

ORIENS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Mawlai, Shillong - 793008
Meghalaya, India



Mobile: 09436953366

Email: deanotc@gmail.com

Home page: www.orienscollege.com

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 – 2019

Oriens Theological College is the Inter-Diocesan Regional Seminary for Northeast India. The Seminary imparts theological formation to candidates to priesthood from the fifteen dioceses of Northeast India and some dioceses outside the region, and the Religious Congregations of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS), Claretians (CMF), Society of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorians/SDS), Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD), Oblates of St. Joseph (OSJ), Congregation of the Mission (CM) and Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (OFM Cap).

The Seminary was started in 1979 as a study house for the students from the dioceses of Northeast India who attended theology classes at Sacred Theological College, Mawlai. In 1986, the College began to hold theology courses on its own premises and the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples raised it to the status of an Inter-Diocesan Theologate, with all the Bishops of Northeast India as members of the Governing Board. In 1990, it became a full-fledged Seminary offering the four-year theology course. Its statutes were approved by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples on 4 December 1990. On 7 December 1993, Oriens Theological College was formally affiliated to the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, through the decree (vide No. 442/93/7) of the Congregation for Catholic Education. Since then, the B. Th. (Bachelor of Theology) degree has been awarded to students, who fulfil the requirements of the four-year Theology programme. More than 800 alumni priests of the College are working in the various dioceses of the region and outside.

Activities of the Academic Year 2018-2019

The Academic Year 2018-19 began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. John Madur, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Shillong, on Wednesday, 1 August, 2018. After the Eucharistic celebration, the inaugural function was held in the auditorium in the presence of staff, students and invited guests to mark the formal beginning of the new Academic Year. Rev. Fr. John Madur, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Shillong was the Chief Guest at the function. After the words of welcome by Fr. Kuriakose Poovathumkudy, the Rector, the Head of the Department, Fr. Isaac Padinjarekuttu, presented a report of the Academic Year 2017-2018. Dr. Stanislaus Khup, Professor of Systematic Theology at OTC gave the inaugural lecture on the topic: "Spiritual Empowerment of Peace-Builders: A Critical Challenge for the Mission of the Church in Northeast India."

Staff and Students

In the academic year 2018-19, Oriens had 152 students and 9 Resident Staff. 25 Visiting Professors rendered their valuable service to the College. The students hailed from 22 Dioceses, 15 of Northeast India and 7 outside, and 7 Religious Congregations.

Academic Council

The Academic Council held four meetings during the academic year 2018-2019. As the highest academic body of the College, it gave efficient direction to the curricular and co-curricular activities of the College. It tried to implement to the best of its ability the various suggestions of the staff and students pertaining to the curricular and co-curricular activities of the College.

Teaching Staff Meeting

The yearly meeting of the Teaching Staff was held on 30 May, 2019 where a number of suggestions were offered for the improvement of the various programmes of the College, particularly connected with teaching and evaluation.

Students' Council

The Students' Council, which facilitates effective communication between the students and the Academic Council was elected on 7th August, 2018, with Bro. Alex Tep as President and Bro. Thomas Marak, MSFS as Secretary and had five meetings during the course of the year. The College is grateful to the Students' Council for its help in the smooth conduct of the academic programme and in the effective organization of the various co-curricular activities of the College.

Academic Performance

The academic programme of the College was conducted smoothly with four regular examination sessions during the year. 34 students appeared for the final B.Th. Comprehensive Examinations and were awarded the Degree of Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) by the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, to which Oriens is affiliated. 8 students passed in the first class; 15 students passed in the high second class; 10 students passed in the second class; 1 student passed in the pass class. Fr. Vemballykunnel Sibin, MSFS was adjudged the best student of the batch with 94.76%. The College wishes to congratulate them for the good result.

Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario Award

The award was instituted on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Oriens Theological College in 2004, in loving memory of Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario, the late Archbishop of Shillong-Guwahati, who was the dynamic force behind the founding of Oriens Theological College. Fr. Jaimon Thadathil, MSFS of the 2013-2017 batch, who passed the B.Th. examinations with 95.24% was awarded the Hubert D'Rosario Award by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. John Madur, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Shillong at the inaugural function.

Extension Lecture

There was one Extensions Lecture during the academic year delivered by Dr. Bernard Kilroy on 25 September, 2018 on the topic "Fresh Springs from our Faith's Dawn: 42 Pslamic Odes from the 2nd Century AD".

Teachers' Day Celebration

On 5th September 2018, the Students' Council organized a short function to mark Teachers' Day. The students expressed their gratitude to the Professors by presenting them with a memento and Fr. Satyajit Basumatary thanked the students on behalf of the teachers.

NITS Conference

Three students from the College, Bros. Maria Shibu, CMF, Ryngkatbor Dkhar and Peter Pehiachanglu took part in the 56th North India Theology Students (NITS) Conference held at Clark Theological College, Mokokchung, Nagaland from 25th to 28th October, 2018. The theme of the Conference was "Church as a Prophet for Contemporary Challenges."

Annual Seminar

On 11 October, 2018 the College organized the Annual Staff-Student Seminar on the topic “50 Years of *Humanae Vitae*: A Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Assessment.” The speakers were Fr. Raj Kapoor, Dr. Flora Kuttiankal, SCCG, MD and Dr. Jose Varickasseril, SDB.

Annual Lecture

The newly introduced Annual Lecture began in the academic year 2018-19 with the first lecture delivered by Prof. A.K. Nongkynrih, Head of the Department of Sociology, on 4 April, 2019 on the topic, “The Catholic Church in a Modernising World Societies of Northeast India.”

College Day

College Day was celebrated on 11 May 2019 with a solemn Eucharistic celebration and a cultural programme. Fr. Athnas Kerketta, MSFS, Rector of the MSFS Study House was the main celebrant at the community Eucharist and the Chief Guest at the cultural programme. During the function the Annual Magazine of the College, Oriens was released and prizes for the various competitions conducted were given out. The function concluded with a family meal.

Oriens Symposium

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Establishment of Oriens Theological College, the College organized a two-day Symposium on the theme, “Re-discovering the Spiritual Dimension of Pastoral Ministry” from 17 to 19 June, 2019. Some 100 invited guests, including many bishops of the region, representative alumni priests and the Oriens community of staff and students participated in the Symposium. There were presentations of scholarly papers and panel discussions. The event concluded with a thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Dominic Jala, SDB, the Archbishop of Shillong and the Chairman of the Governing Board of the College and a short cultural programme.

Student-Activities

The Students’ Council organized the following activities in order to foster unity and cooperation among the students and to help them develop their talents:

1. Inter-Class Volleyball Tournament.
2. Solo Singing Competition
3. Ex-Tempore Speech Competition
4. Quiz Competition
5. Farewell Function for the fourth years.
6. Publication of the fourth volume of the College Annual magazine, “Oriens”.

Staff Activities

The staff members published several scholarly articles, participated in Seminars and Conferences and presented papers, besides teaching in various theological institutes and animating various programmes for the clergy, Religious and laity of the region and outside. A list of all these activities is available on the College Website.

R.R. Graviour Augustine

BOOKS

1. R. R. Graviour Augustine, ed., *Living the Faith*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2018.

2. -----, *Ka Morung Bad Kiwei Pat Ki Jingiathuh Khana*, Shillong, Don Bosco Publications, 2019. (In Khasi).

ARTICLES

1. -----, "Sunday 6 January 2019: Looking to the Star," in *The Preachers*, Oct. 2018, no. 171, p. 26.
2. -----, "Homilies in the Ecumenical Context of Northeast India", in Abraham M. Antony, et al., eds. *Revive or Disappear! Essays in Memory of Fr. James Poonthuruthil, SDB*, Shillong, Vendrame Institute Publications, 2019, pp. 47-60.
3. -----, "Responsible Youth Leadership for a Better Church and Society", (Preparatory Document given to the Regional Bishops' Council for the forthcoming Northeast India Pastoral Conference to be held in Sept. 2019)

PRESENTATIONS

1. *Pillars of Catholic Faith* at the 6th Catechists Convention of the Diocese of Kohima held at St. Joseph's Church, Chumukedima, 8 - 10 March 2019.
2. "*Shine like the stars*" Lay Catechists as Missionary Disciples at the 1st Regional Catechetical Congress, 17-19 May, 2019.

Padinjarekuttu Isaac

ARTICLES

1. "Fathers of the Church and Catechesis", in R.R. Graviour Augustine, ed., *Living the Faith*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2018, 151-170.
2. "Spirituality and Justice", in *Revive or Disappear: Essays in Honour of Fr. James Poonthuruthil SDB*, Shillong, Vendrame Publications, 2019, 97-108.
3. "A Reflection of Priesthood and Priestly Ministry", *VJTR* 83 (2019) 326-245.
4. "Holiness According to the Fathers of the Church", *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology* (2019)
5. Contributed 26 short articles for the column "Faith through History" in the Catholic Fortnightly "*Light of Truth*".

PRESENTATIONS

1. "All India Seminar "Church In India Today" 1969: A Programmatic Vision for Post-Vatican II Indian Catholic Church", at the National Seminar, "Moving Towards an Authentic Witness to Jesus in India Today", Varanasi, 2-4 March, 2019.
2. "Servant of Jesus Christ, Called to be an Apostle, Set Apart for the Gospel of Christ (Rom 1:1): Towards a Spirituality of Priestly Ministry Today", Convention of the CDFNEI, Imphal, 2-5 October, 2018.
3. "Fathers of the Church as Pastors: Impulses for a Re-vitalization of Ministry Today, Oriens Symposium, Shillong, 17-19 June, 2019.
4. Animated the "Catechists' Convention" of the Diocese of Kohima, 9-10 March, 2019.
5. Delivered the "Jonas Thaliath Lectures" at Dharmaram Vidyakshetram, Bangalore, 23-24 July, 2019 on the topic "The Mission of the Church in Contemporary India: Historical, Theological, and Sociological Reflections."

Poovathumkudy Kuriakose

ARTICLES

1. "Ageing Gracefully and Living Cheerfully," *The New Leader* (Oct. 1-25, 2018) 31-32.
2. "The in-built Missionary Dynamism of Faith," *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, 9 (2018) 3-7.

3. "Mission Documents: The Lifeline of MSMHC Apostolate," *Spreading the Light of Christ*, eds. Irene Zosiama and Shiji James (Guwahati: MAC Publication, 2018), 75-98.
4. "A Reflective and Descriptive Study on *Gaudete et Exultate*," *Living the Faith* (Shillong Oriens Publication, 2018) 170-186.
5. "Ageing Gracefully and Living Productively," *Revive or Disappear* (Shillong: Vendrame Institute of Publications, 2019) 85-96.
6. "We all Need a Gentle Push in Life," *Oriens College Magazine* (2019).
7. "Significance of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019" *Oriens College Magazine* (2019) 17-18.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presenting the Emerging Response of the Church in the Socio-Political Scenario of the Country – to the Members of the Pastoral Conference of 2018.
2. Study and Animation of *Gaudete et Exultate*, Parish Community at Catholic Church Borjhar, Assam (2018).
3. Challenge to Discipleship in Pastoral Ministry – Ongoing Formation in Bethel, Shillong.
4. Animation Programme for the Golden Jubilarians of Clarist Franciscan Missionaries of the Most Bl. Sacrament 2018 (CMFSS).
5. Growth in Emotional Maturity – to MSFS Formators 2019.
6. Relational Dimension of Pastoral Ministry – to all the Formators of NE, 2019.
7. Towards Psycho-Sexual Maturity – to CMF Students, 2019.

Raj Kapoor

ARTICLES

1. "The Pastoral Dimension in the Preparation of the Priest" in *Priestly Formation Revisited*, eds. Jose Varickasseril and Abraham M. Anthony (Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publication, 2018).
2. Raj Kapoor, "Humanae Vitae: Background, Reception, Core Teachings and Relevance" in *Revive or Disappear*, eds. Abraham M. Anthony, Paul Vadakumpadam and Jose Varickasseril (Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publication, 2019).

Khup Stanislaus

ARTICLES

1. "Miracle of Faith Among the Zou Tribe: Prospects and Challenges ", in *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology* 9 (2018).
2. "Spiritual Empowerment of Peacebuilders: A Challenge for the Mission of the Church in Northeast India" in *Ministering to God's People: Further Reflections on the New Ratio Fundamentalis* by Fr. Jose Varickasseril and Abraham M. Antony, eds., (Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publication, 2018).
3. "The Sacraments of Initiation " in *The Catholic Manipur* 14/8 (September-October 2018).
4. "The Mandate to Build Peace" in *Oriens Annual Magazine* 2018-19 (Shillong: Oriens Publications, 2019), 19-22.

Conclusion

In the academic year 2019-20, the College has 153 students enrolled, hailing from 24 dioceses and 7 Religious Congregations and 10 resident staff members. There are 45 students in the first year of theology. We wish them all a good start of the Academic year and pray that it will be filled with

God's blessings. Two study houses have also new Rectors. We are happy to welcome Fr. Stephen Raj, SDS as the new Rector of the Otto Hopfenmueller Theology Study House and Fr. Jaison Perumpallioliccal, CMF as the new Rector of Claret Villa. We are grateful to Fr. Mathew Vadakkal, CMF and Fr. A. Alex, SDS for their whole hearted support and cooperation during past six and three years respectively as members of the Academic Council of the College and wish them all the best in their future ministry. We are also grateful to all those who have been part of our journey and helped us in various ways during the last academic year. In a special way, we thank the bishops and provincial superiors who send their students to Oriens, the Rectors of the study houses, and our visiting staff, especially, the Fathers from Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai. We are grateful to His Grace Most Rev. Dominic Jala, SDB, the Archbishop of Shillong and the Chairman of the Governing Board, for his constant support and encouragement. We are grateful to the Episcopal Delegate, Most Rev. John Thomas Kathrukudiyil, Bishop of Itanagar, for his solicitude and concern for the well being of the College. We acknowledge with gratitude the help and cooperation given by all the institutions in and around Shillong and all our benefactors for their constant and generous support in various ways. We are especially indebted to the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, for all the help we receive in conducting the academic programme smoothly and for granting the degree of Bachelor of Theology to our students. As we thank God for his manifold blessings during the past forty years, we are hopeful that the good Lord will continue to guide us so that with the support and cooperation of all of you, we will be able to achieve the goals of our institution, namely, to provide an integral priestly formation and promote theological reflection and research in the region. I wish all the staff and students, but in a special way, the new students a fruitful academic year. Last of all, as I relinquish the post of Head of the Department, I wish to thank everyone for the help and support extended to me during the last six years and wish the next Head of the Department success in all his endeavours.

I remain,

Dr. Isaac Padinjarekuttu
(Head of the Department)

1 August, 2019