

Sharing



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October
Month of the
holy rosary





SAINTS CARLO ACUTIS & PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI - PRAY FOR US

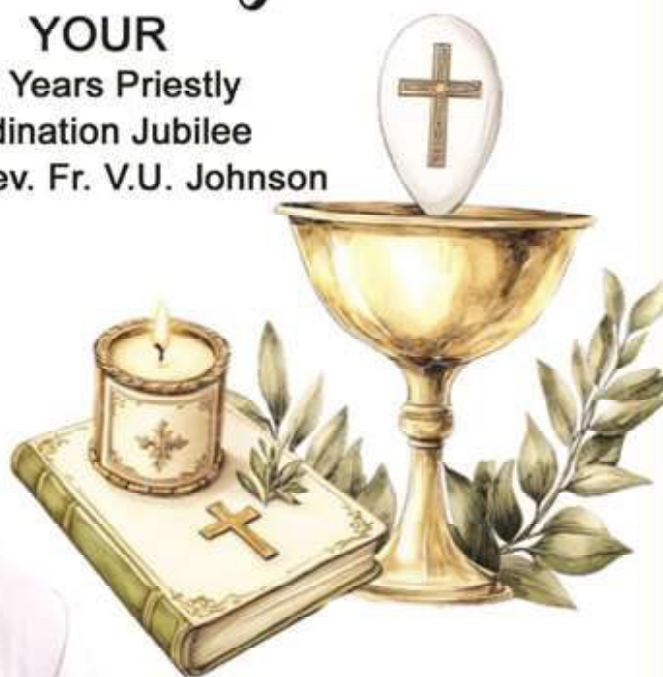


Celebrating

YOUR

**25 Years Priestly
Ordination Jubilee**

Dear Rev. Fr. V.U. Johnson



SHARING

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

REV. FR. GWATILO ALEX TEP

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

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

Bishop's Programme

September - December 2025

SEPTEMBER

- 27 Sat Chümoukedima; Profession & Centenary, Medical Mission Sisters (10.00 am)
- 28 Sun **26th Sunday**; Kohima
- 29 Mon Kohima
- 30 Tue Jakhama; NCYM , Bishop Abraham Trophy, St. Joseph College (Autonomous) Jakhama

OCTOBER

- 1 Wed Kohima - Jakhama: Meeting with Fr. Jose, VC
- 2 Thu Dimapur; Gandhi Jayanthi; NEISSR Graduation
- 3-6 Vocation Camp (Holy Cross, Dimapur)
- 3 Fri Kohima , CFC Anniversary
- 4 Sat Kohima, CFC Anniversary
- 5 Sun **27th Sunday**; Dimapur, Mass, Vocation Camp
- 6 Mon Kohima
- 7 Tue Kohima
- 8 Wed Dimapur: 9.00 am Holy Cross, School blessing; 11.00 am (BH, Dimapur - Meeting of the Committee for Pastoral Plan; Senate (2.00 pm, BH, Dimapur) Meeting of Regional animators & Commissions (5.00, BH Dimapur)
- 9 Thu Dimapur, CEDOK, General Body meeting, 5.30 Recollection for Priests, Holy Cross
- 10 Fri Dimapur, CEDOK Sports – 5.00 pm Padampukhri –Silver Jubilee, Sr. Sindhu
- 11 Sat Dimapur, Graduation program at Don Bosco College of Teacher Education
- 12 Sun **28th Sunday**; Phesama: Jesus Youth, reconstitution day
- 13 Mon Kohima
- 14 Tue Kohima
- 15 Wed Kohima: Mass of St. Devasahayam, Patron of the Laity in India
- 16 Thu To Kiphire
- 17 Fri Kiphire – Phelungre – Silver Jubilee of the school

- 18 Sat Kiphire - Kohima
- 19 Sun **Mission Sunday** – Nihokhu: Church Blessing
- 20 Mon Kohima
- 21 Tue Kohima
- 22 Wed Kohima
- 23 Thu To Guwahati
- 24 Fri Guwahati – Golden Jubilee conclusion, Arrival of MSFS to North East
- 25 Sat Kohima: BEC Jubilee in SFS Parish (10.00 am)
- 26 Sun **30th Sunday**; Kohima – Diocesan Eucharistic Procession
- 27 Mon Kohima
- 28 Tue Kohima: Pastoral visit- St. Joseph College (autonomous), Jakhama
- 29 Wed Kohima
- 30 Thu Kohima
- 31 Fri Kohima – Parents day, St. Mary's Cathedral school

NOVEMBER

- 1 Sat All Saints; Dimapur: NEISSR GB Meeting (10.30 am)
- 2 Sun **All Souls' day**; Kohima
- 3 Mon Kohima:
- 4 Tue Kohima:
- 5 Wed Kohima: Pastoral visit- Holistic Centre, Jalukie & St Xavier Minor Seminary, Jalukie
- 6 Thu Kohima
- 7 Fri Lozaphuhu
- 8 Sat Phek: Silver Jubilee, Bishop Abraham Memorial School (BAM)
- 9 Sun **32nd Sunday**; Kohima: Silver Jubilee, Poumei Catholic Women association
- 10 Mon To Shillong, Oriens Theological College
- 11 Tue Guwahati – North East Formators meet
- 12 Wed Guwahati
- 13 Thu Guwahati
- 14 Fri Guwahati – Dimapur -
- 15 Sat Dimapur – FCC Profession and Jubilee : Dimapur region parish Meeting (HC, 2.00 pm)
- 16 Sun **33rd Sunday**; Kohima: Confirmation, Christ King Church
- 17 Mon Dimapur: Golden Jubilee of the Arrival of UFC in the North East

18 Tue Kohima : 28th Death Anniversary of Bishop Abraham Alangimattathil
 19 Wed Kohima
 20 Thu To Dubai
 21 Fri Sharja – Delegates to Bongaigaon
 22 Sat Dubai
 23 Sun **Feast of Christ the King**; Dubai
 24 Mon Dubai
 25 Tue Dubai-Kohima
 26 Wed Kohima
 27 Thu Kohima
 28 Fri Kohima:
 29 Sat Imphal-Aizawl
 30 Sun **1st Sunday of Advent; Communio Sunday**: Aizawl – Centenary of the Catholic Church

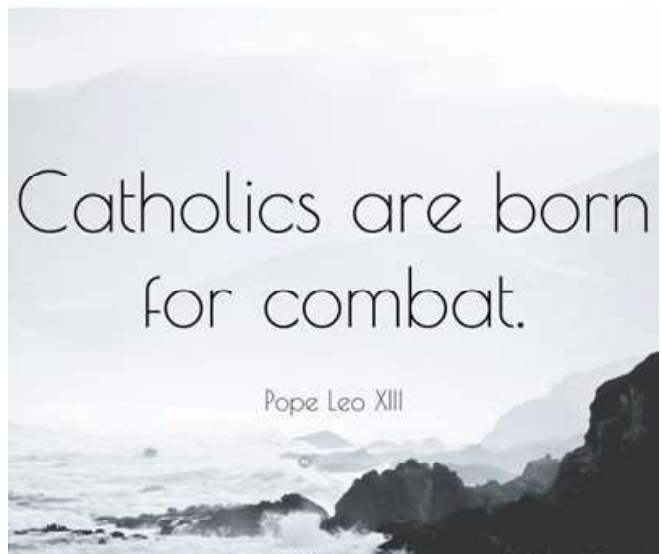
23 Tue Kohima
 24 Wed Kohima – Dimapur, Vigil Mass, Holy Cross Church
 25 Thu **Christmas**; Kohima Cathedral
 26 Fri Kohima
 27 Sat Meluri, Golden Jubilee of the Parish Church, Priestly Ordination of Deacon Thovitho SDB
 28 Sun **Feast of the Holy Family**; Mezoma, Golden Jubilee
 29 Mon Longsa; Priestly Ordination of Deacon James Ezung
 30 Tue Kohima
 31 Wed Chiephobozou: Priestly Ordination of Deacon Dominic Rülho Keneisalie

DECEMBER

1 Mon Aizawl – Imphal – Kohima: Arrival of the Guests from the US
 2 Tue Kohima – Hornbill
 3 Wed Kohima
 4 Thu Kohima
 5 Fri Kohima
 6 Sat Kohima (FC Meeting (BH, Kohima, 2.30 pm)
 7 Sun **2nd Sunday of Advent**:
 8 Mon Kohima
 9 Tue Kohima
 10 Wed Kohima
 11 Thu Jalukie: Silver Jubilee, Holistic Health Centre
 12 Fri FC meeting (2.30 pm, Bishop's House, Kohima)
 13 Sat To Mon
 14 Sun **3rd Sunday of Advent**: Mon. Silver Jubilee, Catholic Women Association
 15 Mon Mon-Dimapur
 16 Tue Dimapur – Dhansiripar – Silver Jubilee
 17 Wed Dimapur: Platinum Jubilee, St. Paul Church, Burma camp; 2.30 – Regional and senate meeting
 18 Thu Dimapur; Priests meeting; Recollection (5.30 pm, Holy Cross)
 19 Fri Dimapur; Consulters meeting (8.30 am, BH, Dimapur) to Kiphire
 20 Sat Kiphire – Golden Jubilee, St. Thomas Church, Phelungre
 21 Sun **4th Sunday of Advent**; Meluri, Silver Jubilee, Akhegwo
 22 Mon Meluri to Kohima



“
 Let us pray that
 each one of us
 might find
 consolation in
 a personal
 relationship with
 Jesus, and from
 his Heart, learn to
 have compassion
 on the world.”





Shepherd's Voice



Greetings from Bishop's House, Kohima!

With great joy and gratitude to God, I wish to share with you a moment of immense blessing for the universal Church—the canonization of **Saint Carlo Acutis** and **Saint Pier Giorgio Frassation 7th September, 2025**. Their lives, though lived in different times, shine brightly as authentic witnesses of faith, love, and youthful holiness.

Saint Carlo Acutis, a young computer genius, used modern technology not for vanity but as a powerful tool to spread the Gospel. His deep devotion to the Eucharist reminds us that the heart of our Christian life is Christ truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar. In him, we see that holiness is not far away, but possible in the simplicity of our daily lives.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, often called “the man of the Beatitudes,” teaches us that true greatness lies in selfless service, love for the poor, and a life of joyful generosity. His passion for the Eucharist, prayer, and charity continues to inspire countless young people and families to live their faith with courage and conviction.

As we rejoice in their canonization, I invite all of you—especially our young people—to **imbibe their values of faith,**

simplicity, service, and love for the Eucharist. Let us not only admire them from a distance but also strive to live as they lived, showing the face of Christ to the world.

At the same time, we are journeying together in the **Jubilee Year** with the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope*.” This theme calls us to renew our faith, to walk in hope, and to be signs of God’s mercy in our communities. As pilgrims, we are reminded that our true homeland is in heaven, and along the way, we are called to encourage one another, strengthen one another, and bear witness to the hope that does not disappoint.

May the lives and intercession of **Saint Carlo Acutis** and **Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati** inspire us to walk faithfully as Pilgrims of Hope, bringing the light of Christ to our families, parishes, and society.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima

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



Sharing: July-September 2025

From the Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

Greetings of peace and joy!

With the release of this July–September issue of *Diocese Sharing*, we pause to look back on a season that has been filled with grace, activity, and inspiration for our Diocese and the universal Church. This issue once again reminds us that our faith is a living journey, nourished by the Word of God, strengthened through our community life, and renewed by the Spirit of Christ who continues to guide us as pilgrims of hope.

At the global level, one of the most striking moments of these months was the canonization of **Saint Carlo Acutis** and **Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati**. Their lives speak with great relevance to our times. Carlo, a teenager of our own century, found holiness through a deep love for the Eucharist, a simplicity of life, and his ability to use modern tools like the internet to spread faith. Pier Giorgio, a young man of the last century, lived his faith through charity, prayer, and joyful service to the poor. Both remind us that sanctity is not reserved for the distant past or for extraordinary heroes, but is attainable in the midst of our ordinary lives. Their canonization offers us, especially the youth of our Diocese, living proof that holiness is possible here and now, when one lives faithfully with Christ.

As the universal Church prepares for the **Jubilee Year 2025** with the theme “**Pilgrims of Hope**,” we too are called to journey

together, deepening our faith and becoming bearers of hope in our communities.

We also take this opportunity to honour our **teachers**, whose tireless dedication continues to shape minds, nurture faith, and build the future of society and the Church. Their dedication goes far beyond imparting knowledge. They are the builders of character, values, and faith among our children and

y o u n g
people. Their
s e l f l e s s
s e r v i c e
deserves our
gratitude and
recognition.

On the diocesan level, the past months have seen lively faith expressions through jubilee celebrations, youth gatherings, vocation camps, and other pastoral initiatives. All these activities are threads woven together in the larger tapestry of our diocesan life. They remind us that the Church is alive where her members live their faith with sincerity, and that the Diocese grows strong when we celebrate together, learn together, and walk together as a family of God.

May this issue inspire us all to walk together as one family of God, living our faith with joy and hope.

*Diocese grows strong when we
celebrate together, learn
together, and walk together as a
family of God.*

First Vocation Camp of the Diocese held at St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire



On the **third day**, **Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep** presided over the Eucharistic celebration, joined by the parish community and the camp participants. Following the Mass, the priests and sisters interacted separately with the boys and girls, sharing the **charism and mission of their respective congregations**.

In addition to spiritual sessions, the camp was filled with **fun and engaging**

activities such as party games, singing, dancing, and video shows prepared by the brothers. The boys were cared for by **Brothers Stephen Meyase, Jerome Metha, and Michael Metha**, while the **SABS Sisters** took charge of the girls.

The smooth running of the camp, including food and logistics, was made possible through the efforts of the **Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Phillip Magh, and the parish community**.

The four-day camp concluded on **7th July 2025** with a **thanksgiving Eucharist**, presided over by **Fr. Phillip Magh**, followed by a fellowship breakfast.

- Correspondent

The Diocese of Kohima organized its **First Vocation Camp** at St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire, from **4th to 7th July 2025**, under the theme "*Here I am Lord, Send Me*" (Is 6:8). The camp brought together **87 children** from eight parishes/centres, accompanied by **42 religious sisters from 15 congregations** and **15 priests from 11 congregations and the diocese**.

The camp began with an **introductory session** during which **Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep**, Diocesan Vocation Promoter, introduced the priests, sisters, and children. **Rev. Fr. Phillip Magh**, Parish Priest of St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire, warmly welcomed the gathering.

On the **second day**, the Holy Eucharist was presided over by **Rev. Fr. Pelevito Kipfe, SJ**, Vocation Promoter of the Society of Jesus. The day was enriched with sessions led by:

1. **Rev. Sr. Roseline Chani UFS**, Assisi, Dimapur – "*God Calls Ordinary People to Do Extraordinary Things*"
2. **Rev. Fr. Akhil Ignacious**, Assistant Priest, Christ King Church, Phuvkiu – "*God Needs Brave Hearts Today*"
3. **Rev. Fr. John Lichoi**, Centre In-charge, St. Paul Church, Noklak – "*Here I am Lord, Send Me*" (Theme Talk)

Report of The Catechists' Retreat 2025 (Phase -1)

Date : 14th – 18th July 2025
Venue : Mt. Tabor Retreat Centre, Kohima
Preacher : Rev. Fr. Sajan Joseph and Team

The 1st phase of the annual Catechists' retreat was held at Mt. Tabor Retreat Centre, Kohima from 14th – 18th July 2025. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Sajan Joseph along with Sr. Ruth CMC and Sr. Agnes CMC



and was attended by 56 Catechists from different Parishes and Centers of our Diocese.

The catechists arrived on 14th July in the evening. Rev. Sr. Rincy Kamei MSMHC, Vice Superior and In-charge of Centre for Development Initiatives (CDI), Kohima took charge of the registration of the catechists. The retreat began with a welcome note by Rev. Fr. Sabu Chenackal, Director, Newman Pastoral Centre, Chumukedima. He informed the gathering as to why he and Sr. Rita Kera MSMHC will not be present at the retreat but assured that he will be there on the fourth day. He also requested the Catechists to make use of the opportunity for spirituality growth in order to lead the people of God entrusted to their care. Due to the poor road condition catechists from some parishes and centers failed to turn up the same evening. After dinner the day ended an introductory talk and night prayer.

The 2nd and 3rd days of the retreat started with the Morning Prayer and Meditation and ended with Holy Rosary and Night Prayer. On the 2nd day there were 3 talks, Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration while on the 3rd day there were 2 talks, Holy Mass, Sacrament of Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration. The 4th Day started as well with the Morning Prayer and Meditation followed by 3 talks, Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration. During the talk hours the preachers spoke on these topics: Leadership, Spouse Relationship, Sins, Confession, Holy Eucharist, Healing and Anointing and Blessing and Curse of the Tongue. Catechists of the different Parish and Centers were assigned different responsibilities such as Liturgy for the Mass and serving during meals on different days.

During the retreat, photograph of all the Catechists present were taken for the purpose of issuing Identity Cards to them, group photo session was there and catechist's statistical data were also collected for all the Parish and Centers. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) was also distributed to the catechists who have ordered the same.

The 4th day of the retreat saw the felicitation of Catechist Yovoi Victor from St Joseph Parish Chumukedima for his 25 years of service as a Catechist for Christ's Church by Rev. Fr Sabu Chenackel. The retreat ended with a vote of thanks by Catechist Samuel from Mt Carmel Parish on behalf of the Catechists while Rev. Fr Sabu Chenackel also thanked Rev. Fr Sajan Joseph and his team for their service.

*- Francis P Kiewhuo,
Catechist, SFS Parish Kohima Town*

Summer Camp at Tseminyu Parish

A two days SUMMER CAMP for Catholic children of St. Joseph's Parish Tseminyu was conducted at the Parish Church Premise on 5th and 6th July 2025. Children of St. Teresa's Church Tseminyu Town and St. Joseph's Church Tseminyu Village attended the camp. The programme was managed by the senior youth of the Parish. The theme of the camp was "Unity and Teamwork using Spiritual Gifts".

Each day began with Praise and Worship. The introductory prayer was said by Catechist H John Kent



after which Miss. Alice Khing delivered the welcome address. At the first session, Miss. Flora Kent spoke on the need to live a life of faith according to the teachings of Christ by daily prayer and by reading the Bible regularly. In the second session, Advocate Xavier Kent exhorted on the need to make use of our spiritual gifts in unity and in team work.

The second day of the camp began with the Holy Eucharist officiated by Fr. Jose Lukose, the Parish Priest. The third session was animated by Rev. Fr. Paul

Inashe, Parish Priest of Lazami Parish. In his sharing, he insisted that each one should make use of the God-given talents with our strengths and weakness and become contributors to one's home and society.

Various competitions like, Group song, Folk song, Folk storytelling, War Cry, Bible recitation, Bible Skit and Choreography were conducted. Total participants of the camp was 65. The Two days Camp ended with prize distribution and vote of thanks proposed by Miss. Friedaline Kent. **- Correspondent**

Summer Camp at St. Peter's Parish Tesophenyu

The Holy Childhood Children's Summer camp Program was held at St. Peter's Parish Tesophenyu, for two days 12th-13th July on the theme "I share what I have"

The program began with a Holy Eucharist by most Rev. Fr John S. Kavas Parish Priest of St. Peter's Parish Tesophenyu.

After the Holy Mass, the divisions of groups were divided into three Categories to actively participate, involve more competition spirit with activities and fun for friendship. Different kinds of games, activities, quiz and competition was also held on the first day. The day

came to an end by happily sharing and exchanging their Tiffin based on the theme "I share What I have"

On the 2nd day, the Holy mass was presided again by Fr John S Kavas Parish Priest of St Peter's Church Tesophenyu with the whole community and specially prayed for the intention of the Holy Childhood Children. Later, good number of participation from the community attended to support and encourage the Holy childhood children competing in various items according to their respective groups with great team spirit. At the end of the day, Fr Alex Gwatilo also exhorted the Holy Childhood Children based on the theme. Altogether 60 persons actively participated 48 children and 12 youths participated for the children's Summer Camp.

- Correspondent

One Day Seminar on Faith Organized by Rengma Catholic Women Association



The Rengma Catholic Women Association organised a one-day seminar at St. Peter's Parish, Tesophenyu, on 12th July 2025. The seminar witnessed the participation of around 85 women from different villages and towns along with several Church leaders. The resource persons for the day were Rev. Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep, Bishop's Secretary, and Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Diocesan Youth Director.

The programme began with an introductory session led by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. John S. Kavas, who warmly welcomed the participants and commended the association's executives for their commendable initiative. In her presidential address, Mrs. Catherine Kez, President of the Association, expressed gratitude to the participants for their positive response and active involvement. She urged the women to take full advantage of the seminar to deepen their faith and thereby strengthen their families.

In the first session, Rev. Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep delivered a talk on the theme "*Sacraments of the Catholic Church*." He highlighted the importance of understanding the reasons behind the Church's teachings, encouraging participants to embrace faith with greater conviction and meaning. In the second session, Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian spoke on "*Catholic Faith*," explaining its richness through Scripture, Sacraments, Saints, and the living tradition of the Church. He reminded the participants that the Catholic Church is complete in itself and encouraged them to take pride in their faith.

The seminar was further enriched by special songs presented by different women groups, adding a spirit of joy and fellowship to the gathering.

The day concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. John S. Kavas, bringing the seminar to a prayerful and grace-filled close.

- *Correspondent*

Summer Bible Camp at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Chümoukedima

The Catechism children of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Chekiye 4th Mile, joyfully participated in a three-day **Summer Bible Camp** held from **25th to 27th July 2025** under the theme "*Let the little children come to me*" (Mk 10:14).

The camp was jointly organized by **Fr. Alex Tep, Bishop's Secretary**, along with **Deacons Dominic, James, and David**, in collaboration with **Parish Priest Fr. Anthony Samy, the CMC Sisters, and the Parish Youth**. Around **150 children** from the different sub-centres of the parish took part in the event.

Sharing: July-September 2025



The camp was inaugurated with a warm welcome by the Parish Priest, who encouraged the children to make the best use of the opportunity for learning and faith experience. The participants were divided into groups and engaged in lively **ice-breaking activities** that helped them bond and prepare for the days ahead.

Throughout the camp, various resource persons led sessions on important themes such as **Prayer, the Sacraments, Signs and Symbols in the Catholic Church, and Responsible Use of Social Media**. These sessions, combined with **group discussions, interactive games, singspirations, and creative activities**, kept the children actively involved and enriched their faith.

The camp also featured a series of **competitions**, including **Bible Quiz, Bible Skits, Bible Reading, Group Songs, and Dances**, which brought out the talents of the children while deepening their knowledge of the Scriptures.

The three-day camp concluded with a solemn **Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist on 27th July**, presided over by **Fr. Alex Tep**, and joined by the entire parish community. The day being dedicated to **Grandparents and the Elderly**, the children offered a special song, while the Parish Priest prayed for the elderly and presented each of them with a Rosary, as a token of love and gratitude.

- Correspondent

NCYM Observes 5th World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly



The Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) observed 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on 27th July 2025 on the theme, *“Blessed are those who have not lost Hope” (Sirach 14:2)* at Priests Home, Chümoukedima. The day was observed at the Priests Home Chümoukedima with the beloved Elderly Priests of Kohima Diocese. The Eucharistic Banquet was the main highlight of the celebration which was presided by Rev. Fr. OC Abraham, the seniormost priest as the main celebrant. The day ended with felicitation programme and feastal lunch.

- Ms. Veronica Nriame, NCYM General Secretary

Annual Catechists' Retreat II

The second phase of the Annual Catechists' Retreat was held at Mount Tabor from 5th to 9th August 2025. The retreat was prayerfully led by Rev. Fr. Paul Inashe, OFM Cap, the Parish Priest of Lazami, and assisted by Sr. Sarah Kamei, MSMHC and Sr. Rita Kera, MSMHC. On the evening of 5th August, catechists from across the diocese began to arrive. Rev. Fr. Sabu Chenackal, Director of the Newman Pastoral Center, joyfully welcomed all participants and introduced the retreat animators. A total of 74 catechists representing 29 parishes/centers gathered for three days of spiritual renewal and deeper communion with the Lord.

The retreat theme, “**Power and Anointing**,” invited participants to rediscover the divine authority and grace bestowed upon them through their vocation.

Date: 5th – 9th August 2025

Place: Mt. Tabor Retreat Center, Kohima

Preacher: Fr. Paul Inashe OFM Cap

Day 2 The Sacred Meaning of Visitation

Continuing the theme, Fr. Paul spoke on the sacred purpose of **visits and visitations**, grounding his teaching in Scripture (cf. Mt. 25:36; Gen. 21:1; Lk. 1:39-45; Ex. 32:34). He explained that true pastoral visits carry spiritual authority and build bonds of authentic relationship within the Body of Christ. Sr. Sarah Kamei offered a moving reflection on St. Peter's threefold denial of Jesus (I do not know Him), inviting catechists to detach themselves from the “fires” of comfort and compromise, and instead draw near to the purifying fire of God's love. This spiritual preparation led into the



Day 1 Listening to the Inner Voice:

Fr. Paul opened the retreat by calling each catechist to enter into the silence of the heart and “speak to the inner self” during these sacred days. He reminded them that God has entrusted catechists with power and authority—not for self-glory, but for the greater glory of His Kingdom. Reflecting on the mystery of the ‘Transfiguration of the Lord,’ he warned against the world's fascination with outward appearance and fleeting fashions, urging instead that the catechist be clothed with the radiant garment of the inner self in Christ.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, with four priests present to minister God's mercy to the retreatants.

Day 3 Gratitude and the Holy Use of the Tongue

On the final day, Fr. Paul led a meditation on “**Gratitude and Restitution**” urging all to cultivate a heart that blesses God in all circumstances and to restore any harm done in relationships. Sr. Rita Kera then exhorted the catechists on the “**Holy Use of the Tongue**.” She reminded them that speech is a sacred gift from God—capable of building up or tearing down. A catechist's tongue, she said, can be: *a tool of the Teacher, forming*

faith; a tool of the Leader, building unity; a tool of the Witness, speaking truth with grace.

Fr. Paul concluded by encouraging the promotion of priestly and religious vocations, after which the assembly professed together the Ten Commandments for Catechists 2025.

Ten Commandments for Catechists 2025

1. You shall love the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments above all else.
2. You shall live by the Gospel ideals and values.
3. You shall defend and proclaim the Catholic faith at all times.
4. You shall make humility and generosity in service your way of life.
5. You shall faithfully fulfill your duties without fear or favoritism.
6. You shall visit and pray with the faithful regularly.

7. You shall be an instrument of unity and avoid unverified gossip.
8. You shall teach and encourage devotion, including popular devotions.
9. You shall dress modestly and be present in church before others arrive.
10. You shall support and collaborate with your parish priests and religious sisters.

The retreat concluded with the celebration of the Holy Mass, during which all present gave thanks for the graces received. On behalf of the retreatants, Mr. Tosovi Philip proposed a heartfelt vote of thanks to the retreat animators and to the entire community for their prayerful support. In Between the sessions the Photos for Catechists ID were taken and statistics were collected.

This retreat was a grace-filled journey with the Lord, renewing the zeal of each catechist to live their vocation with greater faith, love, and dedication to the mission of the Church.

- **Sr. Rita Kera**

First Religious Profession at Little Flower Training Center, Kohima



It was a day of immense joy and blessing at the **Little Flower Training Center, Kohima**, as **nine novices** made their **First Religious Profession** on **August 5, 2025**.

The solemn Holy Eucharist began at **7:00 a.m.**, with **Fr. Vengakunnel Thomas SDB**, Novice Master of the Salesian

Province of Dimapur, as the main celebrant, joined by **19 concelebrating priests**.

Accompanied by their parents, the novices entered in a prayerful procession, led by **Sr. Sania Josephine Chakre**, the Novice Mistress. The chapel was filled with devotion as the young sisters prepared to consecrate their lives to God.

In his homily, Fr. Thomas exhorted the newly professed to treasure their vocation, reminding them that **religious life is a gift and a mission**. He emphasized living joyfully and faithfully in service to God and His people.

Following the Eucharist, the newly professed Sisters expressed their gratitude and felicitated the dignitaries, thanking all who had guided and supported them on their journey.

The celebration concluded with hearts uplifted in thanksgiving, as the faithful prayed for the perseverance of the new sisters in their Salesian commitment.

“God has placed us in this world to show His love to others.” – St. John Bosco

- **Correspondent**

Blessing and Inauguration of St. Thomas Church, Tsüüma



The newly built **St. Thomas Church, Tsüüma**, under **St. Francis de Sales Parish, Medziphema**, was blessed by **Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima**, and inaugurated by **Rev. Fr. Joseph T. MSFS** on August 7, 2025.

Though the Catholic community in Tsüüma comprises only six households, with the initiative and constant support of the **MSFS Fathers**, the faithful managed to complete the construction of the church within a year.

In his homily, Bishop James congratulated the community for their hard work and spirit of unity. He expressed gratitude to the **Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Philip Purayidathil**, and all the benefactors for their generous contributions. The Bishop reminded the faithful that the true Church is not merely the structure but the living community of believers. “Now that the church is built, it is your responsibility to fill it,” he exhorted, urging them to remain strong, united, and exemplary in their life of faith.

Speaking on behalf of the MSFS congregation, **Rev. Fr. Carlus, Provincial Delegate**, encouraged the community not to be discouraged by their small number. Citing the example of the early Christians, he reminded them that through love and unity, the first disciples grew and inspired many, as people remarked: “*See how they love one another.*”

The occasion was marked by cultural presentations from **St. Peter Church, Pungwla**, and the **Medziphema Catholic Women Association**. The community also felicitated the Fathers and Church leaders for their support and encouragement. The program concluded with a **vote of thanks** by **Mr. Nichüsielie Peter**, Catechist of St. Thomas Church, Tsüüma.

- *Correspondent*

St Vianney Day celebration at St. Joseph Parish, Chümoukedima

The Diocesan priests of the Diocese of Kohima, together with their chief shepherd, Most Rev Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, gathered at St Joseph Parish, Chümoukedima to celebrate the feast of their heavenly patron, St John Mary Vianney, the Curé of Ars and patron of all Priests. The celebration was marked by fraternal unity, thanksgiving, and renewal of priestly commitment.

The two-day programme started on August 7 with friendly games and sports, providing the priests an opportunity to relax, interact, and strengthen bonds of

fraternity. The day concluded with the Diocesan Fraternity meeting, where matters concerning pastoral ministry and diocesan life were discussed in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.

The second day on August 8 started with a solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Augustine Kerketta. The homily was delivered by Rev Fr John Poji, one of the jubilarians marking his Silver Jubilee of priestly ordination. In his heartfelt homily, Fr Poji expressed deep gratitude to God for His unfailing love and providential care throughout his 25 years of priesthood. He recalled moments when God preserved



expressing their gratitude and admiration for the priests' dedication and sacrifices. In his address, Bishop James Thoppil began with the profound words of St. John Mary Vianney: "A priest is not for himself." He encouraged the students to always remain grateful to the priests and religious who have left behind the comforts of home to serve God and His people. He reminded everyone that the priesthood is a gift for the Church and

him in extraordinary ways, reminding him of the closeness of the Lord to His anointed ones. Drawing inspiration from the day's readings, he urged everyone to nurture a "Passion for our mission with Compassion", following the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd and St. John Mary Vianney.

Following the Eucharist, the priests were honored in a felicitation program organized by the students of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Chümoukedima. The students presented a variety of cultural performances,

a sign of God's enduring love for His people.

The celebration concluded with words of gratitude from Rev. Fr. Augustine Kerketta, who, on behalf of all the priests, expressed sincere appreciation to the Bishop, parish community, students, and all who contributed to making the day a memorable and meaningful occasion.

St. Vianney Day celebration was not only a joyful commemoration of the patron saint of priests but also a moment of grace, inspiring renewed commitment to priestly service marked by compassion, humility, and zeal for souls.

- Correspondent

Bible Quiz Competition organized by Kohima Region 1

On 10th August 2025, Kohima region 1 organized Bible quiz for catechism children in Christ the King Parish Kohima village. It was conducted for both the seniors and juniors group. The children were selected and well prepared by the catechism sisters incharge and teachers. Miss Veronica Nriame was the Quiz Master of the day. The catechism teachers and some of the Region youth were the score judges of the day event. The venue and power point presentation for visual round were well arranged by Youth Association and Jesus Youth of Christ the King Parish.

Besides the Bible quiz participants, Some of the Catechism children from Mary Help of Christians Parish, Cathedral,

St. Francis De Sales Parish, Kohima town and Christ the

King Parish Kohima Village also joint and they presented Choreography and Special numbers which added the colours and meaning of the day event.

The prizes were given out on the same day. At the conclusion refreshment was served for everyone. It was a day of great blessings.

Prizes and refreshment were sponsored by the parishes of the Region. Thanks to all the Parish priests for the generous contribution.

Heartfelt thanks also to the parents/ guardians for their support and encouragement.

Let's love the Word of God and so make every effort to learn and Live by the Word of God.

**- Sr. Mariyam Chothe Khiyang MSMHC
Regional Secretary**

Funeral Service of Sr. Toms Maria SABS: 17th Aug 2025



The funeral service of Sr. Toms Maria SABS, who passed away on 15th August 2025, was held with deed reverence and gratitude on 17th August 2025 at SABS Provincial House Chumoukedima at 2:00 PM. The Solemn Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Bishop Tames Toppil, the Bishop of Kohima. A large number of Priest, Sisters, Faithful, the alumni of St. John School, Tuensang and family members gathered to pay their last respects and to thank God for the gift of her

life and service. The occasion was marked by prayers, hymns and tributes, reflecting the love and esteem she had earned through her dedicated mission.

In 1971, inspired by her missionary zeal and enthusiasm, she joined St. John School, Tuensang, where she soon became a cherished teacher to all the students, embracing each one irrespective of their intelligence or ability. In 1975, she became the Superior of St. Xavier's Convent, Tuesang and served the faithful with much love and dedication for many years. She worked in Tuesang from 1971 –1975, 1983 - 1986, and 1989 – 1995. She shared a deep and closed bond with the people and today the fruits of her labour are evident in the lives of her students, many of whom hold esteemed position in society.

In 1977 she was transferred to Sacred Heart Higher Sec. School Hundung, Manipur. Building on the experience and zeal she had shown in her previous mission, she immersed herself wholeheartedly in the academic and moral formation of the students. Her gentle guidance, personal care and dedication made her a beloved Teacher to many. She also served at the convents of SABS Provincial House, Jakhama, and Shanti Bhavan, Dimapur. Her mortal remains were laid to rest at SABS Provincial House Cemetery. May the soul of Sr. Toms rest in peace.

- Correspondent

Bishop's Pastoral Visit to St. Paul Parish, Phesama

The Bishop carried out a three-day pastoral visit to St. Paul Parish, Phesama, from 29 to 31 August 2025, ministering across several communities and presiding over multiple Confirmation ceremonies.

On the first day the Bishop officiated at the Holy Eucharist for the St. Paul's Campus — Teacher's Training Centre, St. Paul Convent, and the Jesuit Training Centre. During the service he conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 20 Jesuit candidates. After the liturgy he made an official visit to the school where he addressed the students, offering encouragement and pastoral guidance. Later that day he proceeded to St. Xavier

Church, New Reserve, where he conferred Confirmation on a further 40 faithful during Mass.

The second day of the visit was spent at St. Andrew Bobola Church. Though the congregation there is small, the Bishop urged parishioners to remain steadfast in their faith and to continue inspiring others by the example of their lives. In his address he explained the origins of the Church and reminded the community that belonging to the Church founded by Jesus is both an honor and a significant responsibility.

On the final day the Bishop visited St. Paul Parish Church, Phesama, where he conferred Confirmation on 140 members of the community. The parish warmly felicitated the Bishop, presenting him with various gifts and tokens of appreciation in recognition of his pastoral care.

Throughout the visit the Bishop emphasized faith formation, community service, and the duties that

accompany Christian discipleship. The series of liturgies, confirmations, and pastoral conversations strengthened ties across the parish communities and reaffirmed the Church's commitment to spiritual growth and service.

- Correspondent

Three-day Retreat Held at St. Mary's Church, Seyochung



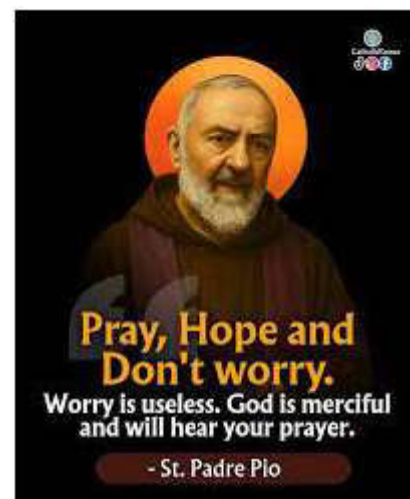
A three-day retreat was held at St. Mary's Church, Seyochung from 5th to 7th of September, animated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretciu. An annual retreat began with the Novena to Mother Mary for a week long, then, a three-day retreat and culminate with the Feast Day Celebration on Sunday. During retreat parishioners from far and near benefited self-reflection and introspection.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretciu highlighted on many areas of lives in deepening the spiritual growth. He said "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8). The purpose of our existence becomes meaningful when we build our relationship with God. As Christians it's essential to keep our prayer life strong because prayer protect us from life's storms and guide us on our way, it helps us to introspect our heart, it clears the path and help us to grow in purpose each day in our life, he added. He reflected on different topics on Sacrament of marriage, Eucharist, reconciliation, windows of sin and how we are precious in the eyes of God.

Rev. Fr. Jose Sebastian, parish priest of St. Mary's Church welcome everyone on the first day and on the

last day thanked the community for their active participation. He especially thanked Fr. Thomas for animating the retreat for the parishioners. He appreciated sisters, praise and worship team and community for creating the ambience of prayer during retreat also working hard in preparation of the celebration. Retreat concluded with the solemn Eucharistic celebration on Sunday and after which common meal was serve to all.

-Bro. Timothy.



NCYM Conducts Career Guidance Programme for Class 9 & 10 Students

The Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) Office conducted a Career Guidance programme for the students of Class 9 and 10 at Don Bosco School, Chiephobozou, and Don Bosco School, Tseminyu, on 9th September 2025. A total of 150 students and staff attended the programme.

The resource persons for the day were **Mr. Stephen J. Kithan**, Chief Editor of *Vibes*, and **Dr. Rosou Pohena**, President, who enlightened the students on various career options after HSLC, subject combinations in Class 11, and the range of competitive and entrance examinations available to them. **Er. Bensinle Magh**, who successfully cleared the NPSC CTSE 2024, also shared her personal experiences and success story to inspire the young participants.

Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director of NCYM, encouraged the students to cultivate three essential qualities in life—academic excellence, character formation, and social concern—in order to become successful and responsible individuals.

The programme was organised by the **North East Regional Youth Commission (NERYC)** in collaboration with the **Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) North East**, and supported by the *Suore Missionarie di San Pietro Claver*.

- Dr. Rosou Pohena, NCYM President



NCYM Sunday cum Tricennial Jubilee celebrated at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Tesophenyu



NCYM Sunday cum Tricennial Jubilee was celebrated at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Tesophenyu on 14th September, 2025 on the theme, *"You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me"* (John 15:27). The NCYM Sunday 2025 celebration was hosted by St. Peter's Church, Tesophenyu and coincided with the tricennial jubilee celebration of Mr. Kevin Magh. The Holy Eucharist was solemnly presided by Rev. Fr. Philip Magh, former Director, NCYM with Rev. Fr. John S. Kavas; Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian; Rev. Fr. Joseph Kath and Rev. Fr. Ashikho Abraham as concelebrants.

Following the Mass a felicitation programme was held to honour the NCYM Achievers. The celebration concluded with fellowship meal.

- Ms. Veronica Nriame, NCYM General Secretary

NEISSR Observes International Patient Safety Day 2025

On 17th September 2025, North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR), Chümoukedima, Nagaland today observed International Patient Safety Day under the global theme for 2025: "Safe Care for Every New-born and Child." The event emphasized the importance of patient safety, particularly focusing on maternal and child health.

The highlight of the program was a keynote address delivered by Dr. Toli H. Kiba, Assistant Professor at NEISSR. In her talk, Dr. Kiba shared insights from the 2023 Infant Mortality Census, noting that Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest infant mortality rate in India, while

Manipur had the lowest, reflecting significant regional disparities in child healthcare. Dr. Kiba stressed the vital role that social workers can play in creating awareness about key government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and Poshan Abhiyaan. These initiatives aim to ensure that every mother and child receives appropriate care, nutrition, and health services during the critical stages of pregnancy and early childhood. She further emphasized that this year's theme aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-being, which seeks to

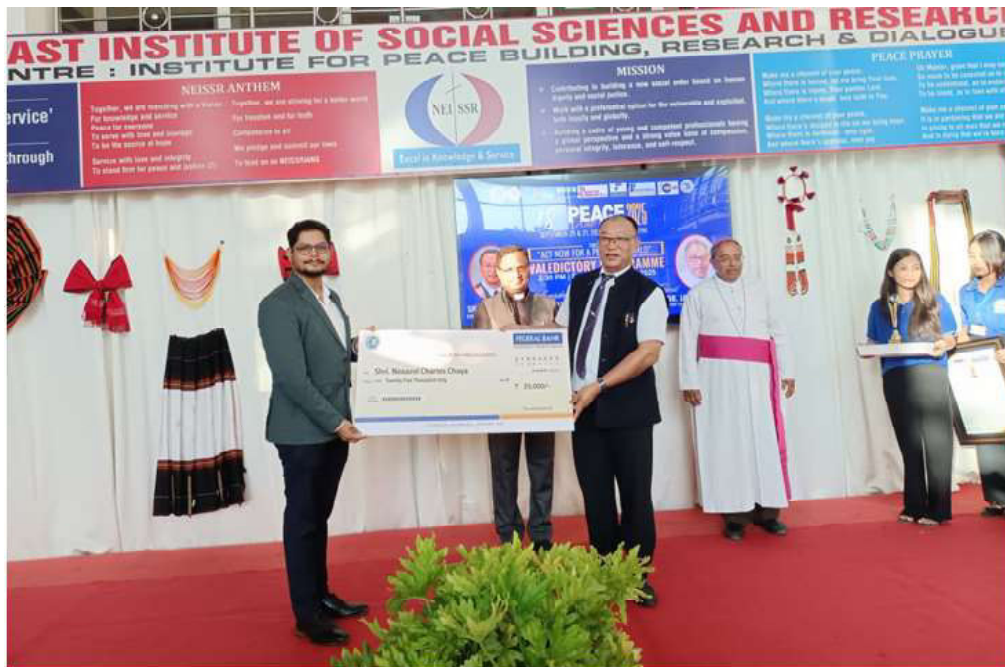
reduce child mortality and improve health outcomes globally.

The program was chaired by Ms. Aningmei, a student of MSW 3rd Semester, who facilitated the proceedings and highlighted the importance of youth involvement in health awareness campaigns.

The observance served as a reminder of the collective responsibility shared by health professionals, social workers, educators, and communities in ensuring safe and equitable healthcare for all, especially the most vulnerable new-borns and children.

- NEISSR DESK

PEACE AWARD 2025 Conferred to Shri. Nosazol Charles Chaya



The 18th Peace Knit Fest 2025, organized by Peace Channel and the North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) in collaboration with the North Eastern Diocesan Social Service Society (NEDSSS), concluded on September 21 at the Peace Centre, 7th Mile, Chümoukedima with a message of collaborative peace building.

Held in observance of the International Day of Peace, the event was graced by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present included Shri Videlalie Zashumo, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Admin), Shri Kekongchim Yimkhiung, State Information Commissioner, and others.

On the occasion, Shri Nosazol Charles Chaya, State Information Commissioner, Nagaland Information Commission and Advisor, Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), was conferred the Peace Award 2025.

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil in his message emphasized that peacemaking is not an option but a divine mission, affirming that peace is upheld by every religion and must be pursued as a universal responsibility. He highlighted that peace building is a gradual and continuous process that begins with small steps, much like nurturing a tree that requires care and patience to bear fruit. Stressing that peace must involve collective participation of churches, communities, leaders, and individuals, he

reminded all that with God's grace and sincere effort, peace is possible. Concluding, he urged everyone to be everyday agents of peace, building character and habits rooted in harmony.

Peace Award recipient Shri Nosazol Charles Chaya reflected on the honor as a learning step, noting that even the smallest gesture of kindness creates ripples of positive change. He emphasized honesty,

forgiveness, and reconciliation over conflict and urged the youth to be torchbearers of peace and justice. Appreciating the visionary leadership of Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto and the Peace Channel team, he acknowledged their tireless efforts in transforming Peace Channel into a living movement of peace.

A moving testimony was shared by Mr. Aloka Yeptho, a Peace Club member, who recounted how the platform provided him opportunities for workshops, dialogue, and mediation, shaping his leadership skills and perspective on empathy and compassion.

On the occasion, Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto, Director of Peace Channel and Principal of NEISSR, urged the Government of Nagaland to establish a Commission for Peace and Justice to build sustainable communities rooted in dialogue and harmony. Acknowledging the invaluable support of religious leaders since Peace Channel's inception, he reaffirmed that religion should unite people in peace, not divide them.

The event also saw the launch of the Peace Channel App and a Peace Certificate Course. The fest featured interfaith dialogue, peer mediation sessions, mental health awareness programs, cultural presentations, and competitions. The evening's much-awaited titles—Miss Peace Knit and Mr. Peace Knit—were awarded to Ms. Mughashi Achumi of St. Mary Hr. Sec. School, Padumpukhuri and Mr. Bokivi Yeptho of St. Joseph University, Chümoukedima, respectively.

The program included an invocation by Fr. ChackoKarinthayil, Governing Board Member, NEISSR; cultural songs by NEISSR's Cultural Club and the Yimkhiung Cultural Team; and a special folk presentation by the Sumi group. The Peace Award ceremony was hosted by Ms. Elizabeth Pojar, Assistant Professor, while Mr. James Phanungkiu, Convenor, delivered the vote of thanks. The event was moderated by Ms. Tshekukhro-u Akami. - *Peace channel Desk*

TRANSFER AND APPOINTMENTS

OFM CAP

Fr. Manoj Victor D'Souza	Capuchin House, Dimapur
Fr. Yesudas Anthony	: Guardian/Treasurer
	: Vicar & Hostel In-charge
Fr. Stephen Praveen D'Souza	St. Clare's Friary & School – Akuluto
Fr. Anthony Melwyn Pradeep	: Guardian, Centre In-charge, Head Master
Fr. Melrish Nathan Noronha	: Vicar & Treasurer
	: Fraternity experience
Fr. Paul Inashe Sema	St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lazami
Fr. Anil Kumar	: Guardian, PP & Treasurer
	: Vicar and Head Master
Fr. Brayan Anthony D'Souza	Infant Jesus Friary & Genesia School, Kuhubuto
Fr. Roshan Sequeira	: Guardian & Headmaster
	: Vicar & Treasurer
Fr. Vinoto Justine Sumi	St. Thomas Friary & School, Tamlu
Fr. Christopher Rodrigues	: Guardian, Centre In-charge, Treasurer
	: Vicar & Head Master

CONGREGATION OF MISSIONS

Fr. Babu Sebastian, CM	Regional Superior, St. Vincent's Seminary, Dimapur
Fr. Sebastian Mali, CM	Rector, St. Vincent's Seminary, Dimapur

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Reminiscence of the 5th Regional Youth Convention 2025 – A Testament of Faith, Unity, and Grace

~ Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director, NCYM

Prelude: A Pilgrimage of Hearts

From the moment the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope*” was proclaimed, the 5th Regional Youth Convention 2025 (RYC) became more than an event—it became a movement of grace. Organized by ICYM NE and held from June 27–30 at the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral in Kohima, and hosted with immense love by the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM), Diocese of Kohima, RYC 2025 brought together over 2,000 young Catholics from Northeastern states of India.

It was not merely a convergence of youth, but a symphony of faith, culture, and communion. The echoes of heartfelt prayers, the rhythm of tribal dances, the fragrance of shared meals, and the witness of countless acts of selfless service—all painted a picture of a Church alive and vibrant in the hills of Kohima.

A Diocese Prepared in Body and Spirit

The months leading up to RYC 2025 were marked by a quiet yet determined fervour. Under the shepherding vision of Bishop James Thoppil, the entire Diocese of Kohima embraced this convention not as an obligation but as a spiritual

calling. The journey of the Convention Cross across city parishes became a pilgrimage of intercession. Every parish youth association in the diocese gathered youths and parishioners on the allotted day to pray for the success of the convention, igniting prayerful anticipation in communities far and wide.

NCYM responded with a zeal that was both inspiring and infectious. From promotional videos to press briefings, from youth mobilization to the creation of a theme song that stirred hearts—their every action echoed the faith of a Church that believes in its young. What began as a youth initiative blossomed into a diocesan mission, carried on the shoulders of the entire People of God.

The Spirit of Synodality: Walking Together

Nowhere was the Synodal spirit more alive than in the formation of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). This was no ordinary planning team—it was the embodiment of collaboration. Clergy, religious, laity, youth, elders, and civic leaders came together in one spirit. Associations like CAN and NCWA not only lent their resources but their very presence—feeding, guiding, and walking beside the young with parental tenderness.

Religious congregations opened their convents and hearts. Volunteers from city parishes worked late into the night without recognition or rest. The invisible threads of love and unity bound everyone together. They were not organizing an event; they were building a living testimony of the Church walking together as one family.

Sacred Hospitality, Lasting Memories

With over 2,000 delegates arriving in Kohima, hospitality became a sacred mission. Transportation, though logistically complex, was executed with impressive precision. Accommodations across institutions became homes for pilgrims. The food committee, from the common mess to the VIP section, won hearts not just with the meals served but with the smiles behind each plate. The mothers of the Cathedral parish shone as living icons of the nurturing Church, ensuring that no one was left unfed or unnoticed.

The liturgical and decoration teams created sacred spaces that lifted the spirit. Tribal costumes, exquisite flowers, incense, solemn chants, and reverent servers turned the Cathedral into a living icon of the universal Church rooted in local culture. A moment of deep emotional resonance came with the Taizé prayer led by the

delegation from Shillong—silence filled with song; hearts lifted in longing. Tears were shed not from sorrow, but from the sweet presence of God.

Behind the scenes, sanitation and medical teams served tirelessly, tending to hygiene and health. The sound and media crew amplified every word, every note, and every prayer far beyond the Cathedral walls. Volunteers, mostly unsung and unseen, moved silently from morning to night, ensuring every detail was tended to with love. The finance team, led by Dr. Johnny Ruangmei and Sir Rovilatuo Nicholas, maintained stewardship with honesty and integrity, embodying Christ's call to faithful service. These often-unseen heroes were the quiet backbone of the convention, ensuring that everything unfolded with grace and order.

Moments That Stirred the Soul

The daily Eucharist, presided over by bishops and archbishops from across Northeast India, became the beating heart of the convention. To witness thousands of youths sing, kneel, and receive the Body of Christ together was to behold a glimpse of heaven on earth – the Church aflame with the Spirit.

The sessions—thanks to the thoughtful themes chosen by NERYC—were not only intellectually stimulating but spiritually awakening. Topics like the sacraments, synodality, digital evangelization, substance abuse,

peer pressure, and relationships were unpacked with depth and sensitivity. The vibrant Q&A sessions that followed showed a generation eager to listen, learn, and live the faith authentically in the face of real and raw challenges they encounter today.

A deeply touching highlight was the felicitation of 30 exemplary youths—one male and one female from each of the 15 dioceses. Their stories bore witness to perseverance, leadership, and quiet heroism, kindling hope and inspiration among their fellow youths.

Each evening turned into feasts of culture—choreographies, songs, and dances from every state celebrating the rich tapestry of Northeast India. Unity in diversity was no longer a slogan; it was danced, sung, celebrated and lived.

Guided by the Elders, Carried by the Young

This convention will be remembered not only for the enthusiasm of the young but also for the faithful presence of the elders. Bishop James Thoppil, Archbishop Linus Neli, and leaders from CAN and NCWA stayed throughout—not as distant dignitaries, but as fellow pilgrims. Their solidarity gave deeper meaning to the theme “*Pilgrims of Hope*.” Sr. Mary Wansuk Lyngdoh captured it best: “This RYC was special because the elders walked with the young.” It was not a passing torch; it was a shared flame. Their presence told the youth: *You are not alone. We walk with you.*

A Green Convention, A Living Message

A defining feature of RYC 2025 was its strong message of environmental responsibility. From eco-friendly plates made of areca leaves to handcrafted bamboo cups contributed by Catholic communities of Khonoma, Jakhama, Kidima, Zhadima, Chiephobozou, and Razephema—the event made a strong impression on sustainable living and care for creation in the minds of the youth. Sustainable practices across the board conveyed a powerful message of ecological stewardship. The youth didn't just hear about *Laudato Si*—they lived it.

The Gift of Presence

The presence of distinguished guests during the special moments of RYC 2025 added both inspiration and significance to the convention. The inaugural session was marked by the uplifting presence of Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma, whose encouraging words and symbolic hoisting of the ICYM NE flag stirred deep emotion among the thousands of youths united by Catholic faith. The de-hoisting of the flag was equally moving, led by another exemplary Catholic leader, Shri Elias T. Lotha, Advisor to CAN. Their involvement, along with that of Shri Nabum Tuki (Guest of Honour) and Shri Kethosituo Sekhose (Special Guest) during the awards ceremony, reflected the strong support of Catholic leadership and public figures for the faith and future of young people in Northeast India. Each guest was accorded a warm and dignified welcome by the presentation team—not as a VIP, but as a fellow pilgrim.

When God Walks Among His People

Perhaps the most moving testimony came from nature itself. As if in quiet agreement with the prayers of the people, the monsoon rains held back during the inauguration, the meal times, and the closing ceremony. These quiet miracles whispered: *God is here*. During Sunday Mass (30th June), just as a heavy shower began and umbrellas were being opened, the rain ceased before Communion, allowing the priests to reach the Jubilee Hall and distribute the Eucharist without disruption. These were moments when God walked among his people smiling.

In Gratitude and Grace

If RYC 2025 is hailed as one of the finest youth conventions ever held, it is not because of glamour or grandeur, but because of the invisible threads of love, sacrifice, faith, and divine grace that wove everything together. Archbishop Linus Neli's remark that "*RYC should always be held in Kohima*" was not merely a comment on infrastructure—it was a tribute to the heart of the diocese that gave everything, the spirit of collaboration, and the deep sense of Church that permeated every moment of the event.

Psalm 107:1 proclaims, "*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*" RYC 2025 was a living testimony to this eternal truth. Every act of kindness, every prayer whispered, every footprint taken, and every tear shed formed a mosaic of God's enduring love.

And in the end, that is the true legacy of RYC 2025: A community gathered in joy, united in purpose, and filled with the hope that comes only from Christ.

To everyone who gave, served, sang, cooked, prayed, or simply showed up—**thank you**.

To God—**be all the glory**.

To His people—**be all the joy**.

The journey goes on. We are pilgrims still. But now we walk with greater hope.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS



**Mother Anna Dengel Foundress
of Medical Mission Sisters**

Mother Anna Dengel Foundress of Medical Mission Sisters

Medical Mission Sisters known as MMS on this joyful occasion of the centenary celebration wish to make known to the people of the birth and growth of this missionary congregation. It is an

international Apostolic Religious Congregation founded by Sr. Dr. Anna Dengel that exists with its healing presence in 19 nations in five continents that speaks volumes about the mission and ministry of the congregation. The Austrian-born Anna Dengel in early 1920s saw the needless suffering and death of thousands of women and children in Rawalpindi (then India) who were denied access to health care and other interventions in the health care sector.



**Joanna Lyons (L), Anna
Dengel (M), Evelyn Flieger
(M) Marie Ulbrich (R)**

As a young doctor in India, serving the people and working as lay doctor for 4 years was strongly convinced about her call to found a religious congregation that will help and support

those who are denied of basic health care facilities that propelled her to founding a religious institute of women dedicated to serving the sick was essential in order to effect real healing for those in need. As there were no such activities carried out by the catholic missionaries at that time it became more challenging.

After much thought and prayer, and with the encouragement of a retreat director, she realized that she was being called to begin a new mission within the mission of the Church (a call within the call). With earnest prayers and reflections, she began to understand that she could not solve this problem alone

and so she went to the United States to find likeminded individuals with deep religious commitment for this cause and also to encourage women to respond to the urgent needs she had experienced in India. Joanna Lyons MD, from Chicago, and two nurses Evelyn Flieger, originally from the United Kingdom, and Marie Ulbrich from Iowa, joined Anna Dengel in Washington D.C., and the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, also known as Medical Mission Sisters, began on September 30th 1925.

Canon Law Restrictions in the Health Care Practices

The code of Canon Law (a system of laws and ecclesiastical regulations created and enforced by the Catholic Church - specifically 1917 Code of Canon Law, canon 139) restricted all religious men and women from engaging in practicing medicine, surgery and obstetric. This was based on the Church's traditional norms and the belief that certain professions might compromise the spiritual focus and the Vow of Chastity required of religious life before the 1930s,

Because of these restrictions by the Catholic Church Canon Law that prohibited Sisters with public vows from practicing medicine, surgery and obstetric, the newly founded small community had to maintain the status of a "pious society" till the permission was granted. Sr. Anna Dengel's dreams came true after years of repeated visits to Rome and requests for a change in the Canon Law by Agnes McLaren and Anna Dengel and a number of missionary bishops, it was granted nearly after 11 years of the Foundation of the Society. In 1936 the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith issued an "Instruction to Religious Women" allowing them to practice medicine in full scope. This change marked a significant development in the Catholic Church's approach to women's roles in society and missions. The Medical Mission Sisters became the first congregation of women religious to be officially permitted to practice medicine as physicians and surgeons. Their work inspired many other congregations to begin training sisters as nurses, midwives, and doctors-especially in isolated mission territories and is still continued according to the needs of the time.

A Call to Religious Life

Vatican II is considered as a turning point for Religious life. As the Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965) called



Medical Mission Sisters

for all religious orders to **"return to the roots and adapt / return to the spirit of their founders"** and adapt to the needs of the modern world (Perfectae Caritatis) and for the Medical Mission Sisters this meant a re-examining the vision of the foundress Sr. Dr. Anna Dengel that to be a professional medical women dedicated to healing and wholeness. It was deeply felt that the members of the Medical Mission Sisters Congregation was called to live with the people they served, often in small communities not separated by formal convent walls that could extend their healing mission to walks of life. It made a deep impact on the people who accessed their service of loving care on the sick and afflicted and inspired many to choose this way of life. This paved the way to as many sisters chose to adopt simple lay dress instead of the full religious habit, to be more approachable and relatable to the people they work with. Dr. Dengel's vision was never about owning huge hospital forever. She always saw MMS as pioneers – to start and build up services, train local people, and then hand over to the local authorities. Many MMS hospital became training centres for local doctors, nurses and midwives and other health care activities and our services in many centres are given till today. A shift on the focus of mission and the need for new way of looking at the mission of healing by the 1970s – 1980s, marked the birth of new MMS that shifted the focus from big hospitals to community health, primary care, women's empowerment, de-addiction, HIV/AIDS work and justice issue – all in line with the Vatican II's emphasis on serving the poor at where they are. Handing over hospitals wasn't giving up; it was fulfilling the mission in the spirit of Sister Dr. Anna Dengel, the foundress and the inspiration. Medical Mission Sisters then became community health pioneers, focusing on: preventive care, health education, rural health outreach pastoral care, school / family counselling, holistic healing, justice and

women's rights, ecological sustainability and they did so living simply as one with the people.

The Mission Continues ... Expands

The presence of the Medical Mission Sisters (MMS) has grown over the decades, inspired by a deep commitment to the healing mission of Christ. Their work spans across different regions of the country, responding to the diverse health needs of the people, and empowering them to deal with the issues of justice and peace, with compassion and dedication.

As the mission continued North India Province was started in 1939. The North India province's mission focuses on quality health care, complementary healing, promoting ecological awareness, supporting sustainable communities' and training and advocating for justice and peace. Their work extends to various states in India including Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, New Delhi and Vietnam.

In **South India**, the Medical Mission Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary began their mission in **Kerala in 1944**. In 1953, they merged with the **Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries**, integrating into a broader global network of healthcare ministry. The pioneering members in the South **Sr. Veronica Vadakkummury, Sr. Salome Chirakadavil, Sr. Magdalen Neriampampil, and Sr. Mary John Kuthivalachellai** laid a strong foundation for a ministry that combined professional medical care with a spiritual call to serve the marginalized.

North East India – A New Dawn for the Medical Mission Sisters

It was in the early 1960s as Nagaland was still a very young state having attained statehood in 1963 the need for health care activities was deeply felt by the members of the congregation to reach out to the people of this region. Healthcare infrastructure was extremely limited,

particularly in the hill areas where access to proper medical facilities and trained professionals were scarce. During this period, the Governor of Nagaland, recognizing the critical healthcare needs of the Naga



people and the shortage of medical staff, extended an invitation to the Medical Mission Sisters to come and serve in the region, specifically at the Government Health Care Clinic in Kohima.

Responding to the invitation of the Governor in 1970 the first three Medical Mission Sisters namely Srs. Agnes Mylady, Vincentia Peedikamalayil from South province (Kerala) and Sr. Dr. Marie Tobin (Asha Tobin) from North Province reached Kohima, Nagaland to pioneer our mission in North East India. It was to respond to all challenges in health care needs in Nagaland and started to work in the health care clinic in Kohima village. The intention was not to build a big hospital, but to work with the people, defining needs and to respond to them. Soon, the sisters identified villages in Kohima as their focus of involvement. Our first Medical Srs. Doctors Asha Tobin, Celina Namchu and Marina worked in Naga Hospital Kohima. The presence of these sisters not only elevated the standard of medical care in Kohima but also introduced a model of faith-based service, where healing was not limited to the body but extended to the emotional and spiritual well-being of patients. The Medical Mission Sisters faced several challenges: language and cultural differences, scarcity of medical supplies, remote locations, difficult to travel, and political instability. Despite these difficulties, they remained steadfast in their commitment to their service of healing. This was a small beginning of our mission in North East India. We have had a short duration of mission experience among the Konyak community in Tobu (1974 – 1976) and Lotha community in Lakhuti (1980 – 1985).

In 1972 we began our first mission in Mendipathar - East Garo Hills and in 1976 started the second mission



Black Pepper Planting in Mendipathar

in Rajabala, West Garo Hills in the state of Meghalaya that renders its service in many areas like health care, social services,

village self-help group formation and other interventions through a co-operative society is carried out diligently by the members of the congregation in promoting all round development to the people of Meghalaya and worked in Dadenggri in West Garo Hills for a short time.

Caring for the earth

In 1979 North East became a separate Province of the Society and members were added to the new province to



Caring for the earth

extend their services in providing health care and other social developmental activities. It was at this juncture in the mid-1992, responding to the growing issue of substance abuse and alcoholism among the youth in the region and in particular the youth of Nagaland Most Rev. Bishop Abraham Alangimattathil the bishop of the Kohima Diocese invited the Medical Mission Sisters to collaborate in a new ministry, a rehabilitation centre “Shalom” for chemical dependents in Chumoukedima, Nagaland. From the beginning till today the yeomen service is rendered to the inmates of Shalom in the

treatment and recovery by restoring them to addiction free life. It has transformed many lives and brought them back to the



Shalom Rehab. Centre



mainstream of the society to continue their normal life without drugs and alcohol.

In 2005 a new centre was started in the diocese of New Bongaigaon, Assam. The mission to reach out to the poor and marginalised through tuitions, house visits, medical help through a dispensary had made great impact on the people of this place. The mission is continued as per the needs of the time responding to the people as they require.

We the Medical Mission Sisters, commit ourselves to promote healing and wholeness in all aspects of life. Our motto is “*To be a healing presence at the heart of the wounded world in the spirit of Jesus, the Healer*”. We are a missionary congregation. To be a missionary means for us that no matter where we live the whole earth is the place of our care and concern. Deeply rooted in the Gospel and essential values, we live out over religious commitment together to build a reign of God in our midst.

These exposures to people of different cultures and languages gave us a feeling of having done much for the people and the Church at a time where there were no priests and when people most needed support and guidance as it was a fulfilment of the vision and mission of Sr. Dr. Anna Dengel who felt the need to provide health care and other facilities for the people in need.

The story of the Medical Mission Sisters in India is one of faith in action, a legacy of courageous pioneers and dedicated women who continue to embody the compassionate presence of Christ through their healing hands and hearts. Though we have been always small in number, our mission continues to make a difference in this wonderful and yet tormented corner of the world. The new members joining from North East India though only a few encourage us to go forward in Mission. “*We must adapt ourselves to the needs; the needs will not adapt themselves to us. We must never be afraid of Change*” (Mother Anna Dengel)

“As the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year, we as Medical Mission Sisters joyfully join hands in this sacred celebration, marking not only the Church’s Jubilee but also our own Centenary Year—a grace filled moment to give thanks, renew our commitment, and journey forward in mission with renewed faith and trust in the Lord who has Called us.”

**Medical Mission Sisters
North East India, Province**

Mind Matters: Navigating the landscape of Mental Health

Ms. Veronica Nriame

General Secretary, NCYM

Psychiatric Social Worker

DMHP, Naga Hospital Kohima



The word ‘Mental Health’ and ‘Mental Disorder’ are often misunderstood and used interchangeably. Let us understand the notion;

- ◆ Mental health denotes a positive aspect of mental well-being. World Health Organization (WHO) conceptualizes mental health as a “state of well-being in which the every individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a greater contribution to his or her community”.
- ◆ A mental disorder on the other hand is characterized by a clinically significant disturbance in an individual’s cognition, emotional regulation, or behaviour. It is usually associated with distress or impairment in important areas of functioning (World Health Organization).

In recent times the word ‘Anxiety’ and ‘Depression’ is commonly used and many rely on internet sources for their answers which can be misleading and at times heightened their symptoms. Do remember that the internet sources are seldom consistent and it is advisable to seek assistance from Mental Health Professionals. Anxiety and depression are common mental disorders. Among many other symptoms,

- ◆ Depression causes Persistent sad or “empty” mood, lasting two weeks or more, markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, or almost all activities, feeling hopeless, helpless, guilty or worthless feeling irritable, agitated or anxious, Fatigue and loss of energy even everyday tasks feel exhausting and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide, or recurrent suicidal ideation.
- ◆ Anxiety creates feelings of excessive nervousness, uncontrollable feeling of worrying or dread, intrusive and repeated thoughts or flashbacks of traumatic experiences (Casarella, J., 2023& DSM-IV).

The mentioned disorders have specific criteria to be diagnosed as the case of depression or anxiety disorders, it is vital to understand that if you experienced sadness or anxiousness on certain days doesn’t mean you have depression or anxiety; for depression the symptoms have to be persistent for a period of two weeks and for anxiety it has to be one month duration, certain cases might differ when severity of symptoms is present.

Besides Anxiety and Depression, the rampant rise of drug abuse amongst the youth population is alarming. Drug abuse has serious consequences in our homes, schools and communities. It is important to note that,

- ◆ *Addiction is a brain disorder and they need medical attention to fight through addiction.*
- ◆ *Drug- addiction is a chronic, often relapsing brain disease characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use despite harmful consequences to the user and people around. Repeated drug exposure leads to changes in structure and function of the brain (MoH&FW, 2014).*
- ◆ *World Health Organization (WHO) defines a drug as any substance that, when taken into the living organism, may modify one or more of its functions. “Drug abuse” is define as self-administration of a drug for nonmedical reasons in quantities and frequencies which may impair an individual’s ability to function effectively and which may result in social, physical, or emotional harm.*

Why do people take drugs? There are many gateways why young people initiate drug use. Are you hooked up with these harmful substances out of curiosity, peer pressure, relationship problems, family crisis, unemployment issues, and job stress or to escape from pain and sufferings? I wish to tell you that these substances are only momentary solution and this unhealthy coping mechanism proliferate your problems.

If you are juggling through hardships and your resiliency is exhausted, remember that you do not have to fight these unseen battles alone; there are professionals who cares about you and your sobriety. Suicide is another significant issue to be highlighted. It is significant to understand and rewired the perception that,

- ◆ *Suicide is a response to overwhelming circumstances. Humans are wired to problem solve and work to alleviate their suffering and when that doesn't seem possible, suicide can look like an attractive solution. This isn't a sign of weakness but an indication that the person doesn't have enough resources to deal with what they are going through.*

How do You Take care of Yourself when you encounter emotionally significant distress in Your Life? How are you nurturing your mind, your thoughts and your emotions? Do you experience a range of emotions? How do you navigate your difficult emotions? Have you ever questioned why I am feeling this way and you couldn't see any way through? Well, I am here to tell you that,

- ◆ *"You don't have to be positive all the time. It is perfectly okay to feel sad, angry, annoyed, frustrated, scared and anxious. Having negative feelings doesn't make you a negative person. It makes you human"-Lori Deschene.*

When you are in emotional turbulences and your coping mechanism is exhausted and you're

pushed to the edge, I want you to remember that 'You are not alone'.

- ◆ *John Greens says, "There is hope, even when your brain tells you there isn't." When you are emotionally wounded and you could not see a way through, you have every right to take care of yourself by ventilating to someone who will empathize with you or seek help from Mental Health Professionals*

When you have any physical ailments, what do you do? You immediately seek medical attention right? But, when you are in utter state of emotional distress and your mental health is affected adversely, or your dear ones fighting through severe mental disorders, why we refuse to seek help? Is it due to self-stigma or societal stigma? Stigma does continue to reign in our society, the stereotypical thinking of labelling those individual as morally weak, deranged or crazy, or due to sins

committed by them or kin and often negative terms are attached. Thus people withheld or delay seeking treatment due to concerns about being treated differently or fears of losing their jobs and livelihood. Due to the indifferent attitude or denial they opt for prayer centres, country doctors and sadly seeking professional help is their last resort.

- ◆ *It is said that 'Mental health is a universal human right' everyone, whoever and wherever they are, has a right to the highest attainable standard of mental health. This includes the right to be protected from mental health risks, the right to available, accessible, acceptable, and good quality care, and the right to liberty, independence and inclusion in the community (WHO).*

Dear reader let us join hands to create a supportive environment to those who have fallen in the line of addiction. We shall support them to lead a life of sobriety, productive and fruitful life. Our society is in dire need of collective intervention to prevent and combat the usage of illicit drugs hence create 'A Drug Free Society'. Faith communities can be a catalyst for addressing mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and severe mental health issues. Let us be the facilitator in providing conducive environment for those individuals battling through mind battles through non-judgemental support and encouragement to seek help from Mental Health Professionals and more platforms to discuss about mental health issues. Glenn Close says "What Mental Health Needs is more Sunlight, More Candor and more unashamed conversation". Indeed, we need to normalize the conversation on Mental Health issues and create a supportive environment in our society.

To those are battling through the overwhelming circumstances in your life and you have no strength to face another day. Please remember that you Are Not Alone, reach out to District Mental Health Programme (DMHP, which is functional at eleven districts in Nagaland. Tedros Director-General WHO says, "Good Mental Health is absolutely fundamental to overall health and well-being." Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual; these interrelated multidimensional parts of a human being work cohesively together in order to felicitate homeostatic, well-being for optimal health.

My heartfelt gratitude for reading through this article. Now be the agent of service to yourself and others.



*Call to connect with a Mental Health Professional.

If you need professional help to break the cycle of Addiction/Relapses

Contact Project Rest NHAK, Ph. No: 9366990275, Email ID: projectrest23@gmail.com

Queries related to Mental Health issues reach out to District Mental

Health Programme (DMHP) Kohima Ph. No: 9402079798, Email ID: dmhpkohima@gmail.com

*Helpline for Tele-Mental Health Services:

TELE MANANS Toll free number: 14416 or 1-800-89-14416

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE!

2nd July, 2025,

Mr. Tomosu William (75 Years) the Maternal Grandfather of Rev. Sr. Caroline SABS (St. Peter Church, Kiphire Convent).

6th July, 2025,

Mrs. Nourhii-ii Talie Mary, the beloved grandmother of Rev. Sr. Flora Kera MSMHC (St. Dominic Savio Church Chiephobozou).

20th July, 2025,

Mr. Abraham Magh, the beloved elder brother of Rev. Fr. Phillip Magh (parish Priest of St. Peter Parish, Kiphire).

20th July, 2025,

Rev. Sr. Josepha Maria FCC (85 Years) of NirmalJoythi Province, Dimapur.

20th July, 2025,

Mr. Peter Chabou (93 Years) a great pioneer of Holy Redeemer Parish Tobu.

24th July, 2025,

Mr. Ivulho Paul Sheqi (86 Years) the beloved father of Rev. Fr. Nagahoto Luke (Assistant Priest, St. Augustine Church, Chessore).

12th August, 2025,

Rev. Sr. Flowerlet Madathumuriyil SH (76 Years) of Sacred Heart Province, Gotlong (worked in Mon, Nagaland).

16th August, 2025,

Rev. Sr. Toms Maria SABS (78 Years) of Corpus Christi Province, Dimapur.

18th August, 2025,

Mrs. Maria Thangam (81 Years) the beloved elder sister of Rev. Fr. John S Kavas (Parish Priest, St. Peter's Parish, Tesophenyu).

25th August, 2025,

Rev. Sr. Tresa MartinSABS (93 Years) of Corpus Christi Province, Dimapur.

26th August, 2025,

Mr. VarkeyMundathanath (86) the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Tessy George CMC (Headmistress - Christ School Ekhyo Yan, Dimapur).

28th August, 2025,

MrKavamu Peter Kezo, a great pioneer and first Catechist of St Peter's Church, Kikruma.

1st September,

2025, Mr. NyimtsemoHuntsoe (73 Years), the beloved paternal uncle of Rev. Fr. Philip Y Lotha (Vice Principal, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Jakhama).

6th September,

2025, Mr. Timung Michael (32 Years), the beloved younger brother of Rev. Sr. Medries SABS (St. Theresa convent Tobu).

7th September, 2025,

Mr. Chasu William Rume(42 Years), the beloved first cousin brother of Rev. Fr. Christopher Litsivi (Asst. Priest, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Khonoma).

19th September, 2025,

Mr. Loannis Khyndeit the beloved eldest brother of Rev. Sr.ShidalinKhyndeit (Bartolomea Home, Chümoukedima, Sisters of Charity).





KNOW YOUR POPE

Biography of Pope Leo XIV (Robert Francis Prevost)

Early Life & Education	Born Sept 14, 1955 1973 (H.S. Graduation) 1977 (B.S.)	Parents: Louis Prevost & Mildred Martínez St Augustine Seminary H.S. Villanova University	Born in Chicago, Illinois; Graduated St Augustine Seminary H.S.; B.S. in Mathematics from Villanova Univ.
Religious formation	Sept 1, 1977 (Novitiate) 1978 (First Vows) 1982 (Ordination)	Augustinian Order Catholic Theological Union, Chicago	Entered Augustinians; ordained priest; earned Master of Divinity.
Academic Achievements & Early Ministry	1984 (Licentiate) 1987 (Doctorate)	Pontifical Univ. of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome St Rita H.S., Chicago	Thesis on role of local priors; taught Math & Physics at St Rita H.S.
Mission in Peru	1985–1999	Prelature of Chulucanas Archdiocese of Trujillo	Chancellor, seminary director, parish priest, prefect & judicial vicar; missionary in remote Andean villages.
Prior Provincial & Prior General	1999 (Provincial, Chicago) 2001–2013 (Prior General)	Order of St. Augustine	Led Chicago Province, then worldwide Augustinians for two terms.
Subsequent Roles & Appointments	2014 (Apostolic Admin., Chiclayo) 2015 (Bishop of Chiclayo)	Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru	Episcopal ministry; active in Peruvian Bishops' Conference.
Recent Elevations & Responsibilities	Jan 2023 (Prefect of Bishops) Sept 2023 (Cardinal)	Dicastery for Bishops Pontifical Commission for Latin America	Oversaw global appointment of bishops; created Cardinal by Pope Francis.
Papal Election	May 8, 2025 (Elected Pope) May 18, 2025 (Inauguration Mass) May 25, 2025 (Bishop of Rome)	Chose name Leo XIV	First American-born Pope; also Peruvian citizen; emphasized unity, dialogue, social justice.



Pope Leo brings Youth Jubilee to a close with Mass for more than a million



Pope Leo XIV presided over a mass in Rome for more than a million young people on Sunday, 3rd August, 2025, the culmination of a pilgrimage that has drawn Catholics from across the world. "Aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less," the pope told the crowd.

The week-long Jubilee of Youth, a highlight of the jubilee holy year, was an enormous undertaking for the Vatican, with a half a million young pilgrims in Rome for most of the week. Before a twilight vigil led by the pope on Saturday night, organisers said there had been 800,000 people in the vast open-air space on Rome's eastern outskirts. The Vatican said on Sunday that number had grown to a million. Most of them spent the night in tents, in sleeping bags or on mats in anticipation of Sunday's mass.

Among them was New Yorker Christofer Delano, who said he had been "so happy to see Pope Leo" but was stunned by the crowds. "I didn't expect to see all these people. I knew there was going to be a lot of people, I didn't know it was going to be this many," he said.

In his homily, the former missionary and first US pope encouraged the gathered youth to "spread your enthusiasm and the witness of your faith to everyone you meet". The Vatican has sought to highlight the fact that pilgrims travelled to Rome from war-torn regions, and Leo said in his Angelus prayer: "We are closer than ever to young people who suffer the most serious evils which are caused by other human beings."

"We are with the young people of Gaza. We are with the young people of Ukraine, with those of every land bloodied by war," the pontiff said. "My

young brothers and sisters, you are the sign that a different world is possible, a world of fraternity and friendship where conflicts are not resolved with weapons but with dialogue."

The colourful event was accompanied by music from a choir and about 450 bishops and 700 priests all dressed in green robes. A towering cross dominated the golden arch covering the stage where the pope led mass. Tommaso Benedetti, an Italian pilgrim, said the pope had passed his first test in the eyes of young people during the youth jubilee. "We feel quite satisfied. There were many references to peace, which is a theme that is very close to our hearts as young people," he said.

The young pilgrims – from 146 different countries, according to the Vatican – have filled Rome's streets since Monday, chanting, singing and waving their countries' flags. The festive atmosphere reached a peak on Saturday before the vigil presided over by Leo. The Italian broadcaster Rai called it a Catholic Woodstock.

Hundreds of thousands camped out at the dusty venue, strumming guitars or singing, as music blasted from the stage where a series of religious bands entertained the crowds. Leo was greeted with deafening screams and applause after his arrival by helicopter and as he toured the grounds in his popemobile, with many people running to catch a better glimpse of the new pope. Roads leading to the Tor Vergata venue, a 40-minute drive from the centre of Rome, were packed, making Leo's choice of helicopter transport more efficient. At more than 500,000 sq metres (125 acres), the grounds were the size of about 70 football pitches. Andy Hewellyn, a British student, sat in front of a huge video screen – a prime spot because he was unable to see the stage in the distance. "I'm so happy to be here, even if I'm a bit far from the pope. I knew what to expect," he said. "The main thing is that we're all together."

The youth pilgrimage came about three months after the start of Leo's papacy and 25 years after John Paul II organised the last such gathering in Rome. It was announced by Pope Francis on World Youth Day in Lisbon in 2023. The church planned a series of events for the young pilgrims over the course of the week, including turning the Circus Maximus – where chariot races were held in ancient Rome – into an open-air confessional.

Pope Leo XIV proclaims Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati saints



Pope Leo XIV proclaimed Italians Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis as saints of the Church on Sunday, 7th September 2025, decreeing their veneration among the Catholic faithful. The canonizations of the two men, promulgated before an estimated 70,000 people in St. Peter's Square, were the first of Leo's pontificate. The congregation, which included the family of Acutis, applauded after Pope Leo pronounced the rite of canonization and declared the two patrons of young people as the Church's newest saints.

In his homily, the Holy Father reflected on a passage from the Book of Wisdom, which was read by Acutis' younger brother Michele, during the Mass celebration. "[Lord], who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?" Leo said, quoting the Old Testament passage. "This question comes after two young blessed, Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis, were proclaimed saints." "This is providential because in the Book of Wisdom, this question is attributed to a young man like them: King Solomon. Upon the death of his father David, he realized that he had many things: power, wealth, health, youth, beauty, and the entire kingdom," he continued.

Like Solomon, Leo said, the new saints Carlo and Pier Giorgio understood that friendship with Jesus and faithfully following "God's plans" is greater than any other worldly pursuits. God "calls us to abandon ourselves without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit," Leo said Sunday.

"We can receive to the extent that we empty ourselves of the things and ideas to which we are attached, in order to listen to his word," he continued.

The Holy Father also spoke of other young saints throughout history, including St. Francis of Assisi, who saw it was wise to prefer the love of God and others over riches.

"Today we look to St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis: a young man from the early 20th century and a teenager from our own day, both in love with Jesus and ready to give everything for him," he said.

"Dear friends, Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces," he added.

Describing their "winning formula" for holiness, the Holy Father spoke about the ordinary circumstances through which they dedicated their lives to God.

"Pier Giorgio encountered the Lord through school and church groups — Catholic Action, the Conferences of St. Vincent, the FUCI [Italian Catholic University Federation], the Dominican Third Order — and he bore witness to God with his joy of living and of being a Christian in prayer, friendship, and charity," he said.

"Carlo, for his part, encountered Jesus in his family, thanks to his parents, Andrea and Antonia — who are here today with his two siblings, Francesca and Michele — and then at school, and above all in the sacraments celebrated in the parish community," he added.

According to the pope, the two Italian saints cultivated their love for God and for their brothers and sisters through "simple acts" of "daily Mass, prayer, and especially Eucharistic adoration," which are available to every Catholic.

At the end of the Mass, which he concelebrated with approximately 2,000 other priests, Pope Leo invoked the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for peace, "especially in the Holy Land and in Ukraine and in every other land that is facing blood."

"I invite all the authorities to listen and to put down the weapons that lead to destruction and death ... they never bring peace and security," he said.

"God does not want war. God wants peace. God sustains those who fight for peace and who follow the path of dialogue," he added, before leading the congregation in praying the Angelus.

- CNN

SPONSOR'S COLUMN

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. MARTIN KENT (Agri Officer)

1. *Could you please enlighten the readers some of the challenges which you face daily while carrying out your responsibilities as a Catholic Officer? How do you address them? What influence can you have as a Catholic officer on others?*

Greetings to all my fellow brothers and sisters. At the outset, I give all glory and praise to our Almighty God Our Loving Father for this moment. Having been brought up in a Catholic family with the values taught by the Catholic Church, I can't deny that everything goes on very smoothly; there are challenges and hurdles while executing our duties. The decision to say **Yes/No, Agreed and Disagreement** are some of the hardest decisions. In a state of hierarchical body while executing our works, sometimes we are left with guilt as all things doesn't happen within our powers. The gift of honesty, sincerity and integrity in execution of my assigned works and tasks are my constant prayers as a good Catholic Govt. Servant.

2. *How would you describe your personal relationship with God?*

In spite of my shortcomings and weaknesses, God has always been gracious and merciful to me and my family. My humble prayers are that God continues to shower us with all the graces and blessings needed to go on as a good family, a Godly family.

3. *We learnt that your spouse is from another denomination. How do you manage your faith differences—such as Church practices, doctrines, or sacraments—in your marriage?*

Yes, my spouse is from a protestant denomination. So, initially it was not easy for us and being the only daughter of a Reverend from protestant denomination indeed we have faith differences and practices. However, personally the first thing that comes in my mind is the attitude of '**Acceptance and Openness**'. This has laid the benchmark to say **YES**. However, with the prayers of our families, our elders and love ones, we have received the

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Tseminyu. We have come this far and started a beautiful journey by God's grace so, request our readers to continue and pray for us.

4. *How do you and your spouse nurture your spiritual life as a couple?*

By dedicating ourselves in reading the word of God the Bible and praying together.

5. *What have been the most significant challenges you've faced as a couple from different denominations, and how did you overcome them?*

As I have shared earlier, the significant challenge was, 'Accepting the Faith' and respecting each other's background thereby maintaining a balance between the two. As a couple, we talk about our faith, our practices and also reason out a little bit or discuss about significance behind our practices and traditions. Reading the word of God and praying together is an important tool to bind us together in faith.

6. *What message or advice would you like to share with young Christian couples preparing for marriage, especially those crossing denominational lines?*

Dear fellow Christian couples preparing for marriage especially with those denominational differences, first of all Trust in God no matter what the situation may be, seek God, have patience and pray without ceasing. I will say Prayer Centre / Retreat Centre are wonderful places where you could spend together with God to open up multiple ways.

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

May God bless you all and your families, no matter what the situation comes in your way, always put God first, be patient and trust Him and pray without ceasing. Always be good, Do what is right and always help the needy and God will surely bless us all.



Catechism Children of St. Paul Church Phesama during Pastoral Visit on 31st August, 2025



Blessing of the 31st NSF General Conference Monolith on 28th August, 2025 at Tseminyu



Northeast India Regional Pastoral Conference at Guwahati from 1st - 4th Sept, 2025



14th Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Bishop on 8th Sept, 2025



35th Graduation Day at St. Joseph College (Autonomous) Jakhama on 16th Sept, 2025



New Executives of St. Joseph Church, Chumoukedima with Invitees during their Silver Jubilee celebration on 21st Sept, 2025



PEACE AWARD 2025 Conferred to Shri. Nosazol Charles Chaya on 21st September, 2025



**SHARING EXTENDS PRAYERFUL WISHES TO
MR. SINILO MARTIN KENT & MRS. KENEI ADELYN**

