'Souza, Provincial of the Capuchins, was present and delivered his greetings, congratulating Fr. David and the Kigwema community for this blessing. He lauded the journey of formation that culminated in this ordination and acknowledged all those who had contributed to Fr. David's spiritual and academic formation.

The event brought together clergy, religious, village and community leaders, relatives, friends, and well-wishers, all rejoicing in this moment of grace and hope. The ordination of Fr. David Sale stands as a proof to God's faithfulness and the growing spiritual maturity of the community of St. Michael Catholic Church, Kigwema.

- Correspondent



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ST. MARY DOMINICA MAZZARELLO



On May 12, 2025, the communities of Auxilium and Mazzarello Study Home, Dimapur joyfully celebrated the feast day of St. Mary Dominica Mazzarello, the co-founderess of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice- FMA), also known as the Salesian Sisters of St John Bosco. The celebration brought together members of the religious community, students, and well-wishers to honour the inspiring life and legacy of St. Mary Mazzarello.

The celebration began with a warm welcome for Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. The hostellers and sisters cordially welcomed Bishop and honour him with a traditional Naga muffler and a bouquet of flowers as a sign of respect and blessed to have him on the joyous occasion.

The Eucharistic celebration began with the inspiring introduction by Sr. Teresa Edattukalayil, highlighting the life and mission of St. Mary Mazzarello, whose spirit of simplicity, hard work,

deep love for God and the young continues to guide the Salesian Sisters across the world. The Eucharistic Celebration, was held at Mazzarello Study Home community chapel, was the central event of the day. The Holy Mass was solemnly presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, and concelebrated by 23 priests, from the region, whose presence added a special spiritual depth and significance to the occasion. Bishop in his homely he stressed on the piety of St. Mary Mazzarello, She embraced a life of service and humility, recognizing her dependence on God and others. She maintained a deep connection with God through prayer and devotion to the Holy Eucharist etc. The readings of the day were

prayerfully proclaimed by the Salesian Co-operators, and the melodious hymns during the Mass were led by Sr. Aind Serofina, Br. Pftokho Paul SDB along with the hostel girls, creating a prayerful atmosphere.

After the Holy Mass, Sr. Angom Sanahanbi Priscilla, the animator of Mazzarello Study Home, expressed heartfelt thanks to Bishop for his availability to grace the occasion. She also acknowledged everyone present for their valuable presence and the prayerful support that made the celebration meaningful. After which she invited Bishop and the senior sisters to cut the festive cake as a symbolic gesture of sharing the joy of the feast. The sisters and hostellers then sang a lively festive song, filling the hall with a spirit of cheer and celebration. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal shared by all.

- **Correspondent**



RENEWAL COURSE FOR CATECHISTS AND LAY LEADERS HELD AT NEWMAN PASTORAL CENTRE, CHÜMOUKEDIMA



A week-long Renewal Course on Faith Formation for Catechists and Lay Leaders was held from 12th to 19th May 2025 at the Newman Pastoral Centre, Chümoukedima. The programme brought together 55 participants from 19 parishes and centres across the regions of Dimapur, Jakhama, Peren, Phek, and Kohima I & II.

The course aimed to deepen the participants' knowledge of Church History, the Sacraments, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). Each day began with Holy Hour and the Eucharist,

followed by intensive sessions conducted by renowned resource persons including Bishop Emeritus Jose Mukala, Fr. Dr. Graviour Augustine, Fr. Dr. Jacob Charalel, Fr. KoktoKurian, Fr. Dr. Joe Mariadhas, and others. Topics ranged from liturgy, sacraments, canon law, and catechesis to family issues and pastoral challenges.

Evening sessions featured group activities, Bible skits, sharing sessions, and movie screenings, fostering fellowship and joyful learning.

On Sunday, 18th May, Bishop James Thoppil visited the participants and delivered an inspiring address. Quoting Pope Francis, he reminded them, “*You are the Bible*,” urging catechists to live their faith as daily witnesses. He emphasized the Church’s identity as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, and presented

each participant with a copy of *Youcat* and *Docat*.

The course concluded with a cultural evening on the final day, featuring performances by participants and a prayer dance by MSMHC aspirants. Bishop Emeritus Jose Mukala, along with several priests and sisters, graced the concluding celebration.

Participants expressed deep appreciation for the spiritually enriching experience and requested more such opportunities for formation in the future.

- Rev. Sr. Rita Kera

ORIENTATION PROGRAM HELD AT LOYOLA HR. SEC. SCHOOL, KIPHIRE

An Orientation Program for Class 11 Students was conducted at Loyola, Hr. Sec. School, Kiphire on 13th May 2025. Firstly, In the school assembly, there was a short felicitation program conducted and appreciated with the cash awards to

Mr. Thsatangpa Sangtam, the 4th state rank holder, and then to the Miss Thsarila C. Anar Sangtam and Miss Sulime S. Swu, the district highest marks secured. The august gathering was held in the presence of School alumni and some church members.

This was a brilliant opportunity to connect with the class 11 students for the first of the class to give an inspirational talks and techniques to achieve their goals and



aspiration. Students who were for the first time got an occasion to relate with the institution, with faculty and colleagues.

An orientation section began with the inspirational talk given by Mr. Thsatanga Sangtam, the 4th HSSLC State Rank holder 2025, followed by the conference on the techniques of how to excel in academic performance by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretciu. Later, Rev. Fr. Philip Magh, a school principal, gave an acknowledgement and brief on the school guidelines. It was a wonderful moment to share and care with the young!

-Sr. Alice SABS

ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAMME FOR NORTH EAST DIOCESAN PRIESTS

Organized by CCBI Commission for VSCR

Theme: "Inculcating Mission Dimensions in Our Pastoral Engagements"

Venue: Mt. Tabor, Kohima

Date: May 13–16, 2025

Tabor Retreat house, Kohima. Participants included priests from the Archdiocese of Guwahati, Dioceses of Jowai, Nongstoin, and Kohima. The resource persons were Frs. Charles Leon, Jaison Vadassery, and Cyril Victor from the CCBI team, Bangalore.

Day One – May 13, 2025

The programme began with tea and registration, followed by the inaugural session and the introduction of the CCBI facilitating team by Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland. Frs. Charles and Jaison outlined the programme's objectives, methodology, and core content. The first introspective session delved into the ongoing formation of clergy and the missionary character of pastoral ministry, followed by the "Emmaus Walk and Talk," Holy Mass, and dinner.

Day Two – May 14, 2025

The day began with Morning Prayer and Holy Mass led by Bishop James Thoppil. The sessions that followed emphasized the missionary identity of every priest, reflecting on the Post-Synodal Exhortation on the Synodal Church and diocesan data. Themes included discernment for mission, personal spiritual conversation, pastoral challenges, and best practices. In the evening, Fr. Cyril Victor led a session on Synodal Communication in the digital environment.

Day Three – May 15, 2025

The focus shifted to pastoral and digital dimensions of mission. Spiritual conversations continued under the theme "What God wants for our Mission 2033,"



The ongoing formation programme for diocesan priests from the North East, jointly organized by the CCBI Commission for VSCR and hosted by the Diocese of Kohima, was held from May 13 to 16, 2025, at Mount

Sharing: April-May 2025



emphasizing pastoral implications. Sessions also explored creative missionary engagement in the digital world and tools for digital evangelization. The day concluded with a visit to Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima and a dinner hosted by Bishop James Thoppil.

Day Four – May 16, 2025

The final day focused on pastoral leadership, with emphasis on power and care in missionary priesthood. The programme concluded with a session on “Mission Action Plan,” reflective sharing, evaluation, and final remarks.

- Correspondent

GOLDEN JUBILEE AND CHURCH BLESSING AT ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH, KHUMIASÜ – MELURI



The Catholic community of Khumiasü village marked a historic milestone on 17th May, 2025 with a grand fourfold celebration at St. Michael Catholic Church. The occasion included the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic faith in the village, the blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed church, the Silver Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Fr. John LasuthoPoji—the first priest from the community—and the felicitation of newly professed religious Sisters from the village.

The celebration began with the solemn blessing of the new church,

Sharing: April-May 2025

followed by the formal inauguration of the Jubilee festivities. Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, presided over the Holy Eucharist and delivered a powerful homily, commending the faith, sacrifices, and perseverance of the pioneer Catholics and urging the community to remain faithful to the Gospel and continue building the living Church.

In his address, Bishop James Thoppil thanked the

Jesuit missionaries and diocesan clergy who nurtured the faith over the decades, along with the UFC Sisters who played a key role in evangelization and faith formation in the area. He described the new church building as a symbol of God's blessings and the growth of the community's faith, and emphasized the need for each believer to become a true temple of God.

Present at the event was Shri Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, MLA

& Advisor for NRE and NSDMA, who expressed appreciation for the vibrant Catholic community and lauded their commitment to spiritual and social development. Sir Johnny Raungmei, President of the Catholic Association of Nagaland, also extended greetings and congratulations on behalf of the laity associations across the diocese.

The Bishop acknowledged the generous support of benefactors and volunteers, particularly Deacon Sherman, for making the new church a reality. The day concluded with a cultural programme and felicitation of Fr. John Poji and the newly professed Sisters, marking a joyous and memorable chapter in the history of Khumiasü Catholic community.

- Correspondent

BLESSING & INAUGURATION OF ST. VIANNEY CONVENT, TOLUVI: A GRACE - FILLED MILESTONE FOR THE SISTERS OF ST. ELIZABETH

A moment of deep joy and spiritual significance was marked by the blessing and inauguration of the newly built St. Vianney Convent at Vianney Campus, Toluvi, for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth on 18th May, 2025.

The Blessing of the Convent was solemnly administered by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, while the inauguration was carried out by Sr. Preeti, Provincial Delegate, in the esteemed presence of Rev. Fr. Carolus (Vicar General), Rev. Fr. George Punnolil (Financial Administrator), Rev. Fr. Johny (Parish Priest, Holy Cross Parish), and many priests from across Dimapur and Chümoukedima.

The ceremony was enriched by the participation of religious sisters from various congregations, the Toluvi Village Council Chairman and members, local neighbors and well-wishers, as well as lay representatives from St.



Joseph's Church and St. Mary's Fellowship Unit, Padumpukhri, including the catechists and delegates from Samaguri. In a beautiful expression of Christian unity, Reverend Deacons from various denominations also graced the occasion, strengthening the spirit of communion and shared witness.

The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop James, concelebrated with the clergy who have supported the sisters' mission since its beginning. The Padumpukhri Fellowship Choir led the singing, enhancing the reverence and joy of the celebration.

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth expressed heartfelt thanks to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints and angels who interceded for the realization of their long-awaited home of prayer. They also thanked the Diocesan construction team for the successful execution of the building project and expressed deep appreciation to the Diocesan Family under the leadership of Bishop James Thoppil, and all religious communities for their continued support and solidarity.

The occasion culminated with a simple agape meal, bringing together all gathered in a spirit of fellowship and gratitude.

- Correspondent

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC YOUTH HOLDS FAREWELL MASS TO SENIORS AND WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



A warm and prayerful farewell was extended to the outgoing Catholic youth members of Nagaland University in a heartfelt celebration held at St. Clare Church, Akuluto. The Eucharistic celebration began at 11:30 a.m. and was presided over by Fr. Stephen D'Souza, Parish Priest of St. Clare Church on 25th May 2025. The outgoing students — Barnadette, Chunchun, Angela, Colin Mary, Vincent and Avupi — were honored for their dedication, support, and spiritual

contributions during their time with the youth group.

In a significant moment during the Mass, the new executive members of the Catholic youth were introduced and prayed over. Fr. Stephen blessed them, asking the Lord to guide them in their responsibilities and service to the community.

The newly appointed members included President, Mr. David; Liturgy Secretary, Ms. Catherine; Assistant Liturgy Secretary, Ms. Hanrita Lucy; Music

Secretary, Mr. Effort and Assistant Music Secretary, Ms. Grace.

These young leaders, stepping forward in humility and readiness, received encouragement from both the outgoing team and the wider church community. The prayer of commissioning marked a sacred moment of transition and new beginnings for the group, anchoring their future leadership in faith and unity.

- Correspondent

VESTITION CEREMONY OF 11 BROTHERS HELD AT GOOD SHEPHERD SEMINARY, DIMAPUR

A solemn Vestition ceremony of 11 brothers was held at Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur, marking a significant milestone in their journey of religious formation. The event took place on June 7, with Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, as the chief celebrant.

Among the 11 brothers vested, six belong to the Diocese of Kohima, three from the Archdiocese of Imphal, and two from the Archdiocese of Kolkata.

Sharing: April-May 2025

During his homily, Bishop Thoppil congratulated the brothers for their commitment and dedication to the call of God. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to their parents and formators for nurturing their vocations and encouraged the newly vested brothers to remain steadfast and faithful in their spiritual journey.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a short felicitation program. Highlights included



a congratulatory message from Sir Johnny Rungmei, President of the Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), and a cake-cutting ceremony. The joyous occasion concluded with a common festive meal, fostering fellowship and celebration among all attendees.

The event was a moment of grace and encouragement for the local Church, witnessing the growth of vocations and the faithfulness of young men choosing to follow Christ in religious life.

- Correspondent

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE!

15th March, 2025: Mr. Niphisier Philip Punyü (82 Years) the beloved Father of Rev. Sr. Irene Asano FMA (presently working at Goalpara Assam).

26th March, 2025: Mr. Pantisingpou Malangmei, the beloved father of Sr. Rose Abiliu MSMHC (St. Mary's Convent/School, Taphou-Senapati).

29th March, 2025: Rev. Sr M. Saritha BS (65 Years) who worked in Holy Cross Dimapur, Viswema and was currently in Guwahati Provincial House.

5th April, 2025: Mrs. Lhoutseiü Sabina the beloved sister of Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou Kuotsu (Vicar General, Diocese of Kohima).

8th April, 2025: Mr. T.R. Isaac (72 Years), the beloved father of Mr. Johnny Ruangmei (President of CAN).

8th April, 2025: Mr. Mathew Madayankal (92 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Tessy Madayankal SABS (Superior of Little Flower Convent, Pungro).

15th April, 2025: Mrs. Sarah Achevii (98 Years) the beloved Mother of Rev. Fr. Phillip Magh (Parish Priest of St. Peter Parish, Kiphrie).

21st April, 2025: Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 13th March 2013 until 21st April, 2025

23rd April, 2025: Mr. Abraham Randankattil (66 Years), the beloved Brother-in-law of Our Bishop Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil.

30th April, 2025: Mr. Rhokho Pohena, the beloved Elder Brother of Dr. Rosou Ronald Pohena, President of Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement.

3rd May, 2025: Mr. Felix Cutinha (78 Years), the beloved brother of Rev. Sr. Matilda Cutinha UFS (Assisi Convent Dimapur).

4th May, 2025: Mrs. Lhouseü Catherine (100 Years), the beloved Mother of Rev. Sr. Rita Miasalhou SCCG (First Angami Sister).

13th May, 2025: Rev. Sr. Tresa Joseph FCC (86 Years) of St. Clare Province, Imphal. She

was in Kohima in the year 1998- 1999 in perpetual adoration.

23rd May, 2025: Mr. C. Selvaraj, the beloved elder brother of Rev. Fr. C. Joseph (St. Joseph College (Autonomous) Jakhama).

7th June, 2025: Mr. TS Nicholas (92 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Rose Monsang SABS (San Joe Novitiate House, Medziphema).

15th June, 2025: Rev. Fr. Devasy Pudessery (Former Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church Tuensang and Tobu Catholic Mission).





NAGALAND CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES FROM April-June, 2025

1. **5th NCYM Outreach Programme to Nagaland University, Lumami Campus on 12th April, 2025: Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director, NCYM delivered a talk on 'Sacrament of Marriage'.**



2. **6th NCYM Outreach Programme to St. Clare Church, Akuluto on 13th April, 2025. Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director of NCYM delivered a talk on 'My Catholic Faith and Sacraments.'**

3. **Veneration of Regional Youth Convention (RYC) Cross was held at Mary Help of Christians Cathedral Kohima on 4th May, 2025: The Veneration programme of RYC Cross culminated marking the end of a significant spiritual journey across 14 Dioceses in Northeast India organized under the Indian Catholic Youth Movement North East (ICYM NE), the event brought together young faithful in prayer and unity as the youth sought blessings, wisdom and guidance ahead of the upcoming 5th Regional Youth Convention, scheduled from 27th – 30th June, 2025**



4. **Consultative meeting of Local Organizing Committees with the Regional Team for 5th Regional Youth Convention (RYC) was held at Mt. Tabor Retreat House, Kohima on 25th May, 2025:**



5. **Acknowledgement:** The office of NCYM extends our heartiest congratulations to the following Candidates for their outstanding achievement in the recent declared result NPSC CESE 2024 and Athletes for their performance in the “Asian Belt Wrestling Alysh Championship” held in Delhi.

It is indeed jubilation for our Catholic Community for the remarkable achievement. May you continue to thrive and inspire the younger generations.

“May He grant you according to your heart desires, and fulfill all your purposes.” - Psalm 20:4



Miss. **Ilamzailie Hemang**,
D/o Lt. **Idaube Hemang** &
Mrs. **Igoizolile Hemang** of **St. Dominic Church Poilwa** for securing the post of **Graduate Teacher Science** under School Education.



Mr. **Sutimong K**, S/o Mr. **Khisangmong Abraham** and Mrs. **Tsulimshe Christina** of **St. John church Parish, Kiusam Town** for securing the post of **Graduate Teacher Mathematics** under School Education.



Ms. **Jacinta Lily Phom**, D/o **Catechist Hubert Apei Phom** and Mrs. **Teresa Ayim Phom** of **St. Thomas Church Tamlu Center** for securing the post of **Graduate Teacher Science** under School Education.



Ms. **Myingthunglo K Ezung** D/o of **Mr Khothungo Ezung** and Mrs. **Hayibeni Ezung** of **St. Peter's Church Longsa, Wokha** for securing the Post of **Graduate Teacher Science** under School Education



Miss. **Vikehenuo Flora** from **St. Paul Church, Chiechama**



Mr. **Venuzo Timothy** from **St. Andrew Parish, Thenyizumi** for bagging **Bronze medal** in the **100 Kg Category (Men)**.



Mr. **Rokuokehie Khawakhrie Joseph** from **Mary Help of Christian Church, Mezoma** for bagging **Bronze medal** in the **70 kg category (Men)**.

NCYM UPCOMING MEGA EVENTS

1. **The 5th Regional Youth Convention (RYC)** will be hosted by the **Diocese of Kohima** from **27th – 30th June, 2025** at **Mary Help of Christians, Cathedral, Kohima**.
2. **5th Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament** will be held from **29th September - 2nd October, 2025** at **St. Joseph's College, Jakhama (Autonomous)**.



20TH APRIL 2025, Funeral of Fr. Phillip Magh Mother



31ST MAY, 2025, Blessing and Dedication of St. Mathew Church L Yanthung (St. Peter Church, Longsa)



7TH MAY 2025, Visit from members of Couples for Christ



5TH JUNE 2025, Meeting with His Excellency La Ganesan, Governor of Nagaland



11TH-12TH MAY 2025, Pastoral Visit to St Joseph Church Songlhuh



8TH JUNE 2025 Pastoral Visit to St. Anthony Church Zunheboto



28TH MAY 2025, Meeting with Zeliangrong Leaders at Jalukie

Sharing: April-May 2025



27- 30 June - 5th Regional Youth Convention



5th Regional Youth Convention



27th June, Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya addressing the Youth



5th Regional Youth Convention



27th June, Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya presenting a song for the Youth



5th Regional Youth Convention



5TH REGIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION UNITES OVER 2,000 NORTHEAST CATHOLIC YOUTH IN KOHIMA

Over 2,000 Catholic youth from 15 dioceses of Northeast India gathered at the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima, for the 5th Regional Youth Convention (RYC), hosted by the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) under the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope*.” The four-day spiritual and cultural event, organised by the North Eastern Regional Youth Commission (NERYC) of the Indian Catholic Youth Movement North East (ICYM-NE), also marked the jubilee year of ICYM.

The convention was inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, who hoisted the RYC flag and encouraged the youth to be agents of hope, urging them to embrace entrepreneurship, resilience, and faith as tools for personal and societal transformation.

The inaugural Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. Linus Neli, Archbishop of Imphal and Chairman of NERYC, who lauded the youth as the “light and soul” of Northeast India and a symbol of hope for the Church’s future.

The first day’s sessions included talks by Rev. Fr. Vekupa George, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish, Chizami, on “*Identity and Purpose of Youth in Christ through Holy Sacraments*,” and Rev. Fr. Joseph Thohrii on “*Pilgrims of Hope: Moving Forward in Synodality*.”

Bishop of Kohima, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, welcomed the delegates, describing young people as the “salt that gives taste,” vital for enriching the Church and society. Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh

of Shillong also addressed the gathering, calling on the youth to be joyful “*Pilgrims of Hope*” and ambassadors of peace.

Sunday saw over 5,000 faithful attending the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Bishop Thoppil. Reflecting on the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, Bishop underscored the unity and diversity of the Church, urging youth to build their lives on the solid foundation of faith.

Enriching sessions followed, including Edlina Kerketta on “*Navigating Peer Pressure*,” and a panel on “*Youth as the Now of the Church*,” with Johnny Ruangmei encouraging digital evangelisation, Ketholelie Basil Whuorie addressing drug abuse, and Jeremai Krong offering insights on healthy relationships. Rev. Fr. Michael Makri spoke on “*Navigating Social Media from a Christian Perspective*,” highlighting its role in faith formation and evangelisation.

The ICYM North East Excellence Awards 2025 were presented to outstanding youth by Kethosituo Sekhose, Director of Youth Resources and Sports, Nagaland, with former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki as the special guest.

The convention concluded with Elias T. Lotha, Commissioner of Transport, Government of Nagaland and Advisor to the Catholic Association of Nagaland, lowering the RYC flag, officially bringing the event to a close.



50 Hours Chain Adoration

The Jubilee 2025 with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," is an extraordinary event in the life of the Catholic Church that invites all the faithful to join in a time of grace, conversion, and spiritual renewal. This Jubilee, proclaimed by Late Pope Francis, will be a call to deepen our faith and live more fully the mercy of God.

The Jubilee is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. In our tradition, a jubilee is celebrated every 25 years. It is an opportunity for the faithful to reconcile with God and receive abundant spiritual graces. During the jubilee year plenary indulgences are given to receive complete forgiveness of temporal punishments for sins, it is an invitation to start anew in our Christian life.

Among the many programmes, special attention is given to Eucharistic celebrations to deepen our faith in the real presence of Jesus, his body and blood, soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

In respond to this jubilee year 2025, **Report on the 50 Hours Chain Adoration in Honour of the Jubilee Year 2025**, the Diocese of Kohima observed a 50-hour Chain Adoration in honour of the Jubilee Year 2025 under the theme "*Pilgrims of Hope*". The event was organized by the Newman Pastoral Centre in collaboration with St. Joseph's Parish, Chümoukedima.

The holy hours of Eucharistic Adoration commenced with a solemn Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, held on Friday, 27th June at 7:00 AM. This celebration also marked the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. The Holy Mass was presided over by **Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil**, Bishop of Kohima.

In his homily, Bishop Thoppil emphasized that the Sacred Heart is a symbol of God's love made manifest. He reminded the faithful that we are called not only to experience God's love but also to share it. "Only when we share God's love with others," he said, "do we truly become agents of His love."

Throughout the 50 hours, adoration was carried out in shifts by various parishes, institutions, and formation houses from the Dimapur region, each assigned specific intentions. The faithful responded with great devotion, spending time in thanksgiving adoration before the Lord present in the Eucharist. Refreshments was served for all who came at Newman Pastoral centre.

The Chain Adoration concluded on Sunday, 29th June at 9:00 AM, on the solemnity of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. The closing began with a **prayer of deliverance** led by **Rev. Fr. Sabu Chenackal**, Director of Newman Pastoral Centre, Chümoukedima, followed by a **solemn benediction** by **Rev. Fr. George Rino**, Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Parish, Chümoukedima.

The celebration culminated in a **solemn Holy Mass** offered by **Bishop Emeritus Jose Mukala**. In his homily, he reflected on the lives and personalities of Saints Peter and Paul, encouraging the faithful to be "fired with love and zeal for the mission of Christ."

We are deeply grateful to God for the grace-filled opportunity to encounter Him in the Holy Eucharist. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the parishes, institutions, and individuals especially from Dimapur regions who supported, participated in, and collaborated with us to make these sacred days a spiritual success.

- Correspondent

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Fr. G. L. Khingj, NEISSR, Chümoukedima
Email: glkhing1982@gmail.com

One of the most fundamental teachings and practices of the Catholic Church is the Holy Eucharist. The Church derives its life from the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Catholic faith because it is the sacrament in which Jesus gives Himself to us completely. It is a mystery of love. Through the Eucharist, the faithful are intimately united with Christ and receive the grace to live out their Christian vocation in the world. Catholics are privileged believers because of the continuous grace that flows from the Eucharist.

The word “Eucharist” comes from the Latin word *eucharistia*, meaning “thanksgiving.” It commemorates Jesus’ Last Supper, where He took bread and wine and changed them to be His Body and Blood. The Eucharist is the real presence of Christ, not just symbolic, but truly and substantially present in the consecrated elements of bread and wine. During the last supper with the apostles, Jesus took a loaf of bread and said, “Take; this is my body.” He took the cup and said, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.” Some people interpret this as only a symbol. However, the institution of the Eucharist is not a symbol. Jesus did not say, this is the symbol of my body or this is the symbol of my blood. St. Cyril of Jerusalem said, “Do not, therefore, regard the bread and wine as simply that, for they are, according to the Master’s declaration, the body and blood of Christ. Even though the senses may suggest to you the other, let faith make you firm. Do not judge in this matter by taste, but by fully assured by faith, not doubting that you have been deemed worthy of the body and blood of Christ.” (Catechetical Discourse: Mystagogic 4:22:9) (The Essential Catholic Survival Guide, 2005).

The Catholic Church, founded by Jesus Christ, continue to keep the Eucharist as the centre of all

worship, prayers and sacrifice. Thus, no power on earth can destroy the Church (Mt. 16:18). The priests represent Christ at the altar and offer prayer and sacrifice to God on behalf of the faithful believers. It is both a sacrament and a sacrifice, rooted in the words and actions of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper.

When the ordained Catholic Priests consecrate the Bread and the Wine, it becomes the Body and Blood of Christ. This is called “Transubstantiation”. This right is reserved only for validly ordained priests of the Catholic Church. Thus, the blessing of bread and wine by pastors or reverends of other denominations does not fall under the rite of the Holy Eucharist. In Nagaland, the practice of the so-called “Lord’s Supper” in the protestant churches is not the Holy Eucharist. There is a big chasm between the Catholic Church and Protestant denominations in this regard. There are theological, traditional and practical differences. Adapting the practices of the Catholic Church is not an assurance or justification for the deeds.

Jesus prepared the listeners concerning the Eucharist of which they could not grasp the meaning. The Gospel of John chapter 6 narrates the Holy Eucharist in detail. The Jews asked Jesus what sign he could perform so that they might believe in him. Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.” “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat



the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.” Human beings can only derive life by believing in the life of Jesus, fully present in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist – Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. There is fullness of Christ in the Eucharist. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?” (1st Cor. 10:16). He further emphasised and said, “For as you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again (1st Cor. 11:26). The Holy Eucharist applies to us all the power and merit of the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross (Morrow, L. L. 2002).

Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) conducted research on the miracles of the Holy Eucharist. He listed around 32 Eucharistic miracles. In the Eucharistic miracles, flesh and blood are indeed seen, or one without the other, depending on the miracle. The purpose of these miracles is to show that we should not look for the external appearance (bread and wine), but for the substance, the true reality of things, which is flesh and blood (B. Thomas, 2022). Throughout the history of the Catholic Church, Jesus reveals himself clearly in the Eucharist itself and the Eucharistic miracles. There are 100+ Eucharistic miracles approved by the Church. Scientific studies highlight its authenticity. The latest approved Eucharistic miracle was at Vilakkannur, Kerala, in the month of May 2025. The miracle occurred back in November 2013. The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist sustains the Church in faith and action, enabling it to proclaim the Gospel.

Apart from the Holy Eucharist, the Host is kept in the tabernacle and is exposed for adoration. This is called “Eucharistic Adoration.” The abiding presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is proof of his

everlasting love for humanity. “Remain in me, as I remain in you.” (Jn. 15:4). When the Blessed Sacrament is in the tabernacle, a sanctuary lamp is kept burning before it to indicate and honour the presence of Christ (canon 940). The tabernacle is kept in the most worthy place in the Church to emphasise and manifest the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1379).

The Catholic Church celebrates the Jubilee year 2025 (proclaimed by late Pope Francis) with the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.” The Jubilee invites all the faithful to join in a time of grace, conversion, and spiritual renewal (OSV News, 2024). “The

coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations,

and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation.” (Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit* 25). Some of the important hallmarks for the faithful are pilgrimages, pious visits to sacred places, works of mercy and penance (Nicole O’Leary, 2024).

As part of the celebration of the Jubilee year, the Catholic Church in Nagaland is observing 50 hours of “Eucharistic Adoration” praying for various intentions of Nagaland and the world. It commenced on 27th June - the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the Holy Eucharist officiated by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland. The Eucharistic Adoration will end on 29th June – Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. The fruits of the Holy Eucharist are granted to those participating in it devoutly, not only in answer to their prayers, but directly in virtue of the sacrifice itself, through which the merits of Christ are applied to them (Morrow, L. L., 2002). God bless you.

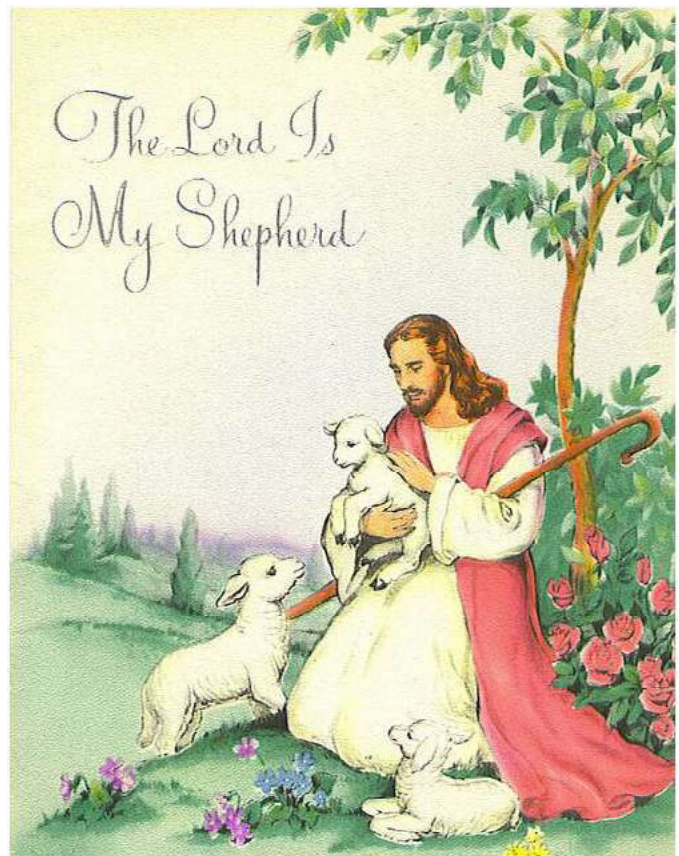


SD RAYMOND COMPASSIONATE PASTOR



On July 16, 2021, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, Mangalore across the globe celebrated with great exuberance its centenary and the year 2025 marks the 150th Birth Anniversary and 125th Priestly Ordination Anniversary of the Servant of God, Monsignor Raymond Francis Camillus Mascarenhas, (hereafter SD Raymond) a revered founder of Bethany Congregation and a Compassionate Pastor. Barely after 14 years of his ordination, SD Raymond was sent to a barren land, Bendur situated within the jurisdiction of Mangalore town to take care of a newly carved out parish in 1914.¹ His evangelical urge is an impetus for the Bethany Sisters to be the ambassadors of the gospel. SD Raymond saw possibilities amidst limitations, a missionary filled with Zeal for the gospel who dared to choose the unbeaten path, beyond his own conventional boundaries to serve God's people in his Priestly Ministry. He embraced challenges with daring courage and unwavering faith in God's Providence and a Trailblazer who set new paths in responding to the needs of the people of his time.

Two things strike me the most as I write this article: Jesus' love for Bethany in North East and the whole-hearted response of Bethany sisters to the mandate given. At this juncture, it is worthwhile to recall the mandate given to SD Raymond - to have the Gospel preached to the poor - and to reflect on the extraordinary ways God worked through this holy priest, the Servant of God, whose life was a radiant reflection of Christ's love and compassion of God. God centeredness enabled him to read the signs of time respond to them so as to reach out to the poor and needy in compassion and love. The life and mission of Bethany sisters in India and other parts of the world especially Bethany in North East bear testimony to the dream-vision, the evangelical zeal, and the spirituality and the synergy which characterized SD Raymond.





FR. BERNARD LALOO ORDAINED AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SHILLONG

In a momentous celebration of faith, Fr. Bernard Laloo was ordained as the new Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Shillong during a solemn Eucharistic celebration at Calvary Cathedral. The ordination was presided over by Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh and attended by Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, along with three regional archbishops, thirteen bishops, three auxiliary bishops, two emeriti bishops, and hundreds of priests.

Bishop Laloo, notably the youngest bishop in the region—a distinction previously held by Bishop Wilbert Marwein of Nongstoin—was appointed to serve as a beacon of hope for the faithful. Auxiliary Bishop of Tura, Jose Chirackal, highlighted the significance of youthful leadership in the Church during the occasion.

The event drew over 150,000 faithful, including Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, and MLA Vincent Pala. With the cathedral packed to capacity, the celebration was broadcast live on ten large screens outside the venue.

Fr. Richard Majaw, Episcopal Vicar, welcomed the congregation before the Mass, and the Apostolic Nuncio delivered the Holy See's mandate in Latin, translated into Khasi by Fr. Majaw.

In his homily, Archbishop Lyngdoh expressed gratitude for the gift of a new shepherd, drawing a parallel between Bishop Laloo and the biblical figure Joshua. He encouraged the new bishop to lead with humility



and compassion, guiding the faithful through love and reconciliation.

During the post-communion message, Archbishop Girelli conveyed greetings from the Holy Father and commended the late Archbishop Dominic Jala for his years of dedicated service. He encouraged Bishop Laloo to remain steadfast in faith, invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the inspiration of St. Joseph. Reflecting on the bishop's motto, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31), he emphasized the significance of trust in God during this Jubilee Year of Hope.

The offertory procession featured cultural performances by children in traditional Khasi and Garo attire, celebrating the region's rich heritage.

In his thanksgiving address, Bishop Laloo offered

heartfelt gratitude to God and to Pope Francis for entrusting him with this responsibility. He also acknowledged the support of Archbishop John Moolachira and Archbishop Linus Neill.

Archbishop Lyngdoh, in a personal reflection, shared his own journey of faith, affirming that God's grace surpasses all limitations.

As Bishop Laloo begins his episcopal ministry, the Archdiocese of Shillong looks forward with hope to a future of renewed unity, service, and spiritual growth under his leadership.





POPE FRANCIS BEGINS EASTER SEASON BY RETURNING TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE



His Eminence Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, officially announced the death of Pope Francis: "With profound sorrow and a deep sense of loss, we mourn the passing away of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Supreme Pontiff, the Vicar of Christ and the Successor of Peter. His demise marks an immeasurable loss to the entire Church". The Pope left for the eternal reward at 7.30 am Italian time.

A true shepherd of God's people, Pope Francis dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel, championing the cause of the poor and of the marginalized, and calling the world to embrace compassion, justice and care for creation. As the spiritual leader of Catholics, he guided the Church with wisdom, humility and an open heart, always seeking to promote fellowship and striving to bring people closer to God.

His legacy as the Successor of Peter, shepherding the Church from 2013 to 2025, will be forever cherished. His vision to transform the Church

into a synodal community, one that listens, discerns, journeys together and embraces inclusivity, has left an indelible mark on the Church at all levels. His profound compassion for the poor and for those on the peripheries, especially migrants and refugees, gained recognition worldwide. His tireless efforts in peace building and fostering dialogue between nations will always be remembered. His outstanding commitment to interreligious dialogue remains praiseworthy and exemplary. His call to care for Mother Earth, through *Laudato Si* was highly appreciated and sparked a global movement.

A Press statement from the Bishop's House, Kohima said that details are awaited from Rome regarding the funeral of late Pope Francis. It also added that more details will be announced regarding the diocesan observance of the obeisance and respect to the late Pontiff Pope Francis.

- Correspondent

REFLECTION ON THE ELECTION OF LEO XIV AS THE 267TH POPE (SUCCESSOR ST. PETER) BY HON'BLE JUSTICE AGGREY (NON-CATHOLIC FROM KENYA)

The election of Leo XIV is a kind of wisdom that is not loud. It does not seek attention. It does not scream to be seen. It simply exists, quietly, deeply and eternally. This is the wisdom of the Catholic Church, a body that has outlived empires, survived schisms, endured scandals and yet remains standing, steady and sacred. The Catholic Church is not a trend. It is not a social wave. It is an institution that walks with time but listens to eternity.

While the world busied itself with predictions, drawing up lists of notable Cardinals, analyzing political alignments and floating theories about who would be



the next Pope, the College of Cardinals chose a different path. They ignored the noise. They turned away from the spotlight. They went into the sacred and returned with a name the world never imagined. Pope Leo the Fourteenth. A name that had not been whispered in the corridors of speculation. A man unknown to the headlines. A choice that silenced every analyst and reset the compass of divine selection.

This is not a coincidence. It is a confirmation of the divine order. What the Vatican did was not just elect a new Pope. They made a statement to the world. They reminded humanity that God does not follow trends. He sets them. That true leadership is not always found in the obvious. That sometimes, the one who carries the mantle is not the one the world expects, but the one heaven approves. This is the mystery of divine succession, wrapped in silence, clothed in prayer and sealed in sacred deliberation.



I am not a Catholic. But with every passing day, I see clearly why this institution continues to command reverence. It is not because its members are flawless. It is not because its leaders are immune to error. It is because, despite the human imperfection that exists within it, the Catholic Church remains rooted in sacred order, structured governance and spiritual discipline. It is an institution that has mastered continuity. Its longevity is not sustained by convenience but by consecration.

No church is perfect. No human institution is without fault. The Catholic Church is no exception. Within it are men and women of varying degrees of holiness, sincerity and struggle. But amidst all of this, there remains a deeply spiritual core, a centre that holds, a system that works, a rhythm that does not break. There are those within its walls who serve God in spirit and in truth, quietly, humbly, fervently. Their devotion is not a performance. Their faith is not a fashion. It is a life.

What happened in the election of Pope Leo the Fourteenth is not just a political or ecclesiastical event.

It is a mirror to the rest of the Christian world. It exposes by comparison the chaos that reigns in many modern church settings, particularly in the Pentecostal space. In some of these assemblies, power struggles have replaced prayer, and ambition has drowned anointing. Leadership is inherited like property. Elections are manipulated like business deals. The pulpit has become a platform for performance, not a place of transformation. The altar has become a showground, not a sanctuary.

Even among so-called brethren, love has grown cold. Loyalty is transactional. Brotherhood is hollow. It is a tragedy that many Pentecostal churches cannot even imagine holding such a transparent, spiritual and selfless process of succession. Helping one's fellow minister is seen as a threat. The idea of unity in leadership has been replaced with competition and suspicion. The sacred is being sacrificed on the altar of success.

But today, the Catholic Church has reminded us of something we have forgotten. That the kingdom of God is not noise but order. Not display but discipline. Not popularity but purity. It has reminded us that when God is allowed to speak, He will often choose the one no one expected. He will raise the man who is hidden. He will lift the one who has been in the secret place.

The election of Pope Leo the Fourteenth is a lesson to the Church and to the world. It is a call to return to structure, to sacredness, to spirit-led decision-making. It is proof that an institution can be old, yet not obsolete. Ancient, yet not irrelevant. Traditional, yet not stagnant. It is wisdom in action.

This is the wisdom of the eternal Church. This is the mystery of divine order. This is the power of the sacred. And in a world drowning in confusion, it shines like a light that cannot be hidden.

Let every ear that hears it listen. Let every eye that sees it learn. Let every heart that understands it return to the ancient path that leads to life.

Truly, God cannot be manipulated like many elections!! God's God forever!



POPE LEO XIV SAYS THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH 'IS NOURISHED BY FORGIVENESS AND MUTUAL TRUST'

Pope Leo XIV on Sunday said unity in the Catholic Church "is nourished by forgiveness and mutual trust" after bestowing the pallium on 54 new metropolitan archbishops on the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, patrons of the city of Rome.

"If Jesus trusts us, then we too can trust one another, in his name," the pontiff said, extending his call to unity to all Christian denominations.

Speaking before he led those gathered in St. Peter's Square in praying the Angelus on June 29, the pope also recalled the witness of the apostles who were martyred. "Today is the great feast of the Church of Rome, born from the witness of the Apostles Peter and Paul and made fruitful by their blood and that of many other martyrs," he said, emphasizing that even today, "throughout the world there are Christians whom the Gospel makes generous and bold, even at the cost of their lives."

In an ecumenical appeal, the pope emphasized that this shared sacrifice creates a "profound and invisible unity among Christian churches," which he called, echoing Pope Francis, an "ecumenism of blood." Present during the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday morning was Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon, heading the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate sent to Rome by Bartholomew I for the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul — a celebration rich with ecumenical significance. In his remarks prior to the Marian prayer, the pope reaffirmed: "My episcopal service is a service to unity, and the Church of Rome is committed, by the blood of Sts. Peter and Paul, to serving communion among all Churches." Quoting the Gospel, the pope reminded that "the stone from which Peter also receives his name is Christ. A stone rejected by men that God has made the cornerstone." The basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, he pointed out, are located "outside the walls," signifying that "what seems to us great and glorious was once rejected and cast out for being in conflict with worldly thinking."

Leo invited all to walk "the path of the Beatitudes," where poverty of spirit, meekness, mercy, and the thirst for justice often meet with "opposition and even persecution." Yet, he affirmed, "the glory of God shines in his friends and along the way he shapes them, from conversion to conversion."

At the tombs of the apostles, "a millennial destination for pilgrimage," the pope encouraged everyone to discover that "we too can live from conversion to conversion." The New Testament, he recalled, does not hide the apostles' faults and sins, "because their greatness was shaped by forgiveness." Jesus, he said, "never calls only once. That's why we can always have hope, as the jubilee also reminds us." After the Angelus, Pope Leo XIV expressed his closeness with Barthélémy Boganda high school in Bangui, Central African Republic, "in mourning after the tragic accident that caused many deaths and injuries among students." Twenty-nine students died and more than 250 were injured in a stampede on Wednesday prompted by an accidental electrical explosion.

The pope also expressed "a heartfelt thought for the parish priests and all the priests working in Roman parishes, with gratitude and encouragement for their service." Leo recalled that the day's feast marks the annual Peter's Pence Collection, "a sign of communion with the pope and of participation in his apostolic ministry," and thanked "those who, through their contributions, support my first steps as the successor of Peter."

- Correspondent



SPONSOR'S COLUMN

North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR)

7th Mile, Chümoukedima, Nagaland

Motto: Excel in Knowledge and Service

Brief Profile of NEISSR

The North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) was established in 2014 and is affiliated with Nagaland Central University. The Institute came into being based on a felt need of professional social workers to address myriad forms of social conflicts and development issues in society by the people themselves. The college imparts four specializations, namely, Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, Youth Development, Community Development and Social Entrepreneurship Development. Experienced faculty, updated syllabus, meticulously designed curriculum, state-of-the-art classroom, and library are the hallmarks of the institution for youth who would like to make a difference in the Social Work Profession.

Vision:

Provide intellectual, social, and spiritual development of students by igniting their minds to realize their potential for developing independent thinking and a creative outlook towards life in a progressive transcended society.

Mission:

- Contributing to building a new social order based on human dignity and social justice;
- Work with a preferential option for the vulnerable and exploited, both locally and globally;
- Building a cadre of young and competent professionals having a global perspective and a strong value base of compassion, personal integrity, tolerance and self-respect.

Objectives:

- To establish, maintain, take over management, and administer, educational institutions, such as Graduate and Master Degree in professional and non-professional certificate and diploma programs relevant to the context that may be found necessary and desirable without profit motive for the benefit of the general public irrespective of race, caste, or creed.
- To critically analyze and understand the social system, ideologies, methodologies, and Social Work practices in various settings, along with Social Work values, ethical principles, and evidence-based practices while working with individuals, groups and communities.
- To strengthen the theoretical understanding, expand knowledge base, inculcate relevant values, attitudes and skills required for professional social workers through the theory and practicum.
- To develop interdisciplinary and specialized professional outlook, uphold the dignity and esteem of the Social Work profession and achieve individual self-actualization.

Sharing: April-May 2025

- To employ participatory, action and evidence-based practices in the field work settings.
- To engage the system through collective actions and demand driven approach to ensure social justice and equity to the marginalized, vulnerable and weaker sections of the society.
- To understand and design effective strategies to evaluate and monitor progress over time in development and change actions that are appropriate for specific interventions and various target groups.
- To acquire professional skills to work in industries, hospital settings, AIDS prevention Centres, family counselling Centres, De-addiction Centres, Rural, Urban and Tribal Communities, Correctional institutions, State and Central Government Departments, academic institutions, sponsored research, and action-oriented projects undertaken by National and International Agencies.

NEISSR Uniqueness:

1. The first pioneering Social Work Institute in Nagaland.
2. Unique methodology in teaching and learning (PEAR).
3. Qualified, efficient and committed faculty.
4. Buddy system and Morung traditional skill learning.
5. Peace lab, Social lab, Active clubs and Forums.
6. 30+ Job-oriented Add-on and Certificate programmes
7. Career guidance, Workshops and Placement Cell.
8. Campus wide wi-fi, Open gym and regular games and sports.
9. 35+ MoUs signed with National and International Institutes
10. International standard infrastructure and facilities
11. Disabled-friendly campus
12. Coaching for UGN NET and Career development

Partnership and collaborations:

NEISSR enjoys building partnerships and collaborations for joint programming in all areas of its mandated work with few Universities, Research and Training Institutes, NGOs and Government departments in India. Efforts are on in building a long-term partnership with professional groups in India and abroad.


Status of NAAC:

NEISSR has been accredited with B++ Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), a remarkable achievement that reflects our institution's commitment to academic excellence, quality education, and continuous improvement.

Social Media Account Links:

 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa5IqlD8dlkYx4UMXj5_1Cw

 <https://bit.ly/3omOMZI>

 <https://bit.ly/3lz2khU>

Sharing: April-May 2025



17th June 2025

**Diaconate Ordination of Br. Keneisalie Dominic Rulho,
Br. David Zholia and Br. James Chomithung Ezung,**



**Congratulations
to**

**Rev. Fr. Augustine
Kerketta
25 Years of
Priesthood**





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