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DEAN OF STUDIES

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017 – 2018

Dear Rev. Fr. John Madur, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Shillong and the Chief Guest of the Day, Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, the Keynote Speaker, the Rector and members of the staff, Superiors of the Study Houses, guests and dear students, especially the new students of 2018-2019,

Activities of the Academic Year 2017-2018

The Academic Year 2017-18 began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong, on Tuesday, 1 August, 2017. 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. His Grace, Most Rev. Dominic Jala, SDB, the Archbishop of Shillong, was the Chief Guest and His Lordship, Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Bishop of Jowai was the Guest of Honour 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 2016-2017. Dr. Samuel Kapani, Professor of Scripture at OTC gave the inaugural lecture on the topic: “Rhetorical Reading of Luke 7: 36-50” based on his doctoral dissertation. The newly published book of Fr. R.R. Graviour Augustine, “Corporal Works of Mercy” was released by the Chief Guest. During the function the College also bid farewell to Fr. Linus Neli, who served the College as Rector and Professor of Canon Law and Fr. Teiborlang Lyngdoh who served the College as Professor of Scripture for three years.

Staff and Students

In the academic year 2017-18, Oriens had 160 students and 11 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 9 Religious Congregations.

Academic Council

The Academic Council held four meetings during the academic year 2017-2018. 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 1 June 2018 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 5th August, 2017, with Bro. Michael Carmel Raj as President and Bro. Lambah Laloo, CMF 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. 37 students appeared for the 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. 6 students passed in the First Class, 20 students in the High Second Class and 11 students in the Second Class. Melvin Parambukattil, MSFS secured the first rank with 94.77%.

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. Matesou Isaac of the Archdiocese of Imphal of the 2012-2016 batch, who passed the B.Th. examinations with 93.83% was awarded the Hubert D’Rosario Award by Bishop Victor Lyngdoh, Bishop of Jowai.

Visitation by the Delegate of the Pontifical Urbaniana University

Prof. Francesco Bianchini, Delegate of the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, to which Oriens is affiliated visited the College from 7th to 12th August, 2017 and interacted with the staff and students in view of the renewal of affiliation of the College. He expressed his satisfaction at the functioning of the College and offered some suggestions for improvement.

Memorial Mass

On August 14, 2017, the College organized a memorial Mass and condolence meeting to mark the first death anniversary of Fr Thomas Macheril and Fr. Christudhas Madavadian who were former Rectors and Professors of the College. Archbishop John Moolachira, Archbishop Dominic Jala and Bishop John Thomas were present together with the students and other invited guests. At the occasion the College also released a book in memory of them, “Re-visiting Pastoral Care” edited by Frs. Isaac Padinjarekuttu and R.R. Graviour Augustine.

Extension Lectures

There were two Extensions Lectures during the academic year. The first one was on August 26 given by Fr. Dr. Stephen Fernandes, Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine on the topic “Social Teaching of the Church and Peace Building.” The second one was held on 16 November, 2018 and the speaker was Prof. Norman Tanner, SJ, Professor Emeritus of Church History at the Gregorian University, Rome, on the topic, “History of the Mass in Pictures from 190 AD to the Present.”

Teachers’ Day Celebrations

On 5th September 2015, the Students’ Council organized a short function to mark the celebration of Teachers’ Day. The students expressed their gratitude to the teachers by presenting them with a memento and Fr. Raj Kapoor thanked the students on behalf of the teachers.

NITS Conference

Three students from the College, Bros. Arun Madathiparambil, Kharkongor Sholinstar and Anil Perekala SDS took part in the 55th North India Theology Students (NITS) Conference held at Plough Institute of Theology, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Allahabad, from 21st to 24th October, 2017. The topic of the Conference was “Christian Witness in the Contemporary Geo-Political Situation” and the College presented a paper on “Christian Witness in the Midst of Challenges Faced by Sexual Minorities”.

Annual Seminar

On 12 October, 2017 the College organized the annual staff-student seminar on the theme “500 Years of the Reformation. Fr. Isaac Padinjarekuttu gave a talk on the topic “The

Reformation: A Historical and Ecumenical Appraisal” and five students made presentations on the various Protestant Churches in Northeast India.

Staff Seminar

As part of the effort of the staff members to come together occasionally to reflect on contemporary events in the church and society, the teaching staff of Oriens and Sacred Heart Theological College held a discussion on the theme “Martin Luther in 1517 and Today: Some Catholic Reflections” presented by Prof. Norman Tanner SJ on 18 November 2017.

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. Homily Writing competition
2. Inter-Class Football Tournament.
3. Poetry writing Competition
4. Inter-Class Quiz Competition
5. It also organized a farewell for the fourth years to thank them for their contributions to the College and to wish them good luck in their final examinations.
6. It organized a friendly volleyball match between Oriens Theological College and Sacred Heart Theological College
7. The Students’ Council also brought out the third volume of the College Annual magazine, Oriens with contributions from staff and students

Seminar on CCC

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the College organized a one day seminar on 10 May 2018. Bishop James Thoppil, the Chairman of the Northeastern Commission for Catechesis gave the key note address. Four resource persons, Dr. Jerome Vallabaraj, SDB. Dr. Gilbert Choondal, SDB, DrDr. Barnes Mawrie, SDB and Dr. R.R. Graviour Augustine highlighted the various aspects of the CCC. Besides the students, 25 invited guests participated in the seminar.

College Day

On 19 May, 2018 the College marked the College Day with a solemn Eucharistic celebration and a cultural programme. Fr. Kuriakose Poovathumkudy, Rector of Oriens presided over the Eucharist and Fr. A. Alex, SDS, Rector of Otto Hopfenmueller Study House was the chief guest. During the function the Annual Magazine of the College, Oriens was released.

Staff Activities

The staff members published several articles, participated in Seminars and Conferences and presented papers, besides teaching in various theological institutions and animating various programmes of pastoral import in Northeast India and outside.

R.R. Graviour Augustine

Book

1. R. R. Graviour Augustine, *Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy*, Bangalore, Asian Trading Corporation, 2017.

Articles

1. -----, “Impact of the Pontificate of Pope Francis on the World,” in *Kristu Jyoti*, 33 (2017)3, pp. 85-94.

2. -----, "Indian Challenges of Catechesis Towards Fostering Communities," *Kristu Jyoti*, 33 (2017)1&2, pp. 30-52;
3. -----, "Indian Challenges of Catechesis Towards Fostering Communities," in Gilbert Choondal, ed., *Community Catechesis*, Bengaluru, Kristu Jyoti Publications, 2018, pp. 40-64;
4. -----, "The Liturgical Formation of Candidates to Priesthood for Becoming Eucharistic," in Jose Varickasseril and Abraham M. Antony, eds., *Priestly Formation Revisited Reflections on the New Ratio Fundamental*, Shillong, Vendrame Institute Publications, 2018, pp. 79-90.
5. -----, "A New Catechetical Approach to Enhance the Life of Faith", in *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, 9 (2018), pp. 38-53.
6. -----, "Sunday 4 March 2018: Become the Temple You are," in *The Preachers*, Jan. 2018, no. 168, p. 16.

Presentations

1. *Possibilities of Inculturation at Different Stages of Faith Development: The Church in Northeast India in Perspective*, at the Indian Catechetical Association 22nd General Assembly held at Salesian Provincial House, Hyderabad, 7 - 9 Feb. 2018.
2. *Role of the Parish in Discernment and Accompaniment of Youth in North-east India*, at the Seminar on "The Church's Ministry to the Youth of North-East India: Discernment and Accompaniment" held at Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong, 26 – 27 April 2018.
3. *The Making of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, presented during the Commemorative Seminar on the 25th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the CCC held at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, 10 May 2018.
4. *Divine Revelation and its Transmission*, Animation for the Missionaries of Charity of the Northeastern Region held at M.C. Convent, Nongpo, 15-18 May 2018.

Nirappel Abraham

1. Attended a Seminar for Major Seminary Rectors and Spiritual Directors of India at Bhopal from 4-8 November 2017.
2. Attended a Seminar of the North-East Seminary Formators at Dimapur from 3-5 April, 2018 and presented a paper "spiritual Formation in Seminaries."

Padinjarekuttu Isaac

1. "The Reformation: A Historical and Ecumenical Appraisal", *Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection*, Vol. 81, No. 10 (October 2017) 726-750.
2. "The Catholic Church in Northeast India: A Socio-Historical Profile" in Dasan Jeyaraj and Paul Vellarackal, eds., *Digital Generation: Challenges and Missiological Responses*, Anand, Gujarat Sahitya Prakash, 2017, 23-36.
3. "Christians and the Making of Modern India - An Appraisal" in George Kudilil and Alex Pandarakappil, eds. Satna, St. Ephrem's Theological College, 2017, 25-46.
4. "Treasure in Earthen Jars": Towards a Priestly Spirituality for Today" in: K. Henry Jose, MSFS, *Becoming Human Becoming Christ: Festschrift in Honour of Prof. Dr. Jacob Parappally MSFS*, Bangalore: ATC Publishers, 2018, 381-81.
5. "How 'New' is the New *Ratio Fundamental* Institutionis Sacerdotalis?" in Jose Varickasseril SDB and Abraham M. Anthony SDB, Shillong, Vendrame Institute

- Publications, 2018, 1-12.
6. "The Catholic Church in Northeast India: A Socio-Historical Profile", Francis Thonippara CMI & Sunny Maniyakkunnel OCD, eds., *Catholic Contribution to the India History, Society and Culture 19th and 20th Centuries*, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2018, 227-245.
 7. "Miracle of Faith in Northeast: A Retrospect", *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, Vol. 9 (2018) 30-37.
 8. Published 26 short articles on the theme "Faith Through History" in the fortnightly publication *Light of Truth*.

Kuriakose Poovathumkudy

Articles

1. "Ageing Gracefully and Living Cheerfully," in *The New Leader*, 130/19 (October 1-15, 2017) 31-32.
2. "A Brief Look at the Traditional Practice of Spiritual Direction," in *Priestly Formation Revisited*, eds. Jose Varickasseril and Abraham M. Antony (Vendrame Institute Publications) 2018) 137-152.
3. "An Abandoned Orphan to Eminent Parliamentarian," in *Oriens Annual Magazine* (2018) 7-8
4. "From the Memory of the Heart," in *Oriens Annual Magazine* (2018) 9-11.
5. "The in-built Missionary Dynamism of Faith," in *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, IX (2018)
6. Edited - *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, IX (2018) "The Miracle of Faith in Northeast India."

Presentations

1. Talk to the Priests of Jowai Diocese, "Pastoral Ministry Today" (30 August 2017)
2. Presentation to the Participants of the Regional Pastoral Conference, "The Indispensable Role of the Laity in the Mission of the Church" (10 September 2017).
3. Talk to the members of Umroi Community, "Relevance of St. Francis Assisi in today's work of Evangelization" (4 October 2017).
4. Presentation "The Mission Documents: The Lifeline of MSMHC Missionary Apostolate," Seminar on the Occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of the MSMHC Sisters (6 Nov. 2017).
5. Talk to the Community of Sisters at Dibrugarh, "The Cost of Discipleship" (27 January 2018).
6. Presentation to the Alumni of MSFS, on the Occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Study House: "Re-visioning Pastoral Ministry" (21 February 2018).
7. Talk to the Teachers and Lay Leaders of Mawkhari Parish. "Journeying with people of non-Christian faith" (4 March 2018).
8. Presentation to the Regional Formators of NE, "Psycho-Sexual Maturity" (4 April 2018).

Satyajit Basumatary

Article

1. Growth of Faith Among the Bodos, *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology* 9 (2018) 69-80.

Raj Kapoor

Article

1. “The Pastoral Dimension in the Preparation of the Priest”, Jose Varickasseril SDB and Abraham M. Anthony SDB, eds., *Priestly Formation Revisited* (Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publications, 2018) 68-78.

Samuel Kapani

Article

1. “Ongoing Formation in the Life of the Priest”, Jose Varickasseril SDB and Abraham M. Anthony SDB, eds., *Priestly Formation Revisited* (Shillong: Vendrame Institute Publications, 2018) 68-78.

Other Events

- The Governing Board of Oriens Theological College consisting of all the Bishops of the region met at Oriens for the annual meeting on 11 September 2017.
- The college bid farewell to three staff members during the academic year. They were Fr. Thomas Manjaly who served the college 33 years, Fr. Peter Haokip who served the college 31 years and Fr. Nirappel Abraham who served the college 7 years. College expresses its sincere gratitude to them for their dedicated and outstanding service to the College in a variety of ways.
- Three staff members joined the College in the course of the last academic year: Fr. Satysajit Basumatary of Tezpur diocese, after completing his Licentiate in Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, joined the College as Professor of Scripture, Fr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, of Imphal Archdiocese, after completing his Doctorate in Theology from the Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Vallendar, Germany joined the College as Professor of Systematic Theology and Fr. George Nedumarathumchalil of Kohima diocese joined Oriens as Spiritual Director.
- The College remembered at a Eucharistic celebration Fr. James Poonthuruthil, SDB who passed away on 21 January 2018. Fr. James was visiting Professor of Moral Theology in the College.

Conclusion

In the academic year 2018-19 the College has 152 students enrolled, hailing from 22 dioceses and 7 religious congregations and 9 resident staff members. 45 of them are new students to the college. We wish them all a good start of the Academic year filled with God’s blessings. We are grateful to all those who have 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 superiors 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, 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, 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 for all the help we receive in conducting the academic programme smoothly and for granting the degree of Bachelor of Theology to our students. We are hopeful that with God's help and the cooperation of all, 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 to the College a fruitful academic year.

I remain,

Dr. Isaac Padinjarekuttu
(Head of the Department)

1 August, 2018