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SPECIAL

REPORT

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, 2024-2025 INAUGURATED

The New Academic Year 2024-2025 was inaugurated on 1 August 2024. The day began with the Holy Mass presided over by Archbishop John Moolachira, the President of Northeastern Regional Bishops Council (NEIRBC) and the Moderator of OTI. He also blessed and inaugurated the newly renovated Auditorium in the presence of Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Archbishop of Shillong, the Chief Guest, and others dignitaries and invitees. Rev. Dr. Graviour Augustine, the Director of the Institute, presented the Annual Report of the Academic Year 2023-2024. During the Function, both the Archbishops spoke on the importance of the Spiritual and the Intellectual formation towards priesthood.

The Archbishop Hubert D’Rosario Award was awarded to Fr. Lamkumar Shangdiar from the batch of 2019-2023, from the Diocese of Nongstoin, and to Fr. Prince Kujur of Diphu Diocese for the batch of 2020-2023, for their overall academic performance.

Under the patronage of Rev. Fr. Thomas Manjaly, Scripture Professor of Oriens Theological Institute, a newly instituted award named St. Jerome Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies was awarded to Fr. Phidalis Phawa, from the Diocese of Jowai for his consistent excellence in all examinations of Biblical subjects. It was followed by an Inaugural Lecture delivered by Rev. Dr. Sunny Keemattam, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier’s College, and Umoid. He spoke on the theme of “The Depth Dimension in the Intellectual Formation of the Church Leader.” The programme came to an end with the Vote of Thanks proposed by the newly appointed Rector, Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup



78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA OBSERVED

Oriens Theological College celebrated the 78 Independence Day and the Solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady on 15 August 2024 in the College. The celebration began with the Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, the Rector of Oriens Theological College, in presence of the staff and students of the seminary.

The flag hoisting ceremony was held soon after the mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Mathew Channikuzhy, the Chief Guest of the programme. Br. Ebinius Beck was the representative of the students. Both the dignitaries spoke about the importance of freedom, equality, peace and basic fundamental rights of all the citizens of our motherland. Then the National Anthem was sung to show our respect and love for the country, followed by patriotic songs by brothers. The day ended with a friendly Football Match between the House Teams.





TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATED

On 4 September 2024, Oriens Theological Institute observed Teachers' Day in the last hour of the class in the College Auditorium. The gathering began with the Scripture Reading and a short prayer led by Br. Nongsiang Ridonal OFM Cap., followed by a welcome address by Dolwin David Kurisingal, CFIC, the Student Council president. A video presentation screened by the Student Council unfolded the meaning of the day. A thanksgiving song was sung by the first year students to all the professors of the Institute to thank and appreciate them for their valuable service to the intellectual formation of the students.

A felicitation note by Br. Barla Emlus, MSFS concretized the importance of the teachers in the life of every student. The joy was doubled with meaningful song by the First Year students of the Institute. Rev. Fr. Edmund Gomes, SDB, spoke on behalf of the teachers saying that "there is a joy to be a teacher for future missionary who will one day bring and be a light to the nation." A vibrant dance by the final year students mesmerized everyone, followed by the vote of thanks proposed by Br. Miasalhou Zhaurietuo, MSFS. The programme came to an end with the singing of College Anthem.

EXTENSION LECTURE ORGANIZED

Oriens Theological Institute organized an Annual Lecture on "Public Theology," on 9 September 2024 at the auditorium of the Institute. The lecture was delivered by Rev. Rev. Dr. Anthony Francis Vincent, SDB, the Director of the Institute of Pastoral Theology and Director of the Inter-faculty Commission for Research, Salesian Pontifical University, Rome. The programme began with a scripture Reading and a prayer led by Br. Uday Mondal followed by lighting of the lamp. Rev. Dr. R.R. Graviour Augustine the director, welcomed the speaker and all the participants to this event. Dolwin, CFIC, the Students Council President introduced the moderator Rev. Dr. Johnson Thurackal, CMF. There were enriching interactions and adequate clarifications. Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, the Rector of OTC, proposed the vote of thanks and the programme came to an end with the singing of Oriens Anthem.



"THE FACE OF THE FACELESS" SCREENED

On 4 October 2024, a movie "The Face of the Faceless," on the life and mission of Blessed Rani Maria was screened at 5:30 pm in Oriens Auditorium. The Institute organized the programme with the help of Rev. Fr. Dr. Jose Palakeel, MST. It was attended by all the students of the institute, the teaching staff and the supporting staff. Everyone witnessed the life and struggles of the Blessed Rani Maria in that movie. The Malayalam Movie, dubbed in to English, is based on the true story of Blessed Rani Maria, FCC (Franciscan Clarist Congregation), a nun who dedicated her life to women's empowerment and was murdered on 25 February 1995. It was an inspiring movie which highlighted the power of forgiveness and the importance of standing up for the marginalized. On its successful completion a discussion was held and interaction with the producer who was present. Oriens Theological Institute expressed its gratitude to the Director for making such a Movie.



SYMPOSIUM on "Trends in Witnessing"

The Oriens Theological College organized a three-day Symposium on the theme, "Trends in Christian Witnessing," from 7 to 9 October, 2024. It was attended by Bishops, Archbishops, Superior Generals, Major Superiors, Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Students of the Institute. Archbishop Rev. Vincent Aind, from the Archdiocese of Ranchi was the Chief Guest. It was a gathering that fostered dialogue on the Church's mission and contemporary challenges. The first day began with a warm welcome extended by Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Chinliankhup, the Rector of OTC, followed by a prayer said by Rev. Fr. Matthew Chanikuzhy and Lighting of the lamp.



In his presidential address, Archbishop John Moolachira, President, NEIRBC, emphasized the significance of the creative thinking in responding to the realities of our time. In the keynote address Most Rev. Vincent Aind, the Archbishop of Ranchi, highlighted the different witnessing trends in the Church history of India and said that "today the World needs our involvement so that it can become a better place to live in."



SYMPOSIUM



The Symposium offered an enriching platform for theological reflection and engagement on the theme. Lasting for three days, the presentation by many scholars on various topics was highly educative and was appreciated by all.

ANNUAL SEMINAR, 2025 HELD

On 13 March 2025 the Institute held its Annual Seminar on the two Constitutions of Vatican II: "Sacrosanctum Concilium and Dei Verbum." The Seminar began with a prayer song sung by the Institute Choir, followed by the lighting of the lamp by all resource persons and class representatives. Br. Wimman Havi, the Vice President of the Student Council welcomed all. Br. Prince Paul, VC, introduced Rev. Dr. R. R. Graviour Augustine, the Director of the Institute, as the Moderator of the day.

After a brief introduction to the documents, the moderator invited the speakers for their presentations. The speakers were Br. Marwein Khrawboklnag, Br. Lyngdoh Fristkyson, SDS, Br. Mattel Jain and Br. Teron Michel. Each speaker presented the core ideas of the documents. The presentations were followed by informative interactions between the resource persons and the audience. The seminar came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Br. Suphai Raplang, OFM. Cap. The Seminar came to an end with the Institute Anthem.



INSTITUTE DAY, 2025 OBSERVED

Oriens Theological Institute celebrated its Institute Day on 15 May 2025 with joy and solemnity. The day began with the holy mass presided over by Rev. Dr. Kerkrtta Athnas, MSFS, the Rector of MSFS Study House and the Chief Guest of the day. Present for the occasion were Rectors from all Study Houses, Professors, and students. In his homily, Fr. Kerkrtta Athnas invited everyone to reflect and live as a missionary. Citing Gal 2:20, he said "Let Jesus live in us." He also spoke about three qualities needed to be an effective missionary: "Good Character, Spiritual and Moral integrity, and Intimate union with God and Humanity."

Other highlights of the event were: inter-class Quiz Competition, Cultural programme on the Theme of "Go and Invite," and releasing of Annual Magazine of the Institute. The day came to an end with the prize distribution to the champions of various competition followed by a fellowship meal.



ANNUAL MAGAZINE RELEASED

The "Oriens" Annual Magazine 2024-2025, was released by Rev. Dr. Athnas Kerkrtta MSFS, the Rector of MSFS Study House, during the Institute Day celebration on 15 May 2025. The Theme of the Magazine this year is "Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet." The magazine is dedicated to Rev. Fr. N. K. George this year being his 75th Birth Anniversary. It contains many articles written by students of Theology from the institute. Soon after the release, Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Chiliankhup, the Rector of OTC, expressed the gratitude to Academic President Rev. Dr. Graviour Augustine, Editorial Committee and other contributors for their active role and diligence in bringing out such a masterpiece.



FAREWELL TO THE FINAL YEAR STUDENTS
on 3rd June, 2025



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