



ORIENS THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

The Northeast India's Inter-Diocesan Theological Institute, Oriens Theological Institute, situated within Oriens Theological College, the Regional Inter-Diocesan Major Seminary, imparts theological formation to candidates to priesthood from the four Archdioceses of Guwahati, Imphal, Ranchi and Shillong; from the sixteen dioceses of Northeast India and outside, and nine Religious Congregations of Claretians (CMF), Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS), Congregation of the Mission (CM), Congregation of the Sons of Immaculate Conception (CFIC), Missionaries of Mercy and Hope (MMS), Norbertines (O. Praem), Oblates of St. Joseph (OSJ), Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (OFM Cap.) and Society of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorians/SDS).

Activities of the Academic Year 2024-2025

The Academic Year 2024-25 began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Archbishop of Guwahati, Most Rev. John Moolachira, the President of NEIRBC and the Moderator of Oriens Theological Institute on 1 August 2024. It was followed by the inaugural function in the auditorium. His Grace, Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Archbishop of Shillong, was the Chief Guest and His Grace, Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, was the Guest of Honour at the function.

The inaugural function began with the words of welcome by Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, the Rector of Oriens Theological College. The Director, Dr. Graviour Augustine, then presented a report of the Academic Year 2023-2024. Dr. Sunny Keemattam, SJ, gave the inaugural lecture on the topic: "The Depth Dimension in the Intellectual Formation of the Church Leaders." There was a release of two books authored and edited by Dr. Graviour Augustine - *Catechesis in Northeast India: Phases of its Development* and *Ecclesial Renewal in Northeast India: Reflections on the Recent Magisterial Teachings*. They were released by the President of NEIRBC, Archbishop John Moolachira. During the function, two students were awarded the *Late Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario Award* for the overall best performance and one student was awarded *St. Jerome Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies* under the patronage of Rev. Dr. Thomas Manjaly.

Staff and Students

In the academic year 2024-25, Oriens had 195 students and nine Resident Staff. Thirty Visiting Professors rendered their valuable service to the Institute. The students hailed from four Archdioceses, eleven Dioceses of Northeast India and five from outside, and eight Religious Congregations. The College began its regular classes from 2 Aug. 2024.

Academic Council

In the Academic Year 2024-2025, the Academic Council held four regular meetings. As the highest Academic Body of the Institute, it gave clear and efficient direction to the curricular and co-curricular activities of the College. To the best of its ability, it implemented the various suggestions of the staff and students pertaining to the curricular and co-curricular activities of the Institute.

Students' Council

The Students' Council of the Institute was formed on 1 Aug. 2024, with KURISINGAL Dolwin David, CFIC, as President and MALNGIANG Eskarius, CMF as its Secretary. It had a total of eight members consisting of both the elected and nominated members. In all it had four meetings during the course of the year. As collaborators, it facilitated effective communication between the students and the Academic Council. The Institute is grateful to the Students' Council for its involvement and collaboration for the smooth conduct of various academic programmes and organization of the various co-curricular activities of the Institute.

Academic Performance

The Institute had a smooth academic programme with four regular examination sessions during the year. Fifty-five students appeared for the B.Th. Comprehensive Examinations. Their results are still awaited from the Pontifical Urban University, Rome.

Awards of the Institute

Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario 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, the founder of Oriens Theological College and the dynamic force behind what Oriens is today. Under the patronage of Rev. Dr. Thomas Manjaly, Senior Scripture professor who has been serving Oriens for more than three decades, *St. Jerome Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies* was instituted. Fr. Shangdiar Lamkupa of the 2019-2023 batch, from the Diocese of Nongstoin, was awarded the Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario Memorial Award for the overall best performance with 95.43%. The same award for the next batch (2020-2023) was awarded to Fr. Prince Kujur from the Diocese of Diphu for the overall score of 93.58%. The newly instituted St. Jerome Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies was awarded to Fr. Phidalist Phawa of Jowai Diocese with the score of 93.13% in Biblical subjects.

Teachers' Day Celebrations

On 4 September 2024, the Students' Council organized a function to appreciate and thank the services of the teachers in the Institute. Barla Emlus, MSFS, a Third Year Student, expressed the sentiments of gratitude and appreciation to the teachers on behalf of the students. Dr. Edmund Gomes, SDB, spoke on behalf of the teachers.

Extension Lecture

On 9 Sept. 2024 the Institute organised an Extension Lecture on Public Theology given by Rev. Dr. Francis – Vincent Anthony, SDB, Director of the Institute of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Inter-Faculty Commission for Research, Salesian Pontifical University Rome. It was held at the Institute auditorium and was moderated by Rev. Dr. Johnson Thurackal, CMF, Professor of Scripture at Oriens Theological Institute.

Symposium 2024

After many years of break, the Institute organised a Symposium from 7 to 9 October 2024 on the theme *Trends in Christian Witnessing*. Most Rev. Dr. Vincent Aind, Archbishop of Ranchi and Chairman for the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine was the Chief Guest and Keynote speaker. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and President of NEIRBC, gave the Presidential Address. There were presentations of many papers by scholars from Northeast India. Participants in the Symposium were many Archbishops, Bishops, Major Superiors, Priests, Nuns, Coadjutor Brothers, theologians and experts from different academic fields and students who took active part in the reflection and deliberations. It was major academic programme organised by the combined effort of the Seminary and the Institute. As a fruit of the symposium the Institute compiled all the papers and published into a book titled *Trends in Witnessing*.

NITS Conference

In the 59th North India Theological Students Conference held at Aizawl Theological College, Aizawl, Mizoram, from 22 to 26 Oct. 2024, three students from Oriens participated. They were Bibhu Baliar Singh, CFIC, from the Third-Year batch and Marboh Bester and MIASALHOU Xavier, MSFS from the Second-Year batch. The general theme of the Conference was: *Authentically Indian and Genuinely Christian – Envisioning an Inclusive Identity withing the Fabric of Secularism*. The topic to which the Oriens students were privileged to respond was: “Threats of Religion to the Concept of Secularism – Islam.” This theological conference of inter-denominational nature greatly enriched the students.

Annual Seminar 2024-2025, Constitutions of Vatican II

The Annual Seminar was held on 13 March 2025 on the two constitutions of the Vatican II – *Sacrosanctum Concilium* and *Dei Verbum*. The four students who presented papers were Mattel Jain and Michael Teron from the Third Years, and Lyngdoh Firstkeyson, SDS and Marwein Krawboklang from the Second years. Dr. Graviour Augustine chaired the Seminar after having animated the students in their preparation for the presentation. This theme was chosen in response to the call of the late Pope Francis to study the Constitutions of Vatican II as a preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. The other two constitutions of the Vatican II had been studied in the Annual Seminar of previous Academic year.

Institute Day

Oriens Theological Institute observed its annual Institute Day on 15 May 2025. The programme was marked by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Inter-class Quiz Competition, releasing of *Oriens*, the Institute Magazine 2024-25, and the declaration of overall championship won by the first years. The Main Celebrant and the Chief Guest of the celebration was Rev. Dr. Athnas Kerketta, MSFS, Rector of MSFS Study House, Mowroh, Shillong. The day-long celebration culminated in a cultural show by all the batches and Agape meal. The championship was won by the First years. The Second and Third-year students stood in the second and third position respectively.

Institute Magazine 2024- 2025

Following the good tradition started since 2016, the Institute released its 9th Volume of *Oriens*, the Annual Magazine of the Institute, during the celebration of the Institute Day held on 15 May 2025. It was prepared and edited by the Institute’s Students Council on the theme, *Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet*. It was released by the Chief Guest, Dr. Athnas Kerketta who gave the first copies to Rev. Fr. N. K. George and Rev. Fr. Stanislaus

Chinliankhup. The editorial board and the Students' Council worked very hard to realise this important academic responsibility of the students.

Farewell to Final Year Students

The Institute bade farewell to the outgoing students of the Institute on 3 June 2025. Kongsai Vincent, gave a note of gratitude and appreciation to the Final Year Students and Sangma Sylvester Manda spoke on behalf of the outgoing students. Dr. Graviour Augustine, the Director of the Institute, addressed the outgoing students and wished them well. Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, the Rector, gifted them all with a memento each.

Student Activities

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

1. It had organised and conducted Inter-Class Foot Ball, Basket Ball and Volley Ball matches.
2. It organised the Teachers' Day programme.
3. It helped to organise the Symposium, Extension Lecture and Annual Seminar.
4. It organized a farewell for the final years.
5. It brought out the ninth volume of *Oriens*, the College Annual Magazine, under the title *Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet*, with contributions from staff and students.
6. It organised the Institute Day programme 2024-2025.
7. It organised Cultural programmes and Inter-class skit competition.
8. It took keen interest in all Academic Programmes offering every help to carry them out effectively.

Staff Activities

The Resident Staff of the Institute published several articles, animated and participated in Seminars and Conferences and presented papers, besides teaching in various theological institutes within and outside Northeast India. They for their credit published **4 books, 27 articles**, and **36 seminars and conferences** by way of animation and participation at various *fora* and produced **2 Audio-visual Documentaries** to their credit in the academic year 2024-2025. A complete list of these publications is given below:

Dr CHINLIANKHUP Stanislaus

A. Articles

1. "St. Joseph's Cathedral to Herald God's Reign," in Silver Jubilee Committee, eds., *St. Joseph's Cathedral Silver Jubilee Souvenir*, Imphal, Archbishop's House, 2024, pp. 55-56.
2., "Encountering Jesus to become His Witness," in *North East India Regional Pastoral Conference 2024*, Guwahati, Northeast Regional Council Publication, 30-36.
3., "A Year Long Prayer 2024," in *Diocesan Priest*, Shillong, Oriens Publication, 2024, pp. 42-48
4., "A Spirituality for the Education Ministry," in *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, Vol. 16/2025, Shillong, Oriens Publication, 2025, pp. 152-160.

B. Conferences / Seminars

1. Stanislaus Chinliankhup "Mission and Spirituality," Inaugural Lecture at Sacred Heart Theological College, 7 August 2024.
2., "Sustaining Orientation during the Theological Studies," a lecture given at Sacred Theological College, Shillong on 29 July 2025

Dr POOVATHUMKUDY Kuriakose

A. Books

1. *Embarking on a Mission of Mercy*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2024. Pp. 296. (PB).

B. Articles

1. "Fidei Donum – Its Relevance to the Church in the Northeast Today," in R.R. Graviour Augustine and Sunil Barla, eds., *Ecclesial Renewal in Northeast India: Reflections on the Recent Magisterial Teachings*, Shillong, Northeastern Regional Commission for Theology and Doctrine - NEIRBC, 2024, pp. 155-164.
2. "Keynote Address: Spreading the Fragrance of the Gospel in Asia," North East India Regional Pastoral Conference 2024, Guwahati, NEIRBC, 2024, pp. 22-24.
3. "Mission and Hope of Reconciliation in Divided Societies: Perspective from the Jubilee Year 2025," *Mission Today* XXVII/1-2 (January-June 2025), pp. 92-104.
4. "In Loving Memory of Jesus," in *The Diocesan Priest*, XXXIX/2 (July – Dec. 2024), pp. 5-9.
5. "Facing the Challenging Encounters in Formation: Need for Paradigm Shift," in R. Graviour Augustine and Others, eds., *Trends in Witnessing*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2025, pp. 253-269.
6. "The People's Pope of Compassion (2013-2025)," in *The Diocesan Priest*, XL/1 (Jan. – June 2025), pp. 5-11.
7. "Jesus' Unique way of Instructing the Disciples for Mission," in *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, 16(2025), pp. 52-61.
8. "The Cost of Inviting," *Oriens Annual Magazine* 2025, pp. 20-22.

C. Conferences / Seminars

1. "Interface Between Formation and Mission" Animation of Regional CRI (Catholic Religious of India) members, Guwahati, NEDSF, Assam, 23-24 August 2024.
2. "Spread the Fragrance of the Gospel in Asia: Revisiting Ecclesia in Asia" (1999-2024), North East India Regional Pastoral Conference, Guwahati, Assam, 24-26 August, 2024.

3. “Models of Priestly formation in the Church Documents: Assessing the Past, Reflecting on the Present, and Imagining the Future,” Animation for all the Rectors of Major Seminaries of India, Guwahati, DBI, 10 November 2024.
4. “Challenging Encounters in Formation Ministry: Need for a Paradigm Shift,” Symposium, Shillong, OTI, 7-9 October 2004.
5. “Ways of Building Fraternity,” Animation for Priests and Religious of Dibrugarh Diocese, 12 November, 2024.
6. “Welcome Jubilee Year 2025 with Renewed Missionary Enthusiasm” Diphu, Pastoral Centre, 7-10 December 2024.
7. “Jubilee Year 2025 and the Call to Evangelization Ministry,” Diocesan Pastoral Council, Kohima, Nagaland, 14 March 2025.
8. “Jubilee Year 2025 and Synodal Ways of Mission” Animation of Priests and Religious of Aizawl Diocese, 10 April 2025.
9. “Sharing in the Passion of Jesus” Animation of Priests and Religious of Shillong Archdiocese, 15 April 2025.
10. Retreat Animation to Priests of Vicariate of Nepal, Kathmandu, 1-6 June 2025.
11. Animation for the Formators of Jalandhar Major Seminary, [...], 23-24 June 2025.
12. Animation Retreat to RNDM Sisters in MIIT Shillong, 2-7 July 2025.

Dr RAJU Rajkumar Graviour Augustine

A. Books

1. R.R. Graviour Augustine, Kuriakose Poovathumkudy and Teron Robinson, eds., *Trends in Witnessing*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2025, pp. 320 (BP).
2. R.R. Graviour Augustine, *3Ps for Bible Reading - to Pronounce Properly the Proper Nouns: A Pronunciation Guide* (Shillong, Northeastern Regional Commission for Theology and Doctrine - NEIRBC, 2025), pp. 160 (BP).

B. Articles

1., “Unable to Shout from the Rooftop,” in *The Diocesan Priest*, XXXIX/2 (July – Dec. 2024), pp. 10-17.
2., “Adivasis, Castes, Labourers and Boyar – Clarification of Tea Tribes,” in Probin Topno and Others, eds., *The Adivasis of Assam – A Multi-Dimensional Study*, Guwahati, Global Publishing House India, 2024, pp.140-150.
3., “Editorial,” in *The Diocesan Priest*, XXXIX (2024)2, pp. 1-4.

4., *Prayer as One of the Tasks of Catechesis*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2025, pp. 14 (PB).
5. "Sunday 30 March 2025, Lent 4: Joy of Reconciliation," in *The Preachers* (Jan. 2025), no. 196, pp. 22-23.
6. "Prayer and Catechesis – Interdependency and Interrelatedness," in R.R.Graviour Augustine and Others, eds., *Trends in Witnessing*, Shillong, Oriens Publications, 2025, pp. 182-195.
7., "Together to our Home – Pilgrims of Hope," in *Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet, Oriens Annual Magazine, 2024-2025*, Shillong, Oriens Theological College, 2025, pp. 16-19.
- 8....., "Boarding Houses and the Catholic Mission," in *The Diocesan Priest*, XL/1 (Jan. – June 2025), pp. 28-35.
- 9....., "The Church Documents on Education," in *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, 16(2025), pp. 19-33.

C. Conferences / Seminars

1. Retreat Animation, Students of Theology, Sacred Heart College, Shillong, 1-6 August 2024.
2. "Prayer as One of the Tasks of Catechesis," Paper presented to the Indian Catechetical Association, Siloam 12 – 14 2025.
3. *Spiritual Fractals*, Animation to RNDM Nuns, Provincial House, St. Joseph's Convent, Jaiaw, Shillong, 1 March 2025.
4. *Pastors and Faith Formation*, Animation to Claretian Missionaries of Northeast India, Provincial House, Claret Villa, Shillong, 15 March 2025.
5. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Animation to Catechists of the Region of Eastern Nagaland, Diocese of Kohima, Pastoral Centre, Chumukedima, 18 March 2025.
6. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Animation to Catechists of the Region of Western Nagaland, Diocese of Kohima, Pastoral Centre, Chumukedima, 17 May 2025.
7. Animation to Nuns engaged in village catechesis, VIRTAs, Mawpdang, Shillong, 8 July 2025.
8. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Animation to SMI Sisters, Provincial House, Guwahati, 28 July 2025.

D. Audio-Visual Production

1. *Oriens the Rising Sun*, A Video Documentary shown during the Inaugural Function of the Symposium on "Trends in Christian Witnessing," held at Oriens Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong, 7-9 Oct. 2024.

2. *ANKCYAS – Until We Meet as One*, A Video Documentary on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of All Naga Kuki Catholic Youth Association, Shillong, Displayed on 27 April 2025.

Dr TERON Robinson

A. Conferences / Seminars

1. “Social Media Misuse and its Impact on Students Life,” Sacred Heart School, Marme, Meghalaya, 8 Aug. 2024.
2. “The Importance of the Word of God in the life of today’s youth,” Plasha, Umden, 14 Sept. 2024.
3. “The Urgency of Values Education for Happy Married Life,” Plasha, Umden. 15 Sept. 2024.
4. “The Impact of the Catholic Church in the Karbi Society,” Catholic Church Marme, Meghalaya, 22 Sept. 2024.
5. Deliberation on School and Family Partnerships, Sacred Heart School, Marme. 29 Oct. 2024.
6. “Without Faith it is impossible to please God” (Heb 11:6); The essentiality of Faith in Good Leadership,” Pastoral Centre, Diphu, 9 Nov. 2024.
7. “The Church is Missionary by its Nature (Vatican II): An Overview on Evangelization,” Seke Hemtun, Diphu. 15 Nov. 2024.
8. “The Significance of Knowing the Church History for Effective Evangelization,” Chokihola, Karbi Anglong, 4 Jan. 2025.
9. “‘How they have loved one another?’ A Critical Analysis on the Early Christians as in the Acts of the Apostles,” Mercy Home Demtring, Shillong, 19-22 May 2025.
10. “A Close Study on *Dilexit Nos*: Pope Francis Encyclical Letter on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ,” Provincial House of Sisters of Charity, Guwahati, Assam, 30 June 2025.

Dr MANJALY Thomas

A. Book

1. *From Babylon to New Jerusalem: Glimpses of the Book of Revelation* Shillong: Oriens Publications, (2025), pp. 112 (PB).

B. Articles

1. “The Prayer of Jabez (1 Chron 4:9-10),” *Asian Journal of Religious Studies*, 69/2 (2024), pp. 44-43.
2. “The Instruction ‘*Redemptionis Sacramentum*’: An Overview and Pastoral Reflections,” *The Diocesan Priest*, XXXIX/1 (2024), pp. 23-32.

3. "Jesus Our Peace': Mission of Restoring Wholeness," *Oriens Journal for Contextual Theology*, 15 (2024) 9-24.

4. "Evangelization through Bible Study Groups," *Asian Journal of Religious Studies*, 69/4 (2024), pp. 83-88.

5. "A Tribute to Pope Francis," *Asian Journal of Religious Studies*, 70/2 (2025), pp. 11-19.

C. Conferences / Seminars

1. "Diocesan Priests: Prophets of Hope and Builders of Peace - Biblical Orientations and Pastoral Reflections: Keynote Address given on 10 October 2024.

Dr VELLATTUKARA (K.D) Joy

Articles

1. "St. Joseph's Cathedral, a Sacred Place for Worship and Pilgrimage," in Silver Jubilee Committee, eds., *St. Joseph's Cathedral Silver Jubilee Souvenir*, Imphal, Archbishop's House, 2024, pp. 51-53.

Conferences / Seminars

1. Parish Administration, One day Seminar for the Priests of the Diocese of Nongstoin, 14 April 2024.

2. Church Documents on Family, Animation of the Women Commission of Northeast India, NEDSF, Guwahati, 14 Dec., 2024.

3. Family Apostolate, Animation of the Touring Sisters of the Diocese of Bongaigaon, 1-2 April 2025.

Conclusion

The eventful Academic Year 2024-2025 came to a successful end with God's blessing and the cooperation of the staff and the students.

Our special thanks to 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 Graces Archbishop John Moolachira, the Moderator of the Institute, and Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Archbishop of Shillong, for their constant support and encouragement. We are grateful to the Episcopal Delegate, Most Rev. James Thoppil and Most Rev. John Thomas Kattrukudiyil, for guidance and interest shown.

We are especially indebted to the Pontifical Urban University, Rome, for all the help we receive in conducting the Academic Programme smoothly and for granting the degree of *Baccalaureate* (the B.Th) to our students. We are grateful to all our benefactors for their constant and generous support in various ways.

We pray that we will be able to fulfil the trust placed on us by the Church in the region to provide priests with missionary and pastoral zeal rooted in sound Catholic Theology in order to spread the Light of Christ.

I wish all the staff and students, especially, the new students to the Institute, a fruitful Academic Year 2025-26.

I remain,

Dr. RAJU Rajkumar Graviour Augustine
Director
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1 August, 2025.