

THE NEWS REVIEW 2015

Brothers of Holy Cross

St. Joseph Province, Bangladesh

97, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka – 1207

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Message from the Provincial



Dear fellow Holy Cross Religious and Friends,

I wish you all a very happy and wonderful New Year of 2016.

It's time again for the Annual News Review (ANR) for the year 2015. Although the year has already started and almost two months passed, yet I would like to present to you all that has happened in the province over the past year of 2015. Some of these are of course rather old news for many of you, but for others they may still be new and of interest. And above all, you can look back into the major events of the whole year in one publication.

Prior to your leafing through these pages, let me put in a few words of the events that have taken place in the province in general and to myself in the last year.

Province Assembly: As in other years, our annual province assembly was held on 17 March, 2015 with Fr. Frank J. Quinlivan, CSC, as a resource person presenting “A Letter to consecrated men and women: A message from Pope Francis” in relation to the “Year of Consecrated Life: Rejoice”. Among other matters included in the Assembly were the presentation of my canonical visitation report (2014) and the “10-Year Strategic Plan for St. Joseph Province”, which I had prepared, and meetings of different province committees (8).



General Visitation: General councilors Br. George Schmitz and Fr. Roy Thalackan made the official canonical visit of the Province from February 8 to 21, 2015. Despite turbulent political situation in the country at the time, they were able to meet all the brothers individually and visit all but one community and its apostolic areas. Hearty thanks to the general councilors for their courageous efforts at making the visit a successful one!

Manila Renewal Program: This was the third renewal program held exclusively for Brothers from India and Bangladesh. The theme was: “To be Refashioned by God’s Creating Grace” (C6:58): It was held in Manila, Philippines from May 10-31, 2015. Seven Brothers from Bangladesh

participated in it. They are: Brothers Prottoy Rozario, Sanchoy Mathious Rozario, Provat Purification, Samuel Sabuj Bala, Jayonta A. Costa, Sumon A. Costa, and Sumon J. Costa



Provincial Chapter: The 6th provincial chapter of St. Joseph Province was held from May 25 to 29, 2015. The theme for this chapter was “Consecrated Life: A Fountain of Joy for Mind and Heart”. Two general councilors (Rev. Roy Thalackan – 2nd assistant and Rev. Robert Epping – 6th assistant), Rev. Jilson Tom (Observer from NE Province) and Rev. Frank Quinlivan (Moderator) and a total of 42 delegates including the members of the provincial council were present for the chapter. Rev. Frank Quinlivan and Br. Binoy S. Gomes were the two moderators.

Annual Retreat: The province annual retreat was held from September 23-28, 2015. Fr. James Phalan of Holy Cross Family Ministry was the preacher. The theme taken for the retreat was “Behold Your Mother: Our Lady of Sorrows” Like other years, some priests also joined the retreat, while some brothers also joined the retreat with the fathers. It was a great retreat and thanks to Fr. Phalan for being such a wonderful preacher!

Asian Formators’ Session: The Asian Formators’ Session was held from August 21-25, 2015 at the Holy Cross Pastoral and Retreat Center in Bhadun. The center is run by the Holy Cross priests of Sacred Heart of Jesus Province. Theme for this years’ session was: “Consecrated Life: Our Call to Form to Transform”. A total of 52 Holy Cross religious (Provincials, Area Coordinator, Vicariate Superiors and Formators from all three societies from India and Bangladesh were present for this gathering.

Construction Works at St. Joseph School of Industrial Trades (SJSIT): SJSIT is undergoing some construction works recently. The hostel for the boys is quite old (more than 60 years) and is badly in need reconstruction. In order to accommodate the hostel students (dorms, dining room, chapel, etc.), two floors are being added to the present Brothers’ residence for now, and then after that a five-story building is scheduled to be built, of which the first two floors (ground and 1st) are to be used for a KG school to enhance income for the trades school. Another floor is also being added on top of the existing school office block for classrooms for the trades school students. Here are some photos of the construction works going on there.



National Education Convention (NEC): A NEC was organized by the Bangladesh Catholic Education Board (BCEB) in collaboration with Formation of Youth and Teachers' Program (FYTP) on **October 1 – 3, 2015** at Matashagor, Dinajpur. The convention was **“Catholic Administered Bangladesh Perspective”**. place in relation to the “Educating Today and Passion” that had been Congregation for Catholic 2014 in preparation for the Declaration *Gravissimum* the Apostolic Constitution years), both falling in the this IL was to solicit inputs from various groups on the various emerging issues of the Catholic Identity of our educational institutions.



the Pastoral Center, main theme of the **Identity of Church Educational Institutions:** This program had taken *Instrumentum Laboris* (IL) Tomorrow: A Renewing circulated by the Education (CCE) early in 50th jubilee of the *Educationis* (50 years) and *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (25 year 2015. The purpose of

One hundred and twenty persons (heads of educational institutions, members of management committees, diocesan and BCEB representatives) were present in this program. presentations were: “Understanding of the Catholic Identity of Schools in the light of Vat II on Education” by Most Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario; “Christian Education in Multi-Religious Context (Difference between Catholic Educational Institutes and non-Catholic ones)” by Most Rev. Archbishop Patrick D’Rozario, CSC; “Catholic Educational Institutions in Bangladesh: Realities and Challenges” by myself.



Participation in International programs: In the year 2015, I have had the privilege to attend three international programs. First one was in Austin, Texas, to attend the Convocation of the Holy Cross Institute from 28 to 29 March. The next two were in Rome – one was the Council of the Congregation from 9 to 12 November and other was to attend the World Congress on Catholic Education held from 18 to 21 November with the theme **“Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion”**.

Some translation works: I have also recently translated a letter of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life “REJOICE” (A letter to consecrated men and women: A message from the teachings of Pope Francis) on the occasion of **“Year of Consecrated Life”** at the request of the Bangladesh Conference of Religious (BCR). It has been printed and distributed to members of all religious congregations in Bangladesh. I also took part in the translation of another two documents from the Vatican in the past year: *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel) and *Laudato Si* (Praise be to You)

Educational Presentations: I had the opportunity to conduct some courses for different groups over the past year. I was invited by the National Major Seminary to run a 5-day course on “Organizational Matters” (Organizations and their structures, Organizational Behavior, Culture, Leadership, Development, Managing Change and Stress, Understanding Attitude, Job Satisfaction,

Perception, Decision Making, Conflict and Negotiation). I also made presentations on “Ministry of Education in the Local Church Institutions”, “Philosophy and Policy of Catholic Education”, “Identity of Catholic Schools”, “Realities and challenges of Catholic Institutions in Bangladesh” for various groups, “Holy Cross Philosophy of Education (St. Joseph Higher Secondary School and Notre Dame College Mymensingh).

Sincerely Yours in Holy Cross,



Br. Harold Bijoy Rodrigues, CSC
Provincial

Many thanks to Br. Jony Gregory and all community superiors/directors and others who have provided the information and pictures of this Province Annual Review!

St. Gregory's High School, Dhaka



St. Gregory's High School

St. Gregory's High School, Bangladesh, is a Catholic High School founded in Dhaka, British India, in 1882 by Father Gregory De Groote, a Belgian Benedictine priest and ex-student of Dhaka Collegiate School. The school is located on Subhas Bose Avenue of Luxmibazar neighborhood of old Dhaka, was named after Pope Gregory I (540–604).



Brothers in front of their residence

House Superior: Bro. Nicholas Tolentino, CSC
Present Headmaster: Bro. Prodig Placid Gomes, CSC
Number of brothers working in the school: Five
(Brothers - Nicholas Tolentino, Prodig Placid Gomes, Sonet Francis Rozario, Alex Pereira, Shayamal James Gomes)

Present students at a glance

Section	Christians	Muslim	Hindu	Total
English Version (Nursery to Class IV)	06	463	92	561
Bangla Version (One to Ten)	44	1840	573	2457

Present teachers at a glance

Section	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
English Version (Nursery to Class IV)	06	16	05	27
Bangla & English Version (One to Ten)	22	19	27	68



Primary Scholarship Holders

Outstanding Achievement: Our students achieved an outstanding result in the Primary Education Certificate (PEC) and Junior Scholarship Certificate Examination (JEC) -2014. All the boys of PEC and JSC tried their best to reach the mark and they did it greatly. In Sutrapur Thana 40 scholarships were allotted for the zonal schools and all were occupied by our students. This is an exceptional achievement for an educational institution.

A Golden History of Scouting at St. Gregory's: St. Gregory's High school, the historical institution of the subcontinent, has not only earned fame and glory by its uniformly brilliant results in high school examinations but also putting feather on its crown doing extra-curricular activities. Scouting is one of them. The scout troop, the first in Dhaka, was started at St. Gregory's in 1914, almost one year before the First World War and within a month, 40 scouts were members of the troop. By 1916, the Cadet Corps was strong and flourishing and 33 cadets were rated "extra efficient" by army officers during World War 1. Many of the cadets were given officers' commissions. In the 1940s, Headmaster Br. Liguori, Br. Lorenzo, and Mr. Palma used to take the scouting classes regularly. Signaling, First Aid, Life-Saving, Bridge-building, Mattress-making, and Camp Fire; such were the scout activities supervised by them. Now Mr. Shakhawat Hossain, a teacher, is running the Scouting smoothly at St. Gregory's.

St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Mohammadpur, Dhaka



St. Joseph Higher Secondary School

St. Joseph Higher Secondary School is a Catholic higher secondary school in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is a all boys' school offering education from third grade to twelfth grade, averaging 8–18 years of age. The school is a single shift school. With over 2700 students, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School is one of the most prominent educational institutions of Bangladesh. Established in 1954 as the "St. Joseph English Medium School" in 16 Munir Hossain Lane, Narinda in the current old part of Dhaka by the Congregation of Holy Cross missionaries, the institution had a General Certificate of Education (GCE) based education structure. The current campus is at 97, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. The school also runs an evening primary school for underprivileged students number about 200.

Present Principal: Bro. Robi T. Purification CSC

Number of brothers working in the school: Five (Brothers – Robi T. Purification, Motrajoy Tripura, Taren Joseph Palma, Ripon James Gomes, Ratan Patrick Gomes)



Brothers working in the school

Present students at a glance

Section	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
School	109	1145	156	1410
College				1357
Total				2767

Present teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
18	37	33	88



The Principal visiting a project

The Science Festival 2015

'The Annual Science Festival' was the biggest and most greatly awaited event hosted by St. Joseph Higher Secondary School. This year's grand science festival was held during 14th - 21st March with the theme "Science for Sustainable Green Development". The week long fest consisted of events like Science based Inter-School and Inter-College Project Display, Scrapbook Fair, Art Fair, Science based General Knowledge and Sudoku Olympiads, Quiz Competition, Extempore Speech competition and the Gaming Fest. The Chief Guests of this year's Science Fest were Dr. Mohammad Kabirul Islam, Professor, Civil Engineering, BUET and Dr. Srikanta Kumar Chanda, Controller of Examinations, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka.

Prothom Alo-JDC Debate Festival 2015

The Prothom Alo-JDC Debate Festival 2015, hosted by Josephite Debating Club of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, took place from July 29, 2015 to August 1, 2015. Sponsored by ProthomAlo, the festival was inaugurated on July 29, on the premises of St Joseph Higher Secondary School. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, the Chairman of National Human Rights Commission was the chief guest of the inauguration ceremony.



Distinguished guests and winners on the stage



Three students in the finals of Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge, NASA

NASA Kennedy Space Center: For the first time ever, a team from Bangladesh qualified to participate in the finals of Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge, NASA Kennedy Space Center. The Josephite team consisted of Sadeed Araf Reza, Sakib Shahriar Arnob and Labib Tazwar Rahman. The project, "Staticos", was a flight safety mechanism that was capable of harnessing the electrostatic charges generated on the surface of aero plane to ensure maximum protection. In an unlucky event where the primary power unit as well as the auxiliary power unit (APU) falls prey to a systematic disorder, Staticos would ensure a constant supply of electricity to the cockpit to operate the flight instruments until it safely lands at an airport.

St. Philip's High School and College, Dinajpur

St. Philip's High School and College was founded in the year 1930. It was initially called Minor English School. In 1951, after having received the Government approval as a Higher Secondary School, the school was renamed as St. Philip's High School. It was upgraded to 11/12 class in 2011. The Brothers of Holy Cross officially took over the school in 2003 and Brother Lawrence Subal Rozario, CSC was assigned as the Headmaster and House Superior as well.



St. Philip's School and College

Present Acting

Principal and House Superior: Br. Nirmol Francis Gomes, CSC
Number of Brothers serving in the school: Five (Brothers – Nirmol Francis Gomes, Albert Shankar Costa, Leo Subrato Rozario, Placid Peter Rebeiro and Sumon Joseph Costa)



Brothers of St. Philip's Community

Present students at a glance

Sections	Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Total
Primary	210	1236	77	1523
Mother Teresa Charity School	36	199	24	259
Higher Secondary	270	1135	85	1490
College	78	126	26	230

Present teachers at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Total
52	32	10	94



Board Chairman delivering speech

Achievement: St. Philip's celebrated family day and thanksgiving ceremony with the presence of near about 400 people of the families of teachers and staffs on 22 September as St. Philip's High School and college was awarded the Best Institution in Dinajpur Sadar among 222 Schools; Prize money one lakh taka for securing 100% pass in SSC for consecutively for three years. Seqape a section of Bangladesh Education Ministry, awarded this prize. The Education Board Chairman, the Police Super of Dinajpur and many other educational officials of different levels were present in the program.

Co-curricular activities: St. Philip's College section officially inaugurated all (7) clubs and its bye-laws on October 12, 2015. Br. Nirmol Francis Gomes, CSC, the Acting Principal, declared that this very day will be ever remembered as the club day every year. The Daily Newspapers of Dinajpur published this significant news.



Inauguration of Clubs



H.E. Most Rev. G. Kocherry, Most Rev. S. Tutu, and Br. Nirmal Rozario, CSC

Construction works: The construction work (piling) of the new six-storied academic building was officially launched by Most Rev. Bishop Sebastian Tudu, the Chairman of St. Philip’s governing body with the prayer services and blessings of three religions. All the teachers and staffs of the institution were present. His Excellency Most Rev. George Kocherry, the Ambassador of the Holy See to Bangladesh, laid the foundation stone.

St. Placid’s High School & College, Chittagong



St. Placid's High School & College

St. Placid’s High School was founded by the Anglo-Belgium Benedictine Missionaries in 1853. In 1955 the Anglo-Belgium Benedictine Missionaries handed over the school to Holy Cross Missionaries for their crisis of personnel and finance. Since then Holy Cross Priests were running this school up to 1922. In 1922 the Holy Cross Priests handed over the school to Holy Cross Brothers. The founding name of this school was Bandel Catholic Free School. Afterwards, in 1883 the name was altered from Bandel Catholic Free School to St. Placid’s School. On 28 July, 2015, having received the permission of the Ministry of Education of Bangladesh St. Placid’s School has been upgraded to a college, henceforth, the school is known as St. Placid’s High School and College.

Present Principal: . Br Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC
Present House Superior: Br Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC
Number of brothers serving in the school: five (Brothers - Prodip Louis Rozario, Br Ujjal Placid Pereira, Br Rinku Lawrence Costa, Br Andrew Sumon Costa and Br Racy Daniel Godino)



Brothers working working in the school

Present students at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Buddhist	Total
99	1126	1224	56	2505

Present teachers at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Buddhist	Total
23	13	26	06	68



A student receiving his certificate

Graduation Ceremony: Like the past two years our, Grand Graduation Ceremony was held on 13 June, 2015. The ceremony commenced at 4:15 p.m. The Chief Guest was Professor Mohammed Shahajahan, the Chairman of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Board, Chittagong. The Key-note Speaker was Professor Dr. Hazrat Ali Meah, Principal, Govt. City College. The other Special Guests were Dr. Br. Harold Bijoy Rodrigues, csc, Mr. Wahid Malik, Managing Editor, Dainik Azadi; Mohammed Yakub, President Old Placidians' Association (OPA) and Mr. Chowdhury Farid, Bureau Chief Channel I, Chittagong Region. Most Rev. Moses M. Costa, CSC, Bishop of Chittagong Diocese kindly presided over the ceremony.

Farewell and Welcoming Ceremony: A Grand Farewell and Welcoming Ceremony took place on 30th August, 2015. The day was a rainy one. The boys stood along the corridors of the class-rooms and some sat in the gallery. Farewell was given to our Former Asst. Headmaster, Bro. Stephen Montrajoy Tripura, CSC who served in SPS for 9 years and the school welcomed our new Asst. Headmaster Bro. Ujjal Placid Pereira, CSC. The Brothers stood on the beautiful podium erected under the Flag Post. Though there was a drizzle, the brothers stood beneath huge umbrellas.



Farewell and Reception Program



A few students of OPA Literacy School

OPA Literacy School, Chittagong: OPA Literacy School was started on 15 January, 1992 having only 20 students and 3 teachers in the same premises of St. Placid's High School. Brother Marcel Duchen, Brother Subal Lawrence Rozario, along with a few members of OPA took this initiative. It is one of the charitable activities of OPA (Old Placidian Association). Mainly the street and slum boys come to this school to get free education. The founding name of this school was OPA Literacy Centre. Afterwards, in 2013 the name was altered from OPA Literacy Centre to OPA Literacy School.

Present students at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Buddhist	Total
10	139	167	04	320

Present teachers at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Buddhist	Total
05	01	03	00	09

Brother Flavian Kindergarten School, Chittagong:

Brother Flavian Kindergarten School was founded by the Holy Cross Brothers in 2007. Br Prodig Placid Gomes, CSC, Br Nirmol Francis Gomes, CSC and others Brothers of St. Placid's Brothers' Community planned to open this school. The first Principal of this school is Br Nicholas Thielman, CSC.

Present Principal: Br Rinku Lawrence Costa, CSC



Little kids having Class Party

Present students at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Buddhist	Total
13	177	219	06	415

Present teachers at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Buddhist	Total
11	00	00	00	11

Udayan Secondary School, Barisal



Udayan Secondary School

Udayan Secondary School is one of the renowned institutions of the southern region of our country. In order to enlighten the southern region and satisfy the thirst of knowledge Most Rev. Bishop Laroj and Fr. Picard CSC, Fr. Obey CSC and some other missionaries founded this school in 1953. At the beginning, this school was called 'Kishore Prathomik Bidyaloy.' Bro. Cardinal CSC was the first Headmaster. In 1957 the school was transferred to Nobogram Road and it was renamed as 'St. Paul's Primary Bidhaloy.' Later it was again renamed as Provati. A proposal came to change the name of the school and finally it was named 'Udayan Secondary School.'

Present Headmaster: Brobert Albert Ranta CSC
Present House Superior: Brother Bokul Robert Gomes CSC
Number of Brothers working in the School : Four
 (Brothers - Bokul Robert Gomes, Albert Ranta, Joseph Placid Costa and Roktim Lebjo Chiran)



Brothers in front of their residence

Students at a glance

Sections	Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Total
Primary	34	860	161	1055
High School	33	1114	102	1249

Teachers at a glance

Christians	Muslims	Hindus	Total
24	14	06	44

A New Branch of Udayan Secondary School: A new branch of Udayan Secondary School (Campus B) has been proposed to be built at Nobogram, Choumatha, Barisal. The academic activities of this new branch will start with K.G. and Class One. All the admission and administrative activities will be run by Udayan Secondary School. Holy Cross Brothers of Udayan Community will supervise the new branch.



Proposed new branch Of Udayan Secondary School



The Headmaster receiving the prestigious award

Best Multimedia User School in Barisal: Recently Udayan Secondary School has been awarded the best multimedia user school in Barisal region. The Headmaster, teachers, staff and students feel proud about this wonderful achievement. Likewise, this school wants to excel in all the fields of education enlightening the hearts and minds of students.

Farewell & Reception: Brother Ranjan Luke Purification, CSC worked in our school for two years. He served our institution wholeheartedly. Recently he has been transferred to Birioidakuni High School and Community. We wish him a good luck. He has been replaced by Brother Bokul Robert Gomes as the new assistant Headmaster.



Farewell and Reception program

Bandura Holy Cross High School and College, Nawabgonj



Bandura Holy Cross High School and College

Bandura Holy Cross School was established on 8 January, 1912 as “Holy Cross Bandura Gobindopur High School” at Golla Parish with a group of 157 students of class 2-7 by Father John Jack Henessy CSC, an Irish Holy Cross Priest who was also the founder Headmaster of this institution. Though it started its journey at Golla, Gobindopur, but for a series of problem it was transferred to its presents location at Bandura only after five months in June, 1912 and from the same month it begun its regular curricular activities here. In 2014 the school was upgraded to College with a vision to promote her service to the students.

Present House Superior: Bro. James Sarker, CSC
Present Principal: Bro. Nipu Hubert Rozario, CSC
Number of brothers working in the institution: Five
 (Brothers - Nipu Hubert Rozario CSC , Provat Placid Purification CSC, Leonard Chandan Rozario CSC, Bhubon Benjamin Costa CSC)and 50 teachers are working in this institution.



Brothers working in the school

Present students at a glance

Section	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
Primary	38	95	22	155
High School	262	1068	358	1688
College	19	31	11	61

Present teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
12	24	14	50



Rev. Archbishop Patrick D' Rozario visiting a project

Science Fair: We celebrated the Annual Science, Agriculture, Geography Fair and Cultural Program from March 9 to 12 in our School. The Fair was inaugurated by Most. Rev. Arch-Bishop Patrick D'Rozario, CSC and closed by Rev. Fr. Benjamin Costa CSC. Each day a chief guest attended the fair along with many distinguished guests. Besides our school and College four other schools attended the fair with their projects and participants.

Year Ending and Pre-Christmas Program: Year Ending and Pre-Christmas was celebrated on 22, December afternoon. All the teachers and Staff with their family members along with the Members of the School Managing Committee and former teachers were present in the programme. At the end of the programme, the Principal Brother Nipu Rozario CSC distributed gifts to all the teachers and staff and concluded the programme and thanked everyone for their contribution to this institution.



Brothers with some students at Pre-Christmas Program

Saint Nicholas High school, Nagari, Gazipur



St. Nicholas High School

St. Nicholas High School has a rich traditional background. This school first started its journey as a primary school in 1910, founded by a Portuguese priest who was working at Nagari Parish at that time. The Headmaster at the time was Mr. Babu Anurup Chandra Roy. The church authority turned this primary school into an English version primary School on 1 September, 1910 and later the mission authority turned this school into a High School on 2 January, 1920. The founding Headmaster was Babu Dirayandharanath.

House Superior: Bro. Samuel Sabuj Bala CSC
Headmaster: Bro. Chandon Benedict Gomes, CSC
Number of Brothers serving in the school: Seven (Brothers - Chandon Benedict Gomes, Samuel Sabuj Bala, Mathias Sanchoy Rozario, Prottoy Vincent Rozario, Shimul Andres Rozario, Garner Gilbert Ritchil, Xavier Rozario)



Brothers working in the school

Present Students at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
375	249	168	792

Present teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
13	7	8	28

Teachers' Seminar:, Saint Nicholas High School organized a half day Teachers' Seminar on 22 November, 2015 for the teachers of Saint Nicholas High School. The seminar was conducted by Bro. Ripon James Gomes & Bro. Bikash Victor D'Rozario. Bro. Ripon James Gomes enlightened the teachers with this insightful sharing.



Gathering of a good number of teachers



Candle Ignition at the start of Science Fair and Cultural Competition

Science fair & Cultural competition: Saint Nicholas High School has been organizing Science Fair & Cultural Competitions in Gazipur at Bhawal region for a long period of time. Accounting to its tradition, this time also we organized a Science fair & Cultural competition. The program was held from 24 to 27th of February, 2015. About 36 schools participated in the Science Fair and Cultural Competition.

Cleaning up Campaign: Our school took an initiative to clean up the school campus and the places surrounding of it. Brother Bikash Victor D'Rozario, the acting Headmaster of the school inaugurated this project. A good number of boys gathered in the morning and did an arduous job throughout the day. At the end of this endeavor, the school campus looked neat and clean.



Bro. Bikash D'Rozario, the acting Headmaster inaugurating the 'Cleaning up Campaign'

Tumilia Boys' High School, Kaligonj, Gazipur



Tumilia Boys' High School

Tumilia Boys' High School is situated at Tumilia Parish under Kaligonj Thana, Gazipur. Tumilia Boys' High School was founded in 1965.

Present House Superior: Bro. Francis Hamlet Gosal

Present Headmaster: Bro. Liton Francis Rebeiro

Number of Brothers serving in the school: Four

(Brothers - Francis Liton Rebeiro, Francis Hamlet

Gosal, Shoylan Zacharius Rozario, Hubert Ringku

Costa.)

Students at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
266	232	73	571

Teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
6	5	8	19



Brothers' Residence



Inaugurating pouring of the basketball field

Pouring of the Basketball field: It was a remarkable event for Tumilia Boys' High school that the pouring of a much awaited new basketball field was inaugurated officially on 5 April 2015 by Bro. Liton Rebeiro, the Headmaster of Tumilia Boys' High School and Fr. Stanislaus Gomes, the Parish Priest of Tumilia parish. Other Brothers, engineer and guests were Present at the inaugural program. After the inauguration, sweets were distributed among the guests and workers.

A friendly football match: A friendly football match between the teachers and students was held on 8 September 2015 in the school play ground. The school wore a festive look on this occasion. The match started at 3 pm. The competition was not so serious at first. After a little while, it turned into a strong fight. Both the teachers and students encouraged their respective teams. The match was full of excitement. But none could score a goal. At last the tie-breaker system had been applied between the teams and the teachers' team won.



Before the start of a friendly match



Parents listening carefully

Observance of parents' day: Parents' Day was observed on 19 April 2014 with great enthusiasm. The Headmaster of the school presided over the function. At 10 am the function began with an opening song. Bro. Binoj Stephen Gomes, CSC was the chief guest and delivered a speech on the relation between students, teachers and the guardians. All the students along with the guardians attended the function. At the end of the function, the Headmaster Bro. Liton Rebeiro, delivered the presidential speech and thanked all. At the same day, the result of 1st terminal exam was given out to the parents.

Mariam Ashram High School, Diang, Chittagong



Mariam Ashram High School

Mariam Ashram School in Diang is a missionary educational institution on the river bank of Karnaphuli in the district of Chittagong, Bangladesh. The school was established by the Brothers of Holy Cross in 1946. At the time of the school's foundation, the people of that area were mostly men and women of the fishing community, living in extreme poverty and backward conditions due to their lack of education. Brother Flavian Laplante, a Canadian Holy Cross missionary, now a Servant of God, opened the school in response to the plight of these people.

Present House Superior: Bro. Joachaim Ratan Gomes

Present Headmaster: Bro. Soroj Vincent Gomes

Number of Brothers living in the community: Six
(Brothers - Joachaim Ratan Gomes, Soroj V. Gomes, Peter Deo, Lawrence Dias, Joyanta costa, Joy Pereira)



Brothers in front of their residence

Students at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddha	Total
141	1091	170	21	1428

Teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddha	Total
11	09	12	00	32



A newly constructed Academic Building

The internal handover of a new academic building: The internal handover of a new academic building of Mariam Ashram High school took place on 22nd November, 2015. The Government Facilities Department implemented the construction work and spent more than 65 Lakh Taka to build a one storied building with 4 storied foundation. The Headmaster, Bro. Soroj Vincent Gomes, the Director of Moriam Ashram Bro. Joachaim Ratan Gomes, and Mr. Dilip (a representative of Gov. Facilities Department) were present at the building handover ceremony.

The Death Anniversary of Brother Flavian Laplante: The 34th death anniversary of the Founder of Mariam Ashram, Brother Flavian Laplante was observed on 19 June, 2015 with due respect, honor and various programs. In the morning, Christian students and teachers joined parish church for memorial mass for Bro. Flavian. In the school, teachers and students made a special prayer service in the school assembly to mark the day for the departed soul of Bro. Flavian and offered flowers on his graveyard.



Students paying homage Flavian's graveyard



Bro. Lawrence Dias, the Hermit of the Ashram

The Annual Pilgrimage of 2015: The annual pilgrimage (Thirtha) was observed on 12 – 13th February 2015. His Excellency Bishop Moses M. Costa, CSC was the main celebrant in the High mass. Every year a good number of Marian devotees come to Diang Pilgrimage from all over the country. Servant of God Bro. Flavian Laplante CSC founded this Ashram 1946 which is surrounded by low hills and green nature. He died here at Diang in 1981. Bro. Lawrence Dias CSC is the present Hermit in the Ashram.

Distribution of Certificates: Bro. Joachaim Ratan Gomes, the Director of Mariam Ashram complex went to Fr. Bill Tilson's Tailoring school, to handover certificates among the students who completed sewing training from this school. He is one of the management committee members of the Technical school founded by Bro. Flavian.



A female student receiving her certificate

Don Bosco High School, Bandarban, Chittagong



Don Bosco High School

Don Bosco High School was founded in 1958 by Fr. Leo Gomes. Bro. Julien Grandmont was the first Headmaster of the School who died recently last year. Most of the students studying here are from indigenous background. This school has been playing a major role in educating the indigenous people who live in the hills of Bandarban.



Brothers in their residence

House Superior and Headmaster: Bro. Sylvester Mridha
Number of Brothers working in the school: Three
 Bros. Sylvester Mridha, Promod Theophil Rozario and Topon Lawrence Serao.

Students at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddha	Total
410	42	42	300	794

Teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddha	Total
06	02	04	04	16



Bro. Sylvester Mridha inspecting a competition

Competition for searching various talents: The school arranged a competition for searching various talents on 3rd September like making Chapati (Roti), drawing, making handkerchief, etc. Mr. Swakat Jahan, the renowned artist was the chief guest and judge of the competition. Fr. Dominic Sarkar, CSC, the parish priest and two other SMRA sisters also joined as the special guests and judges of the competition.

Inter-School Science Fair: An Inter-School Science-Agriculture-Industry Fair was held on 27 April 2015 at Don Bosco High School. It was organized by Don Bosco High School, Bandarban Govt. Girls' High School, Sangu High School and Don Bosco High School took part with 55 projects in this fair. In appreciation of their excellent performance students were awarded prizes.



Distinguished guests visiting a project



Due respect and honor paid to teachers

Teachers' Day celebration: The school celebrated 'Teachers' Day' on 20th November. Students showed their respect with appreciation and love for their beloved teachers. A grand cultural function was organized by students where students mesmerized everyone with singing, dancing, recitation etc.

Biroidakuni High School, Haluaghat, Mymensingh

Biroidakuni High School was founded in 1941 by Rev. Br. Andrew Joseph Steffes, CSC which was called St. Elizabeth High School at its foundation, With affiliation under the University of Kolkata, this school got its acknowledgement and recognition on 3 November, 1942. The first secretary of the School was Rev. Fr. Sweetalski, CSC.



Biroidakuni High School



Brothers in front of their residence

House Superior: Br. Ranjan Luke Purification, CSC
Headmaster: Br. Proshanta Ignatius Costa, CSC
Number of Brothers working in the school: Four (Brothers - Proshanta Ignatius Costa, Ranjan Luke Purification, Protim Xavier Palma and Sumon Anthony Rozario)

Students at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
331	237	02	570

Teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
09	05	02	16



Teachers receiving gifts from students

Celebrating Teachers' Day: The School observed the 'World Teachers' Day' on 5 November, 2015, with the slogan of this year "Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies". It was a half-day program. It was discussed that there is an imbalance between the supply and demand of teachers in most countries. Rural and remote areas in particular tend to suffer most from the shortage of teachers. The program was enhanced by a spectacular cultural function, the speeches of the teachers along with the presence of Md. Helluzzaman Sarkar, T.N.O of Haluaghat Thana, Fr. Fidelis Nengminja, the Chairman of the managing committee and Br. Proshanto Costa, CSC, the Headmaster of the school.

Participation at Marian Pilgrimage: In honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baromari Parish in Mymensingh Diocese celebrated its annual Marian pilgrimage on 29-30 October, 2015. All the Brothers of Biroidakuni community joined the pilgrimage and took part in different activities.



Bro. Protim Palma bearing the cross at Baromari Marian Pilgrimage

St. Joseph's School of Industrial Trades, Narinda, Dhaka



St. Joseph's School of Industrial Trades

St. Joseph's School of Industrial Trades was founded by Bro. Andrew Steffes, CSC in the year 1954. This school started its journey having a great intention of helping the poor Christian and non-Christian students. Innumerable students from all parts of the country come to this school which helps them become self-supportive. There are five Brothers in the community; those who are monitoring the school as well as the hostel.

House Superior: Bro. Jogesh Karmakar, CSC
Principal: Bro. Linus D' Rozario, CSC

Number of Brothers working in the school: Five (Brothers - Linus D' Rozario, Benedict Rozario, Francis Follia, Jogesh Karmokar and Mithu Costa)



Brothers in front of their residence

Students at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
84	16	7	107

Teachers at a glance

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Total
41	00	04	45



Bro. Benedict inaugurating the celebration of St. Joseph the Workers' Day

Celebration of Workers' Day: There was a grand celebration of St. Joseph, the Workers' Day on 1 May, 2015. A whole day program started with Holy Mass early morning. Bro. Benedict Rozario inaugurated the program. Students and teachers took part in various competitions and games like football, High-Jump, Long-Jump, Swimming and other games.. A sumptuous lunch was served for staff and their families and students. The winners of different competitions were given attractive prizes.

Renovation and Extension work: Our house renovation work began with roof repairing work. Bro. Linus D' Rozario, is monitoring the work. There was a dusty and noisy environment for least a couple of months. The new fourth floor will be used as residence for the hostel boys.



The construction of fourth floor is underway

Bottomley Home Orphanage Technical School, Tejgaon, Dhaka



Students and the Principal, Bro. Kelison Chiran in front of BHOTS

Bottomley Home Orphanage Technical School (BHOTS) was founded in 2002 by Holy Cross Brothers. Students get training in different trades like Mechanics, Electrical, Welding, Fittings and Carpentry. Most of the students getting training here are from rural areas and they are very poor and some are orphans.

Present Principal: Bro. Kelison Chiran csc

Number of brothers working in the school: Two (Brothers – Kelison Chiran csc, Romeo Paul Rozario)

Number of students: 32, Number of Staff: 7

Death Anniversary of William (Bill) M. Balsamo: The Death Anniversary of William (Bill) M. Balsamo was celebrated on 25 April, 2015 instead of 22 April. The program started with Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Albert T. Rozario. Students took part in different sports and games like race, sack race, throwing ball, long jump, high jump, football, volleyball etc. A delicious lunch was served for guests and the guardian of the students.



The Principal giving away prize to a winner



Students after having received the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sacrament of Holy Communion: Six of our students received the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon on 4 April, 2015. Most Rev. Archbishop Patrick D’Rozario, CSC was the main celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration. Sr. Shephali Gomes CSC and some aspirants took catechism classes for our students which helped them prepare for receiving Holy Communion.

BHOTS Day celebration: BHOTS family celebrated the birthday of Mr. William (Bill) M. Balsamo on 10 October, 2015 instead of 24 September. This day was celebrated as BHOTS day. A whole day program was organized to mark this day. The day started with Holy Eucharist. Fr. Shitol Rozario, CSC offered the mass and Fr. Maxwell was the concelebrant. A good number of Brothers, Sisters, Aspirants and all the students joined the Eucharist. There were different sports and games like race, sack race, throwing the ball, long jump, football, volleyball competition among the students and staffs. Br. Bijoy Rodrigues, CSC, the Provincial and Br. Ratan Gomes, CSC were present during sports and games. There was lunch for all the invited guests. Prizes were distributed at end of the program. Br. Kelison thanked everyone for making this day meaningful. It was an enjoyable day for all of us.



Boys eagerly waiting for an exciting football match

Pobitra Krush Sadhana Griha, Rampura, Dhaka



Scholastics with their directors

Pobitra Krush Sadhana Griha was founded in Notre Dame Campus in 1972. At that time, the Director was Fr. Theotonius Gomes, CSC who later on became a Bishop. The name Pobitra Krush Sadhana Griha was given in 1979 when it was started as a Joint Scholasticate with Scholastic Brothers and Seminarians. Later, it was shifted to Banashree, Rampura on 10 August, 1995.

Total Scholastics: 22 (18 Seminarians and 4 brothers)

Present Directors: Father Proshanto Nicholas Cruze (Director), Fr. Thomas McDermott (Assistant Director) and Bro. Stephen Binoy Gomes (Assistant Director)

Final Profession and Diaconate Program: Seminarians Joseph Bagnar Gansalves, Aloysius Ashis Rozario and Pascal Babu Sarkar made their perpetual profession on 16 April, 2015. The main celebrant in the Mass was Most Rev. Patrick D’Rozario, CSC, Archbishop of Dhaka. Finally professed seminarians Joseph Bagnar Gansalves, Aloysius Ashis Rozario and Pascal Babu Sarkar were ordained as deacons on 18, April. Most Rev. Theotonius Gomes, CSC was the main celebrant in the ceremony.



Three Seminarians ordained as deacons



Three deacons and five brothers given farewell

Farewell Program: Deacons Joseph Bagnar Gansalves, Aloysius Ashis Rozario, Pascal Babu Sarkar and five Brothers Shyamal James Gomes, Rocy Justine Costa, Mithu Justine Costa, Romeo Paul Rozario, Graner Gilbert Ritchil were given farewell on 23 May, 2015. A special Mass was offered by Fr. James Cruze, CSC, the Provincial of Sacred Heart of Jesus Province. The Mass was followed by a banquet and cultural function.

Bro. Donald Backer basketball tournament: The scholastics became champion in Bro. Donald Backer Basketball Tournament on August 15. The final match was very exciting. The scholastics had to play a hard and tough game against the brothers of Jnanatapasalaya to win the match. The continuous hard labor and exercise resulted in favor of the scholastics. They have been unbeatable in basketball in recent years.



Soaring high in ecstasy

Pabitra Krush Jnanatapasalaya, Mohammadpur



Scholastic Brothers with the director

Pabitra Krush Jnanatapasalaya (PKJ) started its journey on February 8, 2005. The purpose and goal of this house is to form the scholastic brothers spiritually, emotionally, ethically, physically, socially and intellectually. Bothers residing here study at different universities. It helps them get ready for their future ministry.

Total Scholastics: 12

Directors: Br. Ripon James Gomes CSC (director) & Br. Romeo Paul Rozario (assistant director)

Bro. Donald Baker Basketball Tournament: Brother Donald Baker Memorial Basketball Tournament 2015 was organized by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Saint Joseph Province with the help of Scholastics of Jnanatapasalaya. It was held on 14-15 August. Eight teams from different formation houses competed in that tournament. At the end Pabitra Krush Sadhana Griha, Rampura became champion by defeating Pabitra Krush Jnanatapasalaya in the Final Match. Mr. Sanjib Drong, the General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Forum was present as a chief guest and Rev. Br. Bijoy Harold Rodrigues CSC, the Provincial of St. Joseph Province chaired the program .



PKJ Basketball Team

Study Tour 2015: This year, scholastic brothers went for a study tour at Kuakata Sea Beach. We started our journey from Dhaka on 5 September night and reached at Kuakata next morning. We roamed around the sea beach whole day and had lots of fun. We also played football on the sea shore. We stayed a night over there and refreshed our mind.



Figure 1: Scholastics and the director having fun



New scholastic brothers with the directors

New Members at PKJ Family: After pronouncing the First Vows at Holy Cross Novitiate, Barisal on 24 July, 2015, four newly Professed Brothers joined the Jnanatapasalaya family. They are brothers: Jerry Mark Rozario (Nagori), Bablu Bernard Panthra (Biroidakuni), Joseph Clinton Mondol (Karpshdanga) and Shanto Hembrom, CSC (Thakurgaon).

Holy Cross Novitiate, Barisal



Holy Cross Novitiate is situated at Sagardi, Barisal. Holy Cross seminarians and aspirants come to Novitiate and spend a year of silence and solitude which is done along with rigorous prayer and self-sacrifice. After having spent one year, they get ready for taking first vows in religious life.

Novice master: Rev. Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC

Asst. Novice master: Br. Sattya R. Purification, CSC

Responsibility Handover: Br. Kajol Linus Costa, CSC, the former asst. novice master handed over his responsibility to the new asst. novice master Br. Sattya Richard Purification, CSC on 24 July. Rev. Fr. Eugene Justin Anjus, CSC & all the novices of batch 2014-15 were present in the program with their relatives & some other religious.



The outgoing Novice Master
Bro. Kajol Linus Costa CSC



Newly professed brothers and seminarians with their Novice Master & others

First Profession: Seven novices pronounced their first vows of religious life on 24 July. They are Badhon Rozario, Joachim Mondol and Timmon Gomes from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province as well as Bablu Pathang, Jerry Rozario, Joseph Clinton Mondol and Shanto Hembrom from St. Joseph Province. There was a short cultural program after mass and a delicious banquet was served as well.

Reception: New batch of novices 2015-16 arrived at Holy Cross Novitiate, Barisal around 6:00 am on 1 August. Eleven novices (four from SHJ province & seven from SJ province) were received officially through a reception program. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus province are Nitto Anthony Ekka, Amor Samuel Rozario (Rajshahi), Joy Franco Biswas (Khulna), Newton Oberstone Sarker (Khulna) and novices from St. Joseph province are Anik Richard Rozario (Dhaka), Clinton Mree (Mymensingh), Dibos Jerome Rozario (Dhaka), Ezekiel Murmu (Rajshahi), Jhalok Isaac Rozario (Dhaka), Lenson Cornelius Rebeiro (Dhaka), and Shovon Victor Costa (Dhaka).



New batch of Novices (2015-2016)



Earth breaking ceremony

Earth breaking: The earth breaking for the new novitiate building was held on 10 December, 2015. Rev. Fr. James Clement Cruze, CSC, the Provincial of Sacred Heart of Jesus province, Novice masters Fr. Eugene Justin Anjus, CSC and Br. Sattya Richard Purification, CSC, Brothers of Udayan school community, some other religious, guests, engineer & all the novices were present in the program. The foundation was laid by Rev. Fr. James Cruze & Rev. Fr. Eugene Justin Anjus. The program was followed by a delicious lunch.

Holy Cross Aspirancy, Narinda, Dhaka



Aspirants of O.Y.S.E.C with their directors

Bro. Andrew Steffes, CSC and Bro. Jude Castelo, CSC bought the land of Holy Cross Aspirancy in 1954 from Mr. Radharaman De Sarker. Holy Cross Aspirancy started its journey in 1979. The first directors were Bro. Ronald Christenson, CSC and Bro. Donald Nadeau, CSC. Total Aspirants: 39 Present Directors: Bro. Liton Jerome Rozario (Director) and Bro. Chayan Victor Corraya (Assistant director)

Common Birthday Celebration: There was a significant celebration of ‘Common Birthday’ on 26 September. Rev. Edmond Cruze, CSC offered Holy Mass. Almost 30 guests, some brothers and sisters were present as well. There was a short cultural program at the end. Everybody enjoyed the program and got an opportunity to reflect about his own life.



Birthday Cake-Cutting



Directors, aspirants and their parents at one frame

Parents’ Day 2015: Aspirants celebrated the most enjoyable and convivial program: ‘Parents Day 2015’ on 23-24 October. Almost all the parents of our aspirants joined this program. On the first day there was Holy Rosary prayer and a short cultural night. There was sharing based on the main theme “Paribar Tumi kamon Acho” on the second day. Bro. Bijoy Harold Rodrigues CSC, the Provincial and Bro. Shimul Andres Rozario CSC shared on the main theme.

Study Tour: Aspirants and directors went for a study tour on 25 October. Aspirants had been waiting for so long for that much awaited day. This time, our destinations were Mynamoti in Comilla and Sonargon. Really, it was a great source of entertainment and refreshment which rejuvenated our minds and hearts.



Aspirants having a great time

Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari, Dhaka



Halcyon Environment of Juniorate

Holy Cross Juniorate is the first stage of formation for the Brothers of Holy Cross in Bangladesh. In the beginning, the formation program was started in Little Flower Seminary at Bandura. Then it was shifted at Nagori under Gazipur District in 1969.

Total Aspirants: 41

Directors: Shimul Andres Rozario CSC (Director) and Brother Graner Gilbert Ritchil CSC (Assistant Director)

Come and See 2015: A three-day “Come and See” program started on 16 July, 2015. Br. Shimul & Br. Bikash Costa came to help in the “Come & See” program. In the evening, Br. Chandan Gomes (House superior) welcomed the Come & See boys. Boys were given a short orientation about the Congregation of Holy Cross. Brothers of Holy Cross in Bangladesh feel great that a good number of boys come and join for “Come and See” program every year.



Participants having Tiffin



A traditional way of Reception

Reception and Farewell: Bro. Shimul Rosario, joined Holy Cross Juniorate as the new director on 20 July, 2015. He was given a warm reception from the part of the community and aspirants. Juniorate family paid tribute to Bro. Sattya Purification who served as the director of Juniorate for a couple of years. We pray that God may grant him good health and success in every endeavor that he undertakes.

Brothers' involvement in Youth Ministry



Figure 1: Participants at National Youth Day Program

Brothers of Holy Cross in Bangladesh have been actively participating in Youth Ministry from the very beginning of Bangladesh Church. Now-a-days brothers are more involved with the National and Diocesan Youth Commission. Bro. Ripon James Gomes, CSC has been appointed as the coordinator of the National Youth Commission of Bangladesh from 1 February, 2015 and Bro. Rinku Lawrence, CSC as the coordinator of Chittagong Diocesan Youth Commission. Bro. Ripon James Gomes CSC, Bro. Rinku Lawrence CSC, Bro. Toren Joseph Palma CSC and Bro. Chayan Victor Corraya CSC took part in National Youth Day Program at Luxmipur, Kolaura, Shylet which took place from 20 to 24 October, 2015.

Publication

Bro. Montrajoy Stephen Tripura CSC, the very first brother from Bandarban Hill Tracts, Chittagong has written a book on ‘The History St. Placid’s High school and College’. This book contains a lot of details regarding the golden history (161 years) of the Institution. Bro. Prodip Louis Rozario, CSC, the Principal of St. Placid’s School and College inaugurated this book on 30 August, 2015 at the premises of the institution. Bro. Montrajoy Tripura CSC is a promising writer and a researcher on Kokborok (Tripura) Language and script.



Inauguration of the Book 'The History of St. Placid's High School and College'

Higher Studies

Diploma in Theology: Brothers Shyamal James Gomes CSC, Rocy Justine Costa, Mithu Justine Costa, Romeo Paul Rozario and Graner Gilbert Ritchil successfully completed their Diploma in Theology from Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani in June, 2015. Hearty congratulations to them all!



Bro. Rocy Costa



Bro. Shayamal Gomes



Bro. Romeo Rozario



Bro. Graner Ritchil



Bro. Mithu Costa

Brothers completed B.Ed.: Brothers Ujjal Placid Pereira, Ranjan Luke Purification, Placid Peter Rebeiro, Toren Joseph Palma, Provat Placid Purification, Bikash Bernard Costa completed B.Ed in 2015. All of them secured first class. Hearty congratulations to them all!



Bro. Ranjon Purification



Bro. Provat Purification



Bro. Ujjal Pereira



Bro. Placid Rebeiro



Bro. Taren Palma



Bro. Bikash Costa

Brothers completed M.Ed & M.A.: Bro. Robert Bakul Gomes completed M.A. in English and Bro. Rinku Lawrence Costa completed M.Ed as well as M.A in History in 2015 obtaining first class. Hearty congratulations to them!



Bro. Rinku Costa



Bro. Bakul Gomes



Bro. Shimul Rozario

Formation Training: Bro. Andres Shimul Rozario completed a six-month formation course from the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI), Philippines. He returned to Bangladesh in June, 2015 and has been assigned as the Director of Holy Cross Juniorate, Nagari.

APON, Dhaka



APON Center

“An addict is sick, not bad, not mad” with this slogan APON started its journey in 1994 to generate awareness in the community about drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation and to establish the rights of all drug users, including those from marginalized groups. APON is a local NGO registered with NGO Affairs Bureau and Department of Narcotics Control and a member of the Asian Federation of Therapeutic Communities.

Executive Director: Bro. Ronald Drahozal, csc
Number of Brothers working at APON: Three
(Brothers – Ronald Drahozal, Rocy Justine Costa and Bikash Barnard Costa)
Number of Patients: 148
Number of staff: 29



Bro. Ronald Drahozal with the patients



Little patients receiving technical training

Participation in Training Conference: A few staff and the Director participated in training conference both in Dhaka and Malaysia and Bangkok. One such meaningful training was “Training of Treatment Practitioners from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan on Child Drug Addiction Treatment”. This is a new training and fills a bit of the gap in assistance that is to be used for children. We were surprised and encouraged to find out that the expert participants from India and Bangladesh who visited our facilities recognize the type of Children’s Program that APON has is unique for both countries.

Outreach Drop In Centres: APON has two ODIC (Outreach Drop In Centres) near the Mirpur Mazar and the staff goes to various spots from Tongi/airport railway stations to Shadarghat/Wise Ghat in old Dhaka and Kamlapur railway station to Mohammadpur area to help youngsters in need of services like awareness of drugs, dealing with a drug using problems, health, hygiene, basic education, some skill training and a lot of loving care and attention, etc.



Patients attending a class at Mirpur ODIC

BARACA, Savar



BARACA Center

BARACA is a central project of CARITAS BANGLADESH. Since there was no effective drug treatment in Bangladesh earlier, it was highlighted as a totally new problem for everyone and a matter of serious worries. In this situation, Holy Cross community and a few devoted Fathers, Brothers and Sisters with some suffering guardians came forward and with their cordial efforts BARACA started its journey on 1 July, 1988. Now, it serves over 6,000 persons a year (addicts, parents, youths, children) with about 46 staffs through its different programs such as Therapeutic Communities, NA groups, Awareness programs, Drop in Centers, and so on. **Name of the Director:** Brother Robi T. Purification CSC.

Celebrating the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: A seminar was organized to discuss and raise awareness about the bad consequences of drug addiction in our society on 26 June, 2015. The seminar was presided over by Bro. Robi T. Purification, CSC, the director of BARACA. Mr. Kaiser Hamid, a former national football player was one of the special guests in the seminar.

Guests and participants took part in a Rally and Human Chain before the start of the seminar to mark the significance of this day and to make awareness about the bad effects of Drug Addiction.



The director and distinguished guests at the Seminar



Clients enjoying a volleyball match

Daily Activities: Clients take part in various activities on a regular basis like didactic classes, occupational therapy, counseling, NA meeting, sports and games which help them come out gradually from the clutch of drug addiction.

BICPAJ, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Inter-Religious Council for Peace & Justice (BICPAJ) was founded on 15 September, 1983 at the then Head Office of YMCA at Farmgate behind ANANDO Cinema Hall.

There were seven founders: four Muslims and three Christians. Only two of them are still alive. The main founder was Rev. John P. Hastings. The membership meets at least once a month. BICPAJ runs on very little money mainly on members' and friends' contribution. BICPAJ mainly focuses on inter faith training, adult literacy, guidance & counseling and training for women & Children.

Executive Director: Bro. Jarlath D' Souza, CSC

Few activities: Bangla New Year 1422 was celebrated with street children on 14 April, 2015. The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Model of Inter Faith harmony was celebrated on 4 October, 2015.

A discussion meeting was organized to mark this day.



Bro. Jarlath D'Souza CSC, the Executive Director working at his office