

THE SOWER

Vol. 64, No. 090

April, 2025



FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY BROTHERS

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor : Bro. Xavier Lakra CMSF

Sub Editor : Bro. George Thottiyil CMSF

Editorial Board : Bro. Sebastian George Adukuzhiyil CMSF
Bro. Robert Michael CMSF
Bro. Collinsius Wanniang CMSF
Bro. Tius Anto CMSF
Bro. Dennis Thekkeparampil CMSF
Bro. Wilfred Monteiro CMSF
Bro. S.M Joseph CMSF
Bro. Benny Appanchira CMSF

Published by : St. Francis Printing Press
Mount Painsur, Mumbai – 400103

Materials for publications could be sent to:

The Editor – The Sower
Moritz Nivas, CMSF Generalate,
Off Holy Cross Road, P.B.8470,
Borivali West, Mumbai – 400103.

Email: cmsfgeneralate@gmail.com

Ph: + 919136856564, WhatsApp No: +917008356564

The Sower is a quarterly, communication organ to disseminate news, views and write-ups of the Franciscan Missionary Brothers (CMSF), benefactors and well-wishers with a view to motivate and inspire the readers to become contributors and supporters.

The views expressed in the articles may not necessarily be endorsed by the Editorial Board and the responsibility lies on contributions.

(For private circulation only)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	2
1. If winter comes can spring be far behind Bro. George Thottiyil CMSF	4
2. Provincial Chapters & Regional Assembly 2025 Bro. S.M Joseph CMSF.....	5
3. First Profession Bro. Dominic Marak, CMSF	10
4. St. Francis and the Cross of Christ Bro. Jesudian Moses, CMSF	12
5. Bloom where you are planted Bro. George Thottiyil CMSF	16
6. A story of unparalleled sacrifice Bro. Thomas P.V, CMSF	20
7. Silver Jubilee of SFIT Prof. Deepa Panakkal	24
8. My dear mother house Bro. S.M Joseph CMSF.....	29
9. A life skill journey of St.Francis IHM Chef. Amey Surve	30
10. Christmas Celebration at St.Francis IHM Chef. Ajit Kumar Yadhav	32
11. Franciscan Youth Federation (FYF) Bro. Sunil Hemrom, CMSF	35
12. 42nd Anniversary of the Pioneering Mission Bro. A Jehantan, CMSF	39
13. Blessing and Inauguration of school gate Bro. Kyrbin Lyngdoh, CMSF	40
14. Cherishing my MBA Journey Bro. Albin Tete, CMSF	42
15. Degree Distribution Ceremony-2025.....	45
16. Gift of Vocation	47
17. Obituary	49

EDITORIAL

Jubilee Year 2025 – “Pilgrims of Hope”

As we have embarked on the Jubilee Year 2025, we are reminded of the profound significance of this milestone event. This sacred year invites us to reflect on our journey as pilgrims of hope, navigating the complexities of our modern world while remaining rooted in our faith.



The concept of a Jubilee Year has its roots in the biblical tradition, where it was celebrated every 50 years as a time of liberation, renewal, and reconciliation. In our contemporary context, the Jubilee Year 2025 presents a unique opportunity for us to rejuvenate our spirits, rekindle our passion for our faith, and recommit ourselves to the values of compassion, justice, and mercy.

As pilgrims of hope, we are called to embark on a journey of introspection, self-reflection, and spiritual growth. We are invited to confront our fears, doubts, and uncertainties, and to surrender them to the loving embrace of our Divine Companion. We are encouraged to cultivate a deeper sense of gratitude, humility, and wonder, recognizing the intricate web of relationships that bind us together as a human family.

Throughout this Jubilee Year, we will be presented with numerous opportunities to engage in acts of service, charity, and advocacy. We will be challenged to confront the pressing issues of our time, including:

- The cry of the poor and the marginalized, who seek justice, equality, and dignity.
- The devastation of our planet, which demands our urgent attention and collective action.
- The fragmentation of our communities, which requires us to build bridges of understanding, empathy, and compassion.

We will be inspired by the witness of saints, martyrs, and ordinary women and men who have lived extraordinary lives of faith, hope, and love. We will be reminded of the power of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing, as we seek to rebuild relationships, restore trust, and promote peace.

In this Jubilee Year 2025, may we embark on a journey of hope, healing, and transformation. May we return to our roots, rediscover our passions, and recommit ourselves to the values that truly matter. May we emerge from this sacred year as more compassionate, more courageous, and more faithful pilgrims of hope!

As we have begun this extraordinary journey, let us recall the words of **Pope Francis**, who reminds us that *"hope is the virtue that inspires us to look to the future with optimism and confidence."* May we be beacons of hope in a world that often seems dark and uncertain! May we be instruments of healing and reconciliation, as we seek to rebuild and restore our broken world!

Together, let us embark on this sacred journey, with hearts full of hope, minds filled with wonder, and spirits renewed by the promise of the Jubilee Year 2025. May we return to our homes, our communities, and our world, as pilgrims of hope, armed with the courage, compassion, and commitment to build a brighter future for all!

"Hope is the thing with feathers
that perches in our Soul.
And sings the Tune without the words
and never stops at all"

- Emily Dickinson

Wishing you all a blessed Easter!!

**Bro. Xavier Lakra, CMSF
Editor**



IF WINTER COMES CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND “IF LENT COMES CAN EASTER BE FAR BEHIND”!

Bro. George Thottiyil CMSF

Quoting Shakespeare and other English poets, and luminaries is quite common these days. Words and lyrics have often nourished our literary talents and aesthetic Sense, and also meaningful meditation on other spiritual aspects. As quoted above "winter, the cold season always, embodied some joys and aspirations of the cold countries. It is during winter that major Christian festivals like Christmas are celebrated. people look forward to snow fall, white-Christmas, Winter Olympics etc: yet with all that, people don't like the cold season beyond a point as sunshine is hidden from nature, and nights are longer; Humans and animal and plant Worlds look forward to warmth and a bit more Sunshine: It is in the sun rays' beauty and warmth of relationships and travel and frolicking are easily made. so, people look forward to a spring" beginning of a brighter season, when trees are in full green and flowers bloom and spread in full with new breath and shine and fragrance.



Hence, winter, even if good and desirable as part of human rhyme and rhythm, is also a steppingstone to another season- Spring. Spring as a bride waits for her bridegroom to get more shine and cheer. It is as if a springboard for more fun and play nature. Nature becomes more colourful and sprinkled with good scents and herboscopic.

In the spiritual, Liturgical sphere, the church has marked out different Seasons as in nature. The Liturgical Calendars has many elements of nature and seasons incorporated into it. For example, we have season for preparations, fast and penance before the real feasts are Solemnized: LENT is such a season of preparation and expectation for the greatest feast of Christendom, the Easter. Hence, Lent may be compared to winter: Just as in winter Nature how to undergo many 'shedding' of leaves and flowers, so also in Lent we have to shed our egos and do practise penance and mortifications to really celebrate the glory of the Easter event: If lent is a 'Tomb-experience' a kenosis or emptying of Selves, Easter in a New dawn a spring, and experience of fullness of Life. When Jesus rises out of the tomb, Alleluias of Joy fill the air and the previous sorrowful events are just a shadow. If the cross and sufferings are necessarily part of our human existence, Easter or Resurrection is a glorious extension of them. Before the Risen Lord all other Lenten practices fade into insignificance. Death gives way to Life: Fullness of Life and death is buried.

It Lent, forty days on fifty days experience of a winter, Easter is the spring, a Flow that has blossomed as a result. If lent comes, can we not wait eagerly for **EASTER** as a New Dawn!

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS & REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2025

Bro. S.M Joseph CMSF

We usually begin our Regional Assembly and Provincial Chapters with two days of animation programme. Though these animation programmes have a particular theme to focus on, the animators normally cover the overall religious life in general. Our chapters normally have three major parts namely, Presentation of the Reports (General / Financial), Discussion on these reports as well as on the Previous Chapter / Assembly Documents and finally the election or the appointment of the Provincial / Regional Superior. These three parts are inserted between the animation and thanksgiving celebrations.



Some Theologians narrate the call of God in three parts. During our Regional Assembly, we were asked to ponder on the three parts of our Religious Life. I felt it good to share the same with added flavours of my own.

Part I

The first part is the joyful acceptance of the call and entering into a formation house as a Candidate or Aspirant. We are put into a new way of life with well-organized daily programme. We get new friends, learn new manners, different prayers, games, music and various other hidden talents are developed, and we grow in very many ways. These learnings keep us focused on God and our different stages of religious life such as entering into Postulancy, Novitiate, First Profession, Scholastic studies / Degree, Final Profession etc. This first Part of our Religious life is a time of fast growth assisted by different Formators. The growth is very much visible during this period. We get lots of opportunities to show our talents and to develop the same. Our responsibilities are small and limited mostly within the campus. Yes, Part I of our Religious life is full of learning, opportunities, development and growth. ***It is a very joyful period of our Religious life.*** We cherish this period even after a long period of time especially when we meet our companions during occasions such as Silver or Golden Jubilees etc. It is like drinking wine at the wedding feast of Cana.

Part II

In this second part, unexpected events begin to surface. The wine gets over suddenly. As the problem starts, the blame game also starts. Who is responsible for this situation? The finger points out on the other one, the previous one as responsible for this situation and not I or we. The second part of our Religious life starts with these kinds of problems. ***It is a period of commotion.*** We are tempted by the devil to find faults of the other person and accuse the other for

the present bad situation. Just like Adam and Eve, our eyes get opened after eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge. The focus changes from God and self-growth to finding fault and self-destruction. We have a very few good and courageous Formators here to correct us in this stage of our life. Our dedication to prayer life, other spiritual practices and the present ministry plays an important role during this time of commotion. Sometimes we become helpless and are left alone to face the realities of life. Some depart, some are under stress, some get addicted, some become useless and some just prolong and list goes on. The sheep is lost and is helpless. The sheep cannot find its way back through the dark forest. A Good Shepherd, who will go in search of the lost sheep, is the need of the hour. The Shepherd takes the initiative and not the sheep. The sheep can either cry or sometimes keep silence out of fear. **Newly elected and appointed Shepherds have a greater role to play as Good Shepherds.**

Part III

Unexpected events took place at the marriage of Cana. Mother Mary takes the initiative and comes to the rescue of the couples. The situation changes through her intervention and the first miracle of Jesus took place on this planet earth. Mary focused not on the person who is responsible for the bad situation but on the person who can rectify the bad into good. **It is the stage of recommitting ourselves to the original state** which we have lost on the way due to various experiences that we undergo. There are two options before us during this period. Either we go along with the crowd or we take a stand alone based on certain gospel values. It is a very important stage of our Religious life. All the Congregations have these three groups. Where am I now? Am I in the initial formation? Am I in the commotion state? Am I a lost sheep? Am I a good shepherd?

**“Come back, my love,” you all mine,
“Come back to me and stay,
My heart is full of mercy,
For the sinner who goes astray”.**

Congratulations to all the Elected Provincials/ Regional Superior and team!!



**THE NEWLY ELECTED PROVINCIAL TEAM OF THE FRANCISCAN
MISSIONARY BROTHERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, CMSE**

ST. THOMAS PROVINCE (STP) - KERALA



**Bros. Dennis Thekkeparampil (Provincial), Joseph Kazhikachalil (Vice Provincial),
Xavier Uzhathiparambil, Dominic Savio & Anoop Philip**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PROVINCE (SFXP) - BANGALORE



**Bros. Xavier Alexander (Provincial), Anthony D. Vayalil (Vice Provincial),
Alban Pinto, Cletus Neerattupara & Mendem Mariadasu**

ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE (SJP) - DELHI



**Bros. Mathew Thekkemury (Provincial), Lalit Lakra (Vice Provincial),
Dominic Marak, Jose Ackathottiyil & Augustus Samad**

ST. PAUL PROVINCE (SPP) - NORTHEAST



**Bros. Anup Lakra (Provincial), Collinsius Wanniang (Vice Provincial),
Innocent Tete, K.D Joseph & Xavier Munda**

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PROVINCE (IHMP) - SRI LANKA



Bros. Thobias Sebastianpillai (Provincial), John Alfred Stalin (Vice-Provincial), Benjamin Ezekiel Newton, Thomas Mathew & A.L Chanuka Sanjeewa

THE NEWLY APPOINTED REGIONAL TEAM OF THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY BROTHERS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, CMSF

ST. JOHN DE BRITTO REGION (SJBR) - TAMIL NADU



Bros. Panneer Selvam (Regional Superior), Prakash A (Asst. Regional Superior), Jesudass Santhiyagu, S.M Joseph & Edwin Amal Raj

FIRST PROFESSION

Bro. Dominic Marak, CMSF

Introduction:

'The novitiate, through which life in an institute is begun, is arranged so that the novices better understand their divine vocation, and indeed one which is proper to the institute, experience the manner of living of the institute, and form their mind and heart in its spirit, and so that their intention and suitability are tested' (CCL, can. 646).



In the light of the canon that has been quoted, the purpose of the novitiate emerges: to offer a true experience of what it means to be consecrated in a particular institute. For this reason, during this period of formation the necessary help will be provided so that the novices can understand the meaning and the importance of evangelical counsels, which they will embrace with their vows, and the other theological values inherent in consecrated life. As this is a period that is intense in experiences and reflection, it should take place in an appropriate environment which proposes and makes visible the values of consecrated life in general and those specific to the religious institute in particular. Ordinarily, in the house of the novitiate matters are arranged so that there is an atmosphere of bringing together that invites the novices to prayer and to deepen their experience of God, the wellspring and apex of every Christian life and consecrated life...

On March 19, 2025, at the Franciscan Novitiate at Kota Hall, Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, India, 05 novices made their First Profession in the Congregation of the CMSF. All five of them were represented in this First Profession by Bro. Xavier Augustine, PV Thomas and Innocent Tete (CMSF, Provincial Councillor (representing NE Province), which had been shepherded in the Novitiate by Bro. Dominic R. Marak, CMSF, Novice Master, and Bro. Rimon Basumatary CMSF, Assistant Novice Master.

Of these 05 newly professed this year, 04 are from the Province of North East India (Guwahati Assam); and 01 from Saint Joseph's Province, Delhi. To help them prepare for their First Professions, the 05 novices were led in a weeklong retreat by Fr. John Dharman SDB, from Trichy Province of the Salesians.

Most Rev. Dr. A. Amalraj, the Bishop of Ootacamund, was the main celebrant, assisted by Fathers Amritra, the Parish of St. Mary's Shrine Kotagiri, Robert Alphonse, Rector Mount Don Bosco, Sylvester OCD, Samon Teron & Prince Kujur (From Diphu Diocese) and 12 other priests, added colour to the glittering Liturgical Ceremony.

In his homily, Bishop Amalraj reemphasized the need for spiritual direction, knowing the values of the Kingdom of God, fidelity to oneself, to the Congregation and to the Church, and wearing of Religious Habit as a sign of Consecrated persons.

The novices were also joined at their First Professions by their parents and close relatives, local priests and religious, friends of the Congregation, and confreres of the Franciscan Brothers.

Following the Mass, there was a sumptuous meal hosted in honour of the newly professed. Both the fraternal meal and the Mass were organized and prepared by Bro. Rimon Basumatary and Mr. Benedict our Chef.

In addition to the good news of these 05 First Professions, the Congregation of the Franciscan Brothers in India is also rejoicing in the fresh group of 08 Postulants who entered the canonical year of the Novitiate on March 18, 2025. Bro. Dominic R. Marak CMSF presided at the liturgy that welcomed them into the Novitiate, at Kota Hall.

We appreciate our own uniqueness. Each of the Novice who just made their first profession, are unique and mystifying.

Bro. Benedict Ronghang hails from Samelangso- Khrist Jyoti Parish, Dokmoka Parish in Diphu Diocese. His parents are Benjamin Ronghang and Catherina Teronpi. Benedict completed his graduation and joined the Congregation in the year 2021. He is social, loves to live in the community. Ready for any service in the community. Benedict loves music. He is intelligent, brave hearted, prayerful and loves ecology and environment. He is very philosophical in his thoughts. I wish him all the best in his next stage of formation.



Bro. Bibek Barla. Born to Sudharsan Barla and Virginia Tete, belongs to the Kesramal Parish in the Diocese of Rourkela-Odisha. He possesses positive attitudes to be a good Franciscan Brother. He is known for his simplicity, humility and dedication to work and study. Bibek is responsible to what he does. He has learned the art of playing the keyboard for liturgy in the last two years. He is amiable and unruffled. Congrats dear Bibek!



Bro. Jefanson Thongni was born to Kuruspin Wanniang and Mebelis Thongni in the Nativity Parish-Marshillong, in Nongstoin Diocese, Meghalaya. He seems to be a born musician, and was the backbone of Kota Hall choir. His melodious voice pleased all. Jefanson is a good organiser, and a multi-faceted person of head and heart. Jefanson is intelligent and very diligent in studies. Ora et Labora is his motto. All success to you!



Bro. Kuldeep Dungdung comes from the Catholic Church of Lachragarh in the Simdega Diocese, Jharkhand. Born to Basil Dungdung and Asyanti Soreng, Bro. Kuldeep Dungdung possesses immense talent and potential for the future. Regularity and punctuality are his trademarks. Kuldeep is very receptive, dignified and calm. He loves prayer, meditation and silence. He would like to dedicate his life to be a simple Franciscan Missionary Brother. Good luck to you!



Bro. Ranjan Minz grew up in Kiralaga Parish in the Diocese of Rourkela, Odisha. He is born to Mr. Santinandan Minz & Mrs. Alina Tirkey. In times of struggle, pain and uncertainty, one should admire Ranjan bouncing back with strength and resilience. He is quiet, simple and amiable to all. Good at games and sports. All good to you dear Ranjan!



We are also very grateful to the Almighty for giving us three newly professed brothers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province, Sri Lanka. They pronounced their First Vows on 19th March, 2025. We wish them all the best and blessings of our Seraphic father St. Francis of Assisi!

Bro. Rajith Fernando was born on 4th September, 1989 to Mr. Leo Francis Fernando, and Mrs. Dilani Shiroma Fernando in the Diocese of Chilaw, Sri Lanka. He possesses multifaceted qualities. We wish him all success in his commitment to serve the Lord and His people as a Franciscan!



Bro. A.J.D Mark Prasana hails from the diocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He was born on 9th December, 1985, to Mr. Jayakody Archga Joseph Anthony and Mrs. Kordan. He is very hard working and committed to his duties and responsibilities. May God bless him in his consecrated life!



Bro. Aswin Sukumar belongs to the Diocese of Mannar, Sri Lanka. He was born 24th September 1998 to Mr. Rajendran Sukumar and Mrs. Rose Mary. He is a soft spoken and hard working person. We wish him all the best and God's choicest blessings as a committed person!



Conclusion:

Dear Brothers, if we are faithful in maintaining a journal, we will find that periodic check on our growth process will strongly indicate the reasons that we can be grateful for what we are. Gradually, we will discover our strengths and all that happens in our life. I am reminded of Lord Buddha who said that there are four types of people on this mother earth: those who run from darkness towards darkness, those who run from brightness to darkness, those who run from darkness to brightness, and those who run from brightness to brightness.

We need to appreciate our life (consecrated); we need to bring about congruency in our lives. As we grow we are expected to think and act independently, make our own decisions and live our own lives. Living holistic lives where the principles of integrity, humility, fidelity to one's vocation, justice, patience, simplicity and modesty are inculcated. Integration of all these ideals leads one to true and meaningful life of Consecration. Let us live our lives as pilgrims of Hope on our life's journey!



Congratulations!

Inaguration & Blessing of St. Francis D'Assisi School Orlanghada, Meghalaya



Laying Foundation Stone for the construction of St. Francis ICSE School, Dronagiri, Navi Mumbai.



ST. FRANCIS AND THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Bro. Jesudian Moses, CMSF

For St. Francis of Assisi, it is the love of God, the self-offering and surrender of control that comes with the Incarnation that is at the heart of what it means to talk about the suffering of Jesus on the cross. When we look at the mystery of Jesus, this evokes quite a different sense of the divine. When we think of the historical origins of Jesus, the poor circumstances of his life, the tragic historical ending on the cross, we must ask in what sense this is truly the incarnation of divine love!



When St. Francis of Assisi focused on Jesus Crucified, everything else in his life fell into place. He reasoned: If that is God on the Cross, what else is there in this world? And, if that is God on the Cross, that would just have to be repeated and re-presented until the end of time; and, it is by His intention, His invention, His creativity in the Holy and unbloody Sacrifice of the Mass. Jesus came into this world to die and to rise: to give us this Paschal Mystery. Nothing absorbed St. Francis more than Jesus crucified and risen.

Francis' greatest lament was that Love was not loved. He would cry day and night. He was never more the Seraphic Saint than when he contemplated the Crucified: our God, naked, clothed only in His own blood. His whole ambition in life was to make a return to the one who so loved him first. He would try to teach others the same focus: to love without counting the cost, as Jesus loved us – unconditionally, sacrificially, eternally, completely, and unselfishly.

He could not make this choice without the help of the One he was contemplating. He knew he needed the Lord at each and every step of his conversion; he could not bear the pain of his sacred stigmata unless the Lord was with him. His personal contribution to this process would be the humble heart that he knew he would have to cultivate. That is the only kind of heart that can win the favour of God. No wonder he would stay up all night long and pray to God: "Who are you, God most dear! Who am I but a useless, worthless, little worm of a servant!"

Francis knew himself and his own journey through violence, human weakness, and sin. As he prayed, "Who am I?" the legend recounts that God consoled Francis and promised that "in a few days, on this mountain God will perform an astonishing miracle which the whole world will admire."

In the case of Francis of Assisi, he indeed became like what he loved. If the cross was instrumental in his early conversion, then it was also formative in his daily life and represented in a unique way at the end of his earthly journey. Most people are familiar with his stigmata, the miraculous reception of the five wounds of Jesus, near the end of the saint's life.

When you look at Saint Francis, you see the Crucified Christ whose presence within Francis was so real and so intense that the very wounds of Christ Crucified broke forth in his body, revealing to the whole world that here, indeed, was the ultimate disciple of Christ, who not only bore in his body the wounds of Christ, but whose heart was filled with the love that moved Christ to suffer for love of us. As St. Francis himself articulates so beautifully in one of the prayers attributed to him, “May the fiery and honey-sweet power of your love, O Lord, wean me from all things under heaven, so that I may die for love of your love, who deigned to die for love of my love.”



Newly professed Brothers with Bishop



First year Novices

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED, BLOOM BETTER WHERE YOU ARE TRANSPLANTED!

Bro. George Thottiyil CMSF

I write this to explain about a moss (African Moss) seen mostly in the back waters of Kerala and some other places. It is supposed to have invaded our waters from Some African countries, mostly due to the seeds /seedlings brought by international ships and navigators. It grows to menacing proportions, even blocking the boats that navigate the backwaters and stagnant water-bodies: often these wild-type of Plants have to be cleared by machines as their roots strike deep into the waters and can even entangle small boats while traversing.

So when we want to express some hard fact of life which are insurmountable, we say that they are like "African moss" or parasites. It poses a threat even for fishing and very often fishermen clean the menace to see clear waters. These plants are not even used as manure, as they do not get rotten or putrefied.

Bloom and bloom better:

As I take a stroll in the flower garden maintained by Bro Wilfred for the students of our ICSE (CISE) School, I notice a special Flower pot kept before the statue of St. Gonsalo-Garcia, just by the side of the grotto of Our Mother. There are two pots with full bloom almost daily, with attractive light blue shade. At close inspection I find this plant as African Moss transplanted in a pot or on land, brought from some waters or lake. Here amidst the other pots, they glow as singularly beautiful. How come then, that these plants which have rather a nuisance-Value elsewhere, have become attractive and wanted?

Generally watching in the back waters of Kerala or elsewhere, they bloom in plethora with all waters lit by their omnipresence, but not noticed by the travellers or boat people. When there is abundance or a big crowd, individuals are not noticed or taken care of. Whereas, here in our Campus, they look like rare species with due attention given. They are transplanted and they bloom better and being noticed as something beautiful.

It is the same with our human lives as well. Where there are too many, Individuals just exist like unwanted. But, if they are transferred to another place, where they feel noted and noticed, they show their full bloom and more vigorous. Sometimes transfers and transplantations can put more energy and meaning in our lives. Big gardens will have plenty of flowers, but a small garden



with a few blooms, bring the fragrance and beauty into full view and are better appreciated.

To those who are ecologically conscious and nature- inclined, a flower is not just a flower, but has many qualities, and shades, not ordinarily understood by the occasional walkers or glancers.

Let us take care of everything created as images of the creator who has put everything in its place, and with a greater purpose and meaning! Any insignificant thing can become significant if placed in a proper place or atmosphere.

Flowers Expression of Intrinsic Beauty



Seeing beauty in a flower beauty could awaken humans however briefly, to the beauty that is an essential part of their own innermost being, their true nature. The first recognition of beauty was one of the most significant events in the evolution of human consciousness. The feelings of joy and love are intrinsically connected to that recognition. Without our fully realizing it flowers would become for us an expression in form of that

which is most high, most sacred and ultimately formless within ourselves. Flowers are more fleeting, more ethereal and more delicate than the plants, out of which they emerged, would become like messengers from another realm, like a bridge between the world of physical forms and the formless. They not only had a scent that was delicate and pleasing to humans, but also brought a fragrance from the realm of the spirit. Using the word "enlightenment" in a wider sense than the conventionally accepted one, we could look upon the flowers as the enlightenment of plants" (Cfr. Eckhart Tolle, *A New Earth...* Penguin 2006, PP.2-3).

**Without prayer,
our life and mission loses all its meaning,
strength and fervor.**

-Pope Francis

A STORY OF UNPARALLELED SACRIFICE

Bro. Thomas P.V., CMSF

There is a very famous picture called "The Praying Hands." This picture is familiar to most of us because its depiction can be found on various items such as book covers, medals, stickers, calendars, sculptures, and various forms of artwork made from materials such as metal and wood for many years.



The picture is of two palms joined together for prayer. Even the nerves in the palms of the hands are very clearly drawn by the painter. However, it remains uncertain as to who is depicted in the image; In addition to the palms, the artist has not illustrated any other body parts.

The artwork in question was crafted in the year 1508 by the esteemed German Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer. It is widely believed that there exists a narrative of sacrifice and brotherly

affection that underlies the creation of this exquisite and globally recognized masterpiece.

The painter and sculptor, Albrecht Dürer, was the third of the eighteen children of Albrecht the Elder. This family emigrated from Hungary to Nuremberg, Germany, in 1455. Albrecht the Elder, who was a goldsmith, could only earn enough to feed his entire family by working hard for eighteen hours a day.

Although living in the midst of extreme poverty and hardship, Albrecht and his brother Albert, cherished a great desire in their hearts. It was to study painting and sculpture at the Lalitha Kala Academy in Nuremberg. But they also knew that their father would never find the money for this. So, Albrecht and Albert, after much deliberation and discussion, came to a decision. One of them joins the academy and studies. Another learner must earn money by working in a nearby coal mine. The person who is graduating should find the money needed for the other person's education. So, both could fulfil their desires.

It was a Sunday. Albrecht and Albert went to church and prayed fervently. When they returned home, they tried their luck by spinning a coin and throwing it on their heads. Albrecht won it. He joined the Lalitha Kala Academy. To earn money for his brother's studies, Albert joined a nearby coal mine.



Albrecht's studies progressed well. He started making a name for himself during his studies. Albrecht's paintings and sculptures were considered creative masterpieces. As a result, by the time he finished his studies, Albrecht had a reputation as a good painter and sculptor, and his paintings and sculptures were selling well. So, the income started getting better.

The Dürer family hosted a celebration on the front lawn of the residence to congratulate Albrecht Dürer on his return home after four years of study. During the program, Albrecht Dürer rose from his seat and looked at his brother Albert, who had worked hard to earn money for his studies.

He said, "My dear brother, you laboured for me for the past four years, it is now your turn. Begin your preparations to join the academy at Nuremberg. I will take care of all the expenses of your studies. Is that what we agreed upon?" Albert, who was crouched at the far end of the long dinner table, was full of tears. Tears were rolling down his cheeks. He shook his head slowly from side to side and said: "No.....no."

All eyes turned to Albert. He rose slowly, raised his palms, and said again:

"No, I must not go to the academy at Nuremberg. It is too late for that. See the changes that the hard work of the last four years in the coal mine has wrought in my hands. There is not a bone in these fingers that has not been broken once. Now the right hand is affected by a slight tremor. Did you not notice, Albrecht, that when you raised your glass to me a little while ago, I could not do the same? With a pen, pencil, or brush, I can't draw light lines on canvas. No. I'm too late to join the academy."

Everyone recognised the sacrifice of Albert, who took his seat with a benevolent expression despite his depression.

It is widely believed that, later, Albrecht Dürer asked his wounded brother, Albert Dürer, who sacrificed himself for him, to clasp the trembling palms and immortalise those palms through an artist's imagination.

This painting was also included in a group of paintings made to decorate the altar of a church.

Remember, if not for the sacrifice and determination of his brother Albert, the world-famous painter and sculptor Albrecht Dürer would not have existed. The truth is that behind every accomplishment of an individual, there is always another one or another person who valued him. However, what really occurs is often lost in the joy and excitement of achievement.

When Albert discovered that the job in the mine was harder than he had anticipated and broke each of his fingers one by one, he had the option to back out. However, he did not do that because he thought that it would have a desirable result. And so, it happened.

There are many who could contend that he did it for his own brother. It may not be always true. If so, would we have no Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Nelson Mandela, Carmichael, Mahatma Gandhi, or Medha Patkar? All I can say is that sacrifice is the foundation of true love.

When the virtue of sacrifice becomes less valuable in one's perception, greed and pride emerge. Greed is the inclination to take short cuts and achieve goals at whatever cost.

Human life becomes more meaningful when it considers others.

If we carefully consider it, we will realise that nothing is accomplished without the prompt assistance of those who are somehow connected to us. They could be our friends, parents, siblings, instructors, relatives, or well-wishers. Thus, how many people knowingly or unknowingly—have entered our lives? Everyone has enhanced our quality of life. Occasionally, it is preferable to carefully consider the people who have improved our lives and the transformations their interactions have brought about in us, because it can make us more self-sacrificing and empathetic.

The world has a law. That is, "out of disorder comes order." In other words, from the sacrifice of one comes the other. For a more clear understanding, we can say that the self-sacrifice of the seed produces a new plant. The loss of a bamboo stem gives birth to a flute that produces a lovely melody. Life forms and exists on earth because of the burning sun. So, we can say that selflessness and sacrifice are not in vain. It is what gave rise to the new. No matter how great the achievement is, the corresponding sacrifice is required. No other creature except humans has such a great need for social consciousness and mutual help. Only humans may willingly do something that will cost us for the sake of our fellow humans and then enjoy the rewards from a distance.

American philosopher, essayist, and speaker Ralph Waldo Emerson says, **"Self-sacrifice is the real miracle out of which all the reported miracles grow."**

I remember a moral story that I read a long time ago.

Among the many plants in the gardener's garden there was a bamboo. He was very particular about it. He always enjoyed bamboo, swaying in the wind and the rustling of leaves when a breeze came. The bamboo also realised that the gardener had some special love for him.

One day, the gardener approached the bamboo with a sharp knife in his hand and said:

"I'm sorry. There's no other way. I'm going to cut you."

Bamboo was afraid. "No," he said, shaking his head. The gardener did not comprehend the feeling of the bamboo, so he cut it down. He removed the bamboo leaves. The bamboo was then split and the knots inside were removed to create sluices. Each time, while doing his works, the gardener begged bamboo for forgiveness.

Bamboo, on the other hand, accepted everything as 'destiny' because he knew the gardener's harsh nature and had no other choice.

At last, the gardener took bamboo sluices and went to a spring. The sluices were stretched one after the other straight across a parched field. The water flowed through the bamboo sluices and watered the field.

The gardener planted a new crop in the field. As days passed, the bamboo saw new life in the field. He saw the abundance of the crop he had helped to grow. He heard the music of beetles and butterflies that came to drink honey and eat pollen. Saw the dances of the crop. Later, he saw birds and squirrels that came to eat the crop. Saw the joy of the gardener.

The bamboo thought:

"How much was I hurt when the gardener cut me down, when I was dancing in the wind in a corner of the garden, when the leaves were raked, when I moaned and dug out my heart. I lamented that life was futile. But now all my pains are gone. I was able to make the soil fertile. New life was able to sprout. How many people experience happiness as a result of my sacrifice and pain? Seeing the happiness of so many people is nothing compared to the pain I felt for it. How much longer can I stay like this and be the cause of new life and prosperity? Life is blessed."

Not only was all the hatred and grudge the bamboo had towards the gardener gone, but the goodness in his work was also seen.

If you think, will realise, actions that we have judged to be failures have turned to many as blessings. Don't you sometimes feel that the best success is there even in defeat? Life's circumstances are not always ones of success. Therefore, failures should not be seen as failures and sacrifices as losses. Life can be seen as more meaningful if we see these as mere signposts to guide ourselves and others along the path of transformation.

The poet says:

"oru kanneerkkanam mattullavarkkaai njaan pozhikkave
Udikkayaanennathmaavil aayiram sauramandalam
Oru punchiri njaan mattullavarkkai chelavakkave
Hrudayathilulaavunnu Nithya nirmmala paurnnami."
(Irupathaam nootandinte Ithihaasam, Akkitham Acuthan Namboothiri)

Translation

("when I shed a tear for others
A thousand solar spheres arise in my soul
When a smile I spend on others
The eternal pure full moon shines in my heart.")
(Irupathaam nootandinte Ithihaasam, Akkitham Acuthan Namboothiri)

SILVER JUBILEE OF ST. FRANCIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (SFIT)

Prof. Deepa Panakkal (SFIT)

The Silver Jubilee of St. Francis Institute of Technology was celebrated on Saturday, 23rd November 2024. While the celebrations began with its inauguration on 4 October 2023 on the auspicious Feast day of our patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi, the recent occasion marked the culmination of the celebrations. It was a moment to reflect on the humble beginnings that shaped SFIT into the Institute of Excellence it is today. The NBA Accreditation of all eligible departments, NAAC A+ Grade to the college, ISO Certification, and now, the prestigious status of being an Autonomous Engineering College, permanently affiliated with the University of Mumbai. It has been quite a journey!

From offering affordable, quality education, to fostering a deep sense of service to the community, the Franciscan vision has always guided SFIT's journey with purpose and dedication.

SFIT was privileged to have distinguished guests from various domains of expertise and religious fraternity grace us including the Honourable:

- His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay
- Padma Bhushan Shri Ram Naikji, former Governor of UP
- Dr. Vinod Mohitkar, Director of Directorate of Technical Education
- Dr.(Bro.) Joseph Karimalayil, President of St. Francis Group of Institutions and Superior General of the Congregation of the Missionary Brothers of the St. Francis of Assisi.
- Mr. Shhyam R. Singhanian, Founder & Chairman, Enaar Group and Managing Trustee, Nana Nani Foundation

Their reflections on the foundation of SFIT, built on values, commitment to education, and a vision for a better world, resonated deeply with all in attendance. The humility and love they shared for the institution was inspiring and a lesson in itself.

This celebration was not just about an institution, but about the entire SFIT family – the alumni, industry collaborators, retired employees, former Directors, Deputy Directors, and Principals and the ones who have been part of this journey from the very beginning. Their contributions, support, and unwavering bond with SFIT are a testament to how the college nurtures and treats every individual like family, guiding them to serve a greater purpose.

Each member of this college takes immense pride in its legacy, and looks forward to involvement, prayers and support of all stakeholders and well-wishers to reach many more milestones ahead.



News & Views

Glimse of Annual day Celebration at SFIMAR



Activities at the Novitiate House Kota Hall, (TN)





Brothers attended Vocation Camp at Kalunga, Rourkela Diocese



Candidates at Bongaigaon, Assam

MY DEAR MOTHER HOUSE

Bro. S.M. Joseph, CMSF

I am happy to write this small love letter to you.

Dear Mother House!

Hope you are keeping well and doing your Mission as per our Founder's Vision with little modification according to the present situation of our country and the needs of the people. It was a wonderful meeting on 4th October 2024. We the Golden and Silver Jubilarians, along with our near dear ones, came there two days before and left two days after. Your hospitality was a wonderful experience for us during those 4 days. We could see the smiling faces of our Brothers everywhere. The love and care that every Brother showed in the Mother House, and the two Communities, one on the left and the other on the right of Mother House, was amazing. Though all the Brothers were very busy in their routine jobs at Schools, Colleges and Technical Institutes, they spent time with us and for us in order to make our stay happy and comfortable.

We the Silver Jubilarians came to you exactly 19 years ago on this very same date for making our Final Profession. When we compared these two visits, we noticed that some Brothers are the same, and some buildings are the same, while some Brothers are new and some buildings are new. CISCE, Arts and Science College, Hotel Management are a few to mention as these are externally visible to us. It shows that our campus at Mount Poincur is getting filled up year after year, and for further expansion we have to create a New Mount Poincur like New Delhi and New Mumbai!

Oh, I forgot to tell you one funny thing that had happened during the felicitation time. Unlike the previous occasion wherein all the functions got over by lunch, this time we had our evening programme at MBA College auditorium. As we entered the college building, we were given a warm welcome by the Brothers and the staff present there. As we reached the venue a little earlier, we were taken to an adjacent room. My God! We were surrounded by a few camera personnel clicking left and right. One was pleading with us several times... smile please...smile please. Another one came and whispered.. Brothers, please understand that live-streaming is going on...please smile. I also heard that a few teachers were talking with one other saying, 'Brothers are not at all smiling and they are very serious'. They all together tried their level best to make us smile.

Actually the Brothers were smiling and talking with one another naturally. However, when they saw the camera person in front of them, all the originality disappeared and they tried to show an artificial smile and they failed. Their focus was on the camera and not on the casual talk among themselves. What a great lesson to learn from this incident!

As long as we focus on Jesus we are fine; the moment we change our focus towards the world... we fail in our smile!

Once again a big thanks to all the Brothers at the Mother House.

CERTIFIED COURSE IN BASIC CULINARY ARTS: A LIFE SKILL JOURNEY AT ST. FRANCIS IHM

Chef Amey Surve, St. Francis IHM

At St. Francis Institute of Hotel Management (St. Francis IHM), we are excited to introduce the Certified Course in Basic Culinary Arts (CCBCA), a unique two-month culinary journey designed for the students of St. Francis CISCE. In association with St. Francis CISCE, the course aims to go beyond teaching students how to cook—it empowers them with essential life skills that will benefit them in all aspects of life. In the CCBCA program, students discover that cooking is far more than a kitchen activity; it's an art, a science and above all, a way to express creativity and learn discipline. Guided by our expert chefs at St. Francis IHM, young learners immerse themselves in an engaging and hands-on experience, discovering everything from baking and carving to creating restaurant-quality meals. Through dishes like Gourmet Medley Cupcakes, Artisanal Bread Baking and a traditional Maharaja Thali, the students are exposed to an exciting variety of culinary concepts. Each session is crafted to introduce students to foundational culinary skills in a practical, enjoyable manner, making learning a flavourful experience. The curriculum is designed to cover a wide range of culinary techniques and skills, from the basics of bakery to the intricacies of the hot kitchen, and from the science behind savoury dishes to the delicacies of sweet treats. Each student learns skills that extend well beyond cooking a simple meal; they gain a comprehensive understanding of ingredients, flavours, textures and plating techniques. They also delve into more unique culinary skills, such as fruit and vegetable carving, chocolate moulding art and decorative skills that bring a special touch to their creations. This blend of skills ensures that students not only learn recipes but gain the knowledge to experiment and innovate in the kitchen.

Our experienced chefs at St. Francis IHM bring their expertise and passion for teaching into every session. They guide students in mastering each dish while also imparting crucial life skills such as patience, attention to detail and teamwork. To support their learning, we provide students with aprons, chef scarves and knives, along with recipe and instruction- cards for each session. These resources make it easy for them to practice the skills they've learned and confidently recreate dishes at home. The impact of the CCBCA program extends beyond the classroom and into the students' homes, where parents have shared positive feedback on how their children eagerly recreate the dishes they've learned. Many parents have expressed delight at seeing their children's confidence grow as they prepare food independently and show pride in sharing their creations with the family. This feedback reaffirms our mission of empowering students with skills they can use and enjoy throughout their lives. At the heart of the CCBCA program is our commitment to fostering life skills. Cooking requires planning, precision and creativity qualities that are beneficial for students in all areas of their lives. The course instils in them the importance of preparation, following instructions and applying techniques accurately, making them more self-reliant and disciplined. It is incredibly rewarding to see

students not only develop their culinary abilities but also grow as individuals who appreciate the art and effort that go into preparing good food.

Through the CCBCA, St. Francis IHM is proud to inspire a new generation of young chefs, ready to carry these invaluable skills into their futures, whether they pursue a culinary career or simply use these talents to enrich their personal lives. CCBCA is a culinary journey that leaves every student with a taste for learning, a respect for the culinary arts and skills they'll carry with them for a lifetime.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT ST. FRANCIS INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT, BORIVALI WEST, MUMBAI

Chef. Ajitkumar Jadhav

Date: 20th December 2024 Time 7:00 pm onwards

Venue: Red Ginger Restaurant (St, Francis IHM)

Christmas is a time of joy, sharing, and celebration, and at St. Francis Institute of Hotel Management (SFIHM) in Borivali West, Mumbai, the spirit of Christmas comes alive in a vibrant and memorable way every year. Known for its rich tradition of hospitality education and its emphasis on cultural diversity, the institute makes sure that its Christmas celebration is both festive and reflective of its core values community, creativity, and togetherness.

A Festive Atmosphere

The Christmas celebrations at SFIHM begin with the transformation of the campus into a winter wonderland. The entrance is decorated with twinkling lights, Christmas trees, and vibrant red ribbons, instantly setting the mood for the occasion. A well decorated Crib displaying the moment of birth of Lord Jesus was prepared at the entrance of the institute. Students, faculty, and staff work together to create a warm and welcoming ambiance that makes everyone feel the holiday cheer. From the sparkling décor to the melodious sound of carols playing through the campus, the festive spirit fills the air.

Involvement of Students and Faculty

One of the highlights of the Christmas celebrations at SFIHM is the active involvement of both students and faculty members. The students, who are future hospitality professionals, take charge of organizing various activities. From planning and executing the decoration of the institute to preparing delicious holiday treats, students showcase their creativity and hospitality skills. Faculty members also participate in the festivities, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie within the institute.

Christmas Festivities and Traditions

The centerpiece of the celebration is the much-awaited Christmas party, which typically involves a series of fun-filled events. A Raise of Toast Ceremony by Our Director, Bro. Benny Paul marked the beginning of the celebration; with everyone coming together to witness the magical start of the festive season. Chief Guest of the event Superior General Rev. Bro. Dr. Joseph Karimalayil addressed all the attendees with his valuable words of wisdom about Christmas. Students performed Christmas carols and dances, while the atmosphere was filled with laughter, joy, and a sense of community. Fun filled games were played to add to the fun environment and festivities.

Institute's Annual Table top Calendar for the year 2025 was inaugurated by Assistant Superior General Bro. Alphonse Nesamony Which was distributed to the staff members and Invitees.

A highlight of the celebration was exclusively decorated in-house Christmas Cake Cutting by the chief guest. Secret Santa was one of the highlights for exchange of gifts among staff members, which symbolizes the spirit of giving and sharing, adding an element of surprise and excitement. The exchange fosters relationships and reinforces the sense of family within the institute.

In line with the tradition of hospitality, the culinary students at SFIHM play a crucial role in the celebrations. They prepare a range of delectable treats, including traditional Christmas cakes, cookies, and hot & cold beverages, offering a taste of Christmas that warms both the heart and the body. The aroma of freshly baked goods fills the halls, contributing to the festive atmosphere.

A Community Bond

The Christmas celebration at St. Francis Institute of Hotel Management is not just an event, but a manifestation of the institute's commitment to nurturing a supportive, inclusive, and joyful community. It offers students the opportunity to develop practical skills while celebrating a time-honored tradition, all while emphasizing the importance of compassion and care in the hospitality industry.

In conclusion, the Christmas celebration at St. Francis Institute of Hotel Management, Borivali West, is a wonderful blend of tradition, creativity, and hospitality. It highlights the core values of the institute, bringing together students and faculty in a celebration of joy, love, and goodwill. It serves as a reminder of the importance of community, the spirit of giving, and the joy that hospitality can bring during this special time of year.





FRANCISCAN YOUTH FEDERATION (FYF) 2024

Bro. Sunil Hemrom, CMSF

*"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."
(1 Timothy 4:12)*

The Franciscan Youth Federation (FYF) is one of the most significant youth ministries in Northeast India. The Franciscan youth Federation (FYF) has been revived with great enthusiasm and fervor. It has been flourishing vibrantly for many years. However, the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily put it on hold. Now, after years of anticipation, the flame of faith has been reignited, bringing together young people in a spirit of unity, hope, and renewal.



The FYF- 2024 was held from December 6th to 8th in our community at Samelangso, Karbi Anglong, in the Diocese of Diphu, Assam. The theme for this year's FYF was "**Synodality of Youth for a Better Tomorrow**", emphasizing the collective journey of young people in faith and mission. The event was a spiritual and cultural celebration, fostering fraternity among the youth while emphasizing their role in the synodal journey of the Church.

A graceful beginning with Taizé Prayer

The FYF 2024 commenced on the evening of **6th December 2024 with an ice-breaking session**, conducted with great energy and enthusiasm. This session effectively engaged all participants, fostering a spirit of joy and camaraderie. It set the tone for the event, ensuring **united and enthusiastic participation** throughout the FYF celebration. As all the participants' hearts were uplifted, the gathering entered into a Taizé prayer, a moment of deep reflection and silent prayer led by Bro. Collinsius Wanniang. The dimly lit pandal, illuminated by candlelight, created an ambience of divine presence, calling the young hearts for introspection and renewal.

Soon after the prayer service Bro. Innocent Tete, Superior of the Mount Assisi community, Samelangso, addressed the gathering. He welcomed all the units and FYF leaders of different units with traditional Karbi Poha. To mark the joyful occasion, the students of St. Francis D' Assisi school, Samelangso, performed a mesmerizing **welcome dance**, capturing the essence of Karbi Anglongs' rich cultural heritage, followed by a soul-stirring **prayer dance**, invoking divine blessings.

Inaugural Ceremony

The Second day on 7th December 2024, the inaugural ceremony was graced by His Lordship, Most Rev. Paul Mattekak, Bishop of Diphu diocese. The bishop was received with an enchanting Karbi traditional dance, reflecting the warmth and hospitality of the land. The FYF flag was hoisted by His Lordship Most Rev. Paul Mattekak, and officially declared the FYF 2024 open. The FYF flag symbolizes the unity and mission of Franciscan youth in today's world.

Every significant moment begins with prayer, and so did the FYF, with the **Inaugural Mass** presided over by **His Lordship**, Most Rev. Paul Mattekatt and his presence and message enriched the gathering. During his homily, he emphasized the theme “Youth in Synodality for a Better Tomorrow” and the **significance of the youth in the Church**. He called the youth as the “torchbearers of faith” in an ever-evolving global landscape. He urged young people to embrace their calling with courage to actively participate in the Church’s mission, and build a future rooted in values, service, and community.

Empowering the Youth: Inspiring Sessions

The interactive sessions of Franciscan Youth Federation (FYF) 2024 were led by **Rev. John Barman, MSFS** Regional Youth Director of ICYM North-east India and Regional Youth Secretary of NERYC, and **Rev. Sr. Wansuk Lyngdoh, MSMHC** a regional Youth Lady animator, YCS/YSM Regional coordinator of North-East region and National Council member of CCBI commission for Youth. These sessions were interactive and insightful, helping young people to understand their role in faith, society, and personal growth. These sessions were deeply engaging, covering topics like:

Career Guidance: This session helped young participants explore their talents, skills, and interests to choose the right career path. The speakers encouraged them to seek careers that align with their passion and values while making a positive impact on society.

Understanding Gen Z: The discussion focused on the unique characteristics of today's youth how they think, what challenges they face, and how they can contribute to society. It helped participants understand their strengths and how they can use them to bring about positive change.

Social Media Addiction: This session highlighted the impact of excessive social media use on mental health, relationships, and productivity. The speakers emphasized the need for balance using technology wisely while staying connected with real-life experiences and faith.

Youth as the Future of a Changing Global Scenario: This session inspired young people to take responsibility for their future. The speakers reminded them that they have the power to bring justice, peace, and change to the world through their actions and faith.

Synodality of Youth for a Better Tomorrow: This discussion emphasized the importance of unity, teamwork, and participation in the Church’s mission. The youth were encouraged to walk together in faith, supporting each other and becoming active members of their communities.

These sessions left a lasting impact on the participants, helping them grow in wisdom, faith, and responsibility. They were reminded that they are not just the future of the Church but its present, called to lead with courage and compassion.

Cultural Extravaganza

7th December 2024 was a feast of cultures, where youth from different communities showcased their ethnic dances and traditional performances. The rhythmic beats and vibrant costumes brought to life the diversity of Northeast India, featuring: Karbi harvesting folk dance, Bihu dance, Goalpara Bodo dance, Apatani folk dance, Mishi folk dance, Bengali, Khasi and Garo cultural performances.

Each performance was a celebration of identity, faith, and heritage, reminding everyone of the rich tapestry of traditions that make up our nation. The message was clear: in an ever-globalizing world, cultural roots must be preserved, and the youth play a crucial role in doing so.

One of the most exciting and inspiring cultural events at St. Francis D' Assisi School, Mawkasiang, was the eco-friendly fashion show, led by the students under the guidance of Brothers Pradeep Kerketta and Kyrbinshan Lyngdoh. Rather than using expensive fabrics, the participants showcased their creativity by crafting stunning outfits from waste materials such as sackcloth, plastics, leaves, newspapers, tissue paper, and even mosquito nets.

This fashion show was nothing short of spectacular a true testament to Franciscan values and environmental consciousness. The event left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who witnessed it, highlighting the beauty of sustainability and the importance of caring for our common home. A heartfelt appreciation goes to the dedicated brothers, teachers, and students who made this initiative a reality. Their efforts in promoting awareness of Mother Earth and the need to protect nature are truly commendable.

A Grace-Filled Conclusion of FYF

On December 8th, 2024, the Franciscan Youth Federation (FYF) concluded with a Solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a moment of deep spiritual significance. The Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Sajan Thomas, the Parish Priest of Dokmokha Parish, who delivered a profound and inspiring homily.

In his reflection, he narrated the missionary endeavors of the Franciscan Brothers in Samelangso, recalling brothers' tireless efforts, sacrifices, and unwavering faith in bringing the Gospel to remote and challenging terrains. He highlighted the struggles faced by the early missionaries, emphasizing their courage and commitment in establishing the roots of faith in the region.

Drawing from this history, he reminded the youth of their sacred responsibility as "**Pilgrims of Hope**" in an ever-changing world, urging them to seek purpose, faith, and service in their lives. As the Catholic Church prepares for the Jubilee Year, he called upon the young participants to embrace their role as torchbearers of hope, boldly living out their faith and being witnesses of Christ's love.

As FYF 2024 came to a close, the FYF Coordinator Bro. Pradeep Kerketta expressed words of gratitude to Bro. Superior General & council for timely providing financial assistance and unwavering support. A deep sense of gratitude to Bro. Provincial and the council for their constant guidance and support to make this event very remarkable and successful one.

In a symbolic gesture of continuity, the FYF flag was officially lowered by Rev. Bro. Aloysius Joseph the provincial of SPP and handed over to the Guwahati unit, the host of FYF 2025.

As the youth departed to their respective places, they expressed that their hearts burned with new zeal, echoing the words of St. Francis of Assisi: *"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*



42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIONEERING MISSION AT KURUKKALMADAM, SRI LANKA

Bro. A. Jehantan CMSF

The Franciscan Missionary Brothers are joyful and happy to say that we are celebrating the 42nd Anniversary of the Pioneering Missionary work at Kurukkalmadam Sri Lanka. This particular and unique mission station was started on the 25th March 1982.

On the request of the then Bishop of the diocese of Trinco-Batticaloa, Rt. Rev. Dr. L. R. Anthony, Rev. Bros. Paul Pieris CMSF, A. Aurlananthu CMSF, G. Marianathan CMSF, and S. Thobias CMSF, the present Provincial Superior of IHMP, Sri Lanka arrived at Kurukkalmadam to begin the pioneering mission to serve the people of God at then the Parish of Thetative. Right from the beginning, the brothers started serving at Palugamam, Mahulur, Thetative, Ambalanthurai, Kokkadicholai, Dharmapuram, and Kurukkalmadam and continuing upto now in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Kurukkalmadam Sri Lanka. At Our mission station, we have further developed Assisi Illam, Assisi Boys' Home, Assisi Boys' Home farm, and two preschools at Kurukkalmadam and Dharmapuram and Assisi Nagar. This year the parish of Kurukkalmadam is to mark the 60th anniversary of their Catholic faith supported by the Franciscan Brothers with the cooperation of the Parish Priests and the Parishioners for more than 42 years. When our brothers began this pioneer missionary work there were only 6 families and now there are more than 45 families in this new parish of Kurukkalmadam for which the Franciscan Brothers are thankful to the Bishops, Priests, Rev. Sisters of FMM and Parishners of Thetative and Kurukkalmadam.

Thus for the last 42 long years, we have served in manifold ways to the people around Kurukkalmadam. We profoundly remember all the brothers who have contributed immensely for the wellbeing of the mission. Let's continue to pray for the faithful journey to continue in the days to come.



BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF SCHOOL GATE MAWKASIANG

Bro. Kyrbin Lyngdoh, CMSF

The long cherished dream of having a broad gate at our Mawkasiang campus came true on 2nd March, 2025. Thanks to the initiative taken by Brother Thomas Pulickal, the local Superior, in collaboration with Brothers Pradeep Kerketta and Kyrbin Lyngdoh the other community members. The gate is dedicated to late Brother Macarius Kanjirampampil a veteran missionary of North East India and of Mawkasiang in particular. A unique way of designing it is with the name “Macarios Space Taxi” after the name of late Brother Macarius K. It has a rich cultural meaning symbolizing progress and advanced knowledge. A statue of Divine Mercy (Ka Jingisynei Jingblei) is also installed adjacent to the gate along with the statue of St. Francis, the patron of our school. The community was privileged to have the newly elected Provincial Brother Anup Kumar Lakra, as the chief guest to inaugurate the new school gate. To solemnize it, we had Fr. Johnson CMF who did the blessing in the presence of the outgoing Provincial Brother Aloysius, the newly elected Vice-Provincial Brother Collinsius Wanniang, brothers from neighboring communities, invited guests, the contractors and a few faithful from the locality. Simultaneously, the community was also glad to inaugurate the new classrooms of the new school building, presently run as St. Francis School (CBSE). This wing of the school is dedicated to late “Brother Columban Keller, a former Superior General and a great benefactor of N.E missions”. The former Provincial Brother Aloysius did the honour of inaugurating it with cutting of the ribbon symbolizing the fresh entry in to the new class rooms. The community is grateful for the support and contribution from different sources. Mawkasiang has almost become a New Shillong with lots of developments. With the advancement in infrastructures at school, the parents and students feel proud of the school, and this will provide good ambience for students to learn better.



**For every house is built by someone,
but God is the builder of everything.**

-Hebrews 3:4

Bro. Macarios Space Gate
(dedicated to Late Bro. Macarios K)



CHERISHING MY MBA JOURNEY

Bro. Albin Tete, CMSF

St. Francis Institute of Management and Research (SFIMAR) ranks among the top 20 MBA programs in Mumbai and is known for its commitment to holistic development through various academic and extracurricular activities. SFIMAR has received an 'A+' grade accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and was granted autonomy status by the University Grants Commission (UGC) effective from July 2024.

The institute boasts of a strong faculty network and offers mentorship from industry leaders through guest lectures. Additionally, it provides students with opportunities for internships and practical experiences that enhance their employability in the competitive job market.

Accomplishing an MBA at SFIMAR is not just about earning a degree; it's about embarking on a journey of personal and professional growth. The combination of a robust curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, strong faculty support, ethical training, and extensive networking prepares graduates to excel in their careers while contributing positively to society. As I reflect on my time at SFIMAR, these learnings will undoubtedly serve as cherished memories that shape my future endeavours in the business world.

1. Comprehensive Curriculum: A Foundation for Success

As a graduate of SFIMAR's 2022-24 MBA program, I've experienced a curriculum that blends theoretical knowledge with practical applications. Subjects like Business Statistics, Financial Accounting, Managerial Economics, and Operations Management so on and so forth, have provided me with a strong foundation to understand and solve complex business challenges.

2. Experiential Learning: Turning Knowledge into Action

My MBA journey was enriched by hands-on learning opportunities such as internships, live- projects, and industry interactions. The three-month internship allowed me to apply classroom concepts in real-world scenarios, giving me first-hand exposure to corporate dynamics. I have cherished the practical experience of working in industries during my internship, where I applied business strategies comprehensively. This experience has not only enhanced my professional skills but also prepared me to adapt to dynamic work- environments.

3. Building Lifelong Networks

SFIMAR has provided me with the platform to create meaningful connections with friends, peers, alumni, and industry professionals. The alumni network has been instrumental in fostering relationships that will continue to support my career growth. The friendships and networks built during my MBA are

among the most cherished aspects of my journey. Collaborating with peers on projects and interacting with alumni has broadened my perspective and opened doors to new opportunities.

4. Skill Development: Becoming Future-Ready

Through workshops and specialized sessions, SFIMAR has equipped me with critical skills such as financial modelling, statistical analysis, effective communication, and leadership. These techno-managerial skills have enhanced my ability to lead teams and make data-driven decisions. My ability to analyse situations critically and communicate effectively has been honed during this transformative journey.

5. Holistic Development: Beyond Academics

SFIMAR's emphasis on extracurricular activities has contributed significantly to my personal growth. Participation in clubs, events, and group discussions has helped me build confidence, improve interpersonal skills, and foster a sense of belonging within the SFIMAR community. These experiences have shaped me into a well-rounded individual who values teamwork, leadership, and collaboration qualities that will serve me well in both personal and professional spheres.

6. Guidance from Faculty Mentors

The faculty at SFIMAR played a pivotal role in my MBA journey by bringing academic rigor and industry insights into the classroom. Their mentorship extended beyond academics, helping me navigate career planning and personal development. I'll always cherish the guidance provided by my professors, who not only imparted knowledge but also inspired me to think critically and act ethically in all aspects of life.

7. Ethical Leadership: A Core Value

SFIMAR instilled in me the importance of ethical decision-making and social responsibility. Whether it's managing stakeholders or addressing diverse issues in organizations, these values will guide my actions as a responsible leader.

As I reflect on this incredible journey, what stands out are the friendships forged with peers, the mentorship received from faculty members, the networks built through alumni interactions, and the personal growth achieved through holistic development programs. These cherished experiences will remain with me as guiding lights as I continue striving for excellence in both my personal life and professional career.

I would like to express my gratitude to Rev. Brother Joseph Karimalayil, Superior General, for the invaluable support and opportunities provided during my MBA journey. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Brother Alphonse Nesamony Assistant Superior General for

his unwavering support and guidance throughout my MBA journey at SFIMAR.

The opportunity to pursue an MBA has been transformative, allowing me to upscale my skills and enhance my leadership qualities in ways I never imagined. I have learned the importance of effective communication, collaboration, and ethical decision-making skills that are essential for any aspiring leader.

My belief in my potential has motivated me to strive for excellence, pushing me to embrace challenges with confidence. The lessons learned during this period have shaped my vision as a leader, emphasizing the importance of integrity, empathy, and social responsibility. Thank you for providing me with the chance to grow both personally and professionally. I am excited to carry these lessons forward into my future endeavours and contribute positively to society as a leader.



Congratulations!

DEGREE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY-2025

St. Francis Institute of Management and Research (SFIMAR) celebrated its 21st Degree Distribution Ceremony for the Master of Management Studies (MMS) programme class of 2024 on 29th March 2025 at its serene green campus in Borivali West, Mumbai. The event marked a significant milestone for the 132 MMS graduating students, who attended and were awarded their degrees in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, faculty members, and proud parents.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. U. Kamachi Mudali, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), a Deemed to be University under the Department of Atomic Energy who conferred the degrees upon the graduates. In addition to the degree distribution, the top performers of the MMS programme were also honored with gold medals and certificates. The awards were presented to the overall toppers of the MMS programme, along with the topper in the Finance specialization.

The formal event commenced with a graduation procession led by Dr. Shalini Sinha, Director, SFIMAR, accompanied by Rev. Bro. Alphonse Nesamony, Chairman, Prof. U. Kamachi Mudali, Chief Guest, Dr. G. Ramesh Deputy Director & HOD, MMS programme, and other esteemed faculty members. The ceremony began with the Institutional Anthem, followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp and a prayer dance, setting a solemn and celebratory tone for the event.

Rev. Bro. Alphonse Nesamony, Chairman, SFIMAR, welcomed the gathering with his motivational address, emphasizing the values of excellence and integrity. The Chief Guest, Prof. U. Kamachi Mudali, delivered the Graduation Address, encouraging graduates to pursue their careers with passion and dedication. Prof U Kamachi Mudali also suggested the Management of SFIMAR to come up with an exclusive course on the Energy Management System.

The highlight of the event was the medal and degree distribution ceremony, where top-performing students were honored. Mr. Rahul Acharya, the MMS Programme Topper, delivered a heartfelt valedictorian speech, reminiscing about the journey at SFIMAR and inspiring his fellow graduates.

An excerpt from the University of Mumbai Convocation which was held on 7th January 2025 was presented and to add a touch of nostalgia, a special "Memories" video, capturing the memorable moments of the graduating batch was also presented. This video was met with enthusiastic applause, reflecting the emotions and camaraderie shared among the students.

The Graduation Oath was administered by Dr. Shalini Sinha, reinforcing the commitment of graduates towards ethical and professional excellence. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem, followed by the Graduation retreat. A sumptuous high tea, featuring live counters, was arranged for all students, parents, dignitaries, and faculty members, providing an opportunity for informal interactions and celebrations.

The 21st Degree Distribution Ceremony at SFIMAR was a resounding success, celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2024 with grandeur, warmth, and joy.



Congratulating
GRADUATES



GIFT OF VOCATION

Bro. Sukumar Aswin, CMSF

In the Year of Jubilee 2025 of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I would offer thanks giving to God the Almighty for my first commitment to religious life as a Franciscan missionary brother together with my companions, Bros: Mark Prasanna and Rajitha Fernando from Sri Lanka, on 19th March, 2025.

I would like you to join in spirit to praise and thank God, to continue my religious life with joy as a consecrated person in Christ Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi. The religious life is the prophetic function of the community, Congregation and the world, but the fact that, the religious life arose a protest against what was happening in the Church is also ignored or forgotten. To anyone with even a minimum knowledge of the scriptures it is obvious that the Church as it is now, is not following what Jesus wanted. What is clear is that Jesus did speak of the leaders, he wanted to leave behind him, and gave them very clear, unmistakable instructions [Mt 20:25-27; Mk10:42-45; Lk 22:24-27 and Jn 13]. It seems to be that no teaching of Jesus is as clear as this one about the Leadership. What is clear is that he was so humble; fell at the feet of his disciples. With the washing of the feet, he showed clearly what kind of leaders he envisaged for his community. He had envisaged it as the new covenant community where all are brothers with various differing functions, whereas these functions do not make them higher or lower. All are equals as brothers



where not even the titles father, master is to be used for anyone. To imagine that Jesus would never have spoken about what would eventually become the backbone of the community is really surprising. The religious have to exercise their prophetic mission; it is their bounden duty to oppose this development and bring the church back to what Jesus wanted; this is the task of all believers, but more especially of those who have a prophetic vocation within the Church. The religious, by their vocation, are committed to oppose whatever is contrary to the plan of God as it is revealed by Jesus and to bring about what Jesus had preached.

We believe that our vocation as religious is more important than ever before. We are called to be signs of hope for humanity. Our vocations are wonderful not because we are wonderful but because it is a sign of a marvellous hope for everyone. So, we will look at three ways in which religious life is a sign of hope; *first of all*, because of our profession, *secondly* by our life in community, and *thirdly* by our mission.

May St. Francis of Assisi intercede and obtain for us from the Lord Himself all the graces needed to persevere in the chosen vocation so that day by day we may be committed to the service of the people of God!



OBITUARY

BRO. PATRICK EKKA, CMSF of the St. Paul Province (SPP), after a brief illness, left for his heavenly abode on 12th December, 2024. He was sick and under treatment at Sacred Heart Palliative Care Centre, Hastinapur, Guwahati, Assam. Bro. Patrick was a Franciscan Missionary Brother for the last 50 years.



Bro. Patrick Ekka was born on 21st July 1947 in the diocese of Gumla, Jharkhand, and was drawn to the Franciscan way of life from a young age. He joined the CMSF Congregation and underwent his novitiate and theological studies. Bro. Patrick made his first profession on 4th October, 1974 and the final profession on 4th October 1981 at Mt. Painsur, Mumbai.

Bro. Patrick spent most of his missionary life serving in the North East region of India. He was an exceptional linguist, speaking multiple languages, including Assamese, Garo, Khasi, Lalung, Jaintia and various local dialects. His language skills enabled him to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, fostering deeper relationships and facilitating effective ministry. His missionary endeavours took him to various parts of the Northeast, where he worked tirelessly to promote education, healthcare, and social welfare. He was particularly dedicated to serving the marginalized, the poor, and the vulnerable tribals of Northeast.

Bro. Patrick rendered his services at various centres of the Congregation: at Dumrikhas, Ranchi, Bangalore, Khera Khurd, Mathura, Kotagiri, Umsiang, Jongla, Songsak, Jonglapara, Langerdang, Samlangso, Khanduli, Bongaigaon and Guwahati. He also held various responsibilities such as: Superior, Provincial Councillor, Asst. Novice Master and headmaster of the school. He was one of the pioneers of St. Paul Province, worked with late Bro. Macarius of happy memory in Northeast.

At the time of his passing away, he was under the care of the sisters of Sacred Heart Palliative Care Centre, Hastinapur, Guwahati, Assam. All suffering came to an end with the embrace of Sister DEATH which is the gate to ETERNAL HAPPINESS AND PEACE! We are sure that Bro. Patrick is telling us silently now as St. Paul told Timothy "I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day and not only to me but to all those who wait with love for him to appear".

Bro. Patrick's passing leaves a void in the lives of those who knew him. His kindness, compassion, and generosity inspired countless individuals, and his legacy will continue to motivate future generations. The funeral obsequies were held at St. Francis Mount, Umbir, Meghalaya, on 13th December, 2024 at 1.30 PM.

BRO. MATHEW PEREIRA, CMSF (age- 80) of St. Francis Xavier Province (SFXP) was called to his eternal reward on 26th December, 2024 (Thursday) at Cardinal Gracias Hospital, Vasai.

Bro. Mathew Pereira, in baptism HUBERT NICHOLAS was born on 11th November 1944 to late Mr. Diago Pereira and Mrs. Beatrice Pereira of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Giriz, Vasai diocese, Maharashtra.



He joined the Congregation on 1st January, 1963, made his first profession on 19th March, 1967 and the final profession on 19th March, 1973 at Mt. Poinсур. Thereafter he served at Dumrikhas-UP, Indara, Khera-Khurd Delhi, Nainadu-Mangalore, Gokhivera-Vasai, Anand-Gujarat, Mount Poinсур-Mumbai as Bursar General, Director of the Boys Home Mount Poinсур, Director of Postulants at Sevasadan, Bangalore, Superior at Jyothi Bhavan, Mount Poinсур etc. Bro. Mathew Pereira was sent for studies in FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY to New York in the United States of America in 1977. On completion of his studies, he was appointed as Director of Postulants at Sevasadan. Bro. Mathew was a soft-spoken, multi-talented and a kind person. His departure from the earthly existence has created a vacuum that cannot be easily filled.

Great people do not die; they leave behind a lasting legacy. Bro. Mathew Pereira will continue to remain a great inspiration to us, to become more and more Christ like. As we bid farewell to him, we mourn the loss of a truly exceptional soul. Yet, we also celebrate a life lived with purpose, love, and unwavering dedication to the principles of kindness and service. His memory will forever be engraved in our hearts, and his teachings will continue to guide us on our own spiritual journey.

The Funeral obsequies were held on 29th December, 2024 (Sunday) at 03.00pm at the Mother House Chapel, Mt.Poinсур, Borivali West, Mumbai and his mortals were laid to rest at the mother house cemetery, Mt.Poinсур, Mumbai.

**“A great soul serves everyone all the time.
A great soul never dies.
It bring us together again and again.”**

-Maya Angelou

BRO. THOMAS SAVARIMUTHU, CMSF (age 53) was called to his eternal reward on 17th February, 2025 at Holy Family Hospital, Ghana, South Africa due to cardiac arrest.



Bro. Thomas Savarimuthu was born on 11th January 1972, into a devoted Catholic family in Ponmalai Patti, Trichy. He was baptized on 30th January 1972. He was the beloved son of T.Savarimuthu and M.Jabamalai, and a beloved brother of three brothers and three sisters. Answering God's call to religious life, he joined the Congregation of the Missionary Brothers of St. Francis (CMSF) on 17th July 1992. His commitment to his vocation was deeply rooted in prayer, service and Franciscan spirituality.

He professed his First Vows on 4th October 1995, and continued his Theological studies, completing his Scholasticate on 1st April 1997. He made his Final Profession on 4th October 2001. Over the years, he served in various communities with great dedication as a teacher, administrator, hostel in-charge, Superior, and school correspondent. He served the Congregation in different roles and capacities, including: Superior and Correspondent of Schools at Shantinivas Ashram, Sarakkalvilai, Nagercoil, and Surangudi, Regional Councillor (2007 – 2010), Local Bursar at St. Thomas Mission, Thomayapuram, Theological studies at St.Paul's Major Seminary, Trichy and Superior of Saram Community.

Despite a brief period of separation from the Congregation, Bro. Thomas Savarimuthu continued his religious journey in a different way. However, his heart remained with the Franciscan Missionary Brotherhood, and he joyfully rejoined the Congregation on 15th June, 2024, professing his vows once again on 2nd October 2024. He was then sent to Ghana- West Africa Mission, where he continued his service as a teacher and school manager.

Bro. Thomas Savarimuthu was known for his affable, friendly, and open nature. He touched the lives of many through his cheerful service, wisdom, and Franciscan simplicity. Wherever he worked, he left a lasting impression of dedicated missionary zeal, prayerful presence, and commitment to the education of young minds. His humility, kindness, and strong faith were an inspiration to all who knew him.

Though his earthly journey has come to an end, his spirit lives on in the countless lives he influenced and the mission he so faithfully served. We take comfort in the promise of eternal life and entrust him into God's loving embrace.

The Funeral obsequies were held at St. Francis Monastery cemetery, Mumbai on 21st March, 2025 at 03.00 pm.

BRO. GNANAPRAGASAM IRUDAYAMARIAN (IHMP)

was born on 31st May, 1953 to Mr. Jabamalaimarian Francis and Mrs. Kulanthaiamma of Annai Velainkanni, Nayapedd, Gonamotawain parish in the Diocese of Badulla, Sri Lanka. After the completion of his school studies, he joined the Congregation of the Franciscan Brothers of Mary (FBM) in 1970. He made his First Profession on 19th March, 1972 and the Final Profession on 19th March 1978. After his final profession, he completed the SPA course at Muthuwella.



Bro. Gnanapragasam served the Congregation in various Capacities. He was elected as the Provincial Superior (2001-2004), Vice Provincial and Councillor. He held various responsibilities as a pioneer missionary of the Province, such as Superior of Assisi Illam, Kurukalmadam, St. Antony's Boys' Home, Chilaw, Director of St. Francis Boys' Home, Matale, Director of St. Patrick's Apostolic Institute, Talawakelle, Director of Diocesan Mission Center, Kandahena, Diocese of Badulla, Manager of Shalom Estate, Andigama, Manager of Mount Alverno Estate, Ukkuwela, and Asst. Director of Don Bosco Boys' Home, Maggona.

He served the Congregation untiringly with faith and dedication. By nature, he was a calm and quite person and always helpful to others. Throughout his career, he traversed the length and breadth of the island nation, reaching to the remotest corners to offer solace and hope to those in need. His presence radiated warmth and acceptance among people. Most of his labour was to take care of orphanages. He was very strict and spared no pains in taking care of the boys with readiness to do any service for them. He was an innovator who found the talents of the boys and made use of them. He made a hymn book titled "Iraivanil Innaium Ithayankal". He celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 2020.

Towards the end of his life, he was at St. Francis Boys' Home, Matale, and at the same time was undergoing treatment for various ailments. He was admitted at the General Hospital in Matale thereafter at the Teaching Hospital in Kandy due to ill health. He calmly and peacefully breathed his soul into the hands of his Creator on 25th February, 2025, at the Teaching Hospital in Kandy.

The Funeral obsequies were held at Maria Joseph Brothers' house, Matale, Sri Lanka on 27th February, 2025 at 02.30 pm.



Bro. Xavier Lakra, CMSF

First Profession 2025



Bro. Benedict Ronghang



Bro. Bibek Barla



Bro. Jefanson Thongni



Bro. Kuldeep Dungdung



Bro. Ranjan Minz



Bro. Rajith Fernando




Bro. A.J.D Mark Prasana



Bro. Aswin Sukumar

Congratulations

A wooden cross stands on a green grassy field. The background is a bright blue sky with large, white, fluffy clouds. The cross is made of two dark wooden beams. A white cloth is draped over the horizontal beam, with its ends hanging down. The text "He is Risen!" is written in a cursive font across the middle of the image.

He is Risen!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!