



Newsletter

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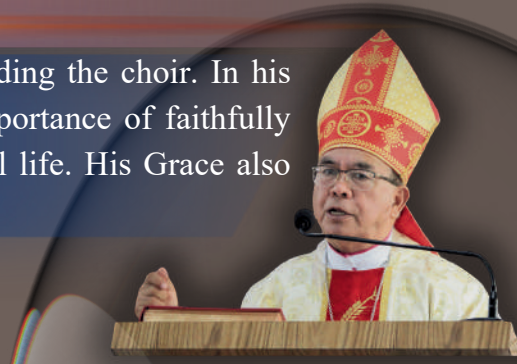
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Inauguration of the Academic Year 2025–2026

The inauguration of the Academic Year 2025–2026 was held on Friday, 1st August 2025. It was a joyful and important occasion for the whole Institute, as students and staff came together to begin the new academic year. The day began with the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by His Grace, Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Archbishop of Shillong. He was joined by the Fathers of the Oriens community, the Rectors, and other priests from different study houses, along with all the brothers.

On this occasion, the Salvatorian brothers had the special privilege of leading the choir. In his homily, His Grace offered an enlightening reflection, emphasizing the importance of faithfully nurturing one's vocation and maintaining a strong and disciplined spiritual life. His Grace also graced the inaugural function as the Chief Guest.



After the Mass, the inaugural programme was held at 8:30 a.m. Sr. Dr. Cecilia Dsouza, SSPS, gave a talk on the theme: "Towards a Greater Ecological Communion: A Critical Dialogue between Rosemary Radford Ruether and the Church's Magisterium." Her talk helped everyone understand the importance of caring for the environment from a theological point of view.



Thereafter, Dr. R. R. Graviour Augustine presented the report of the previous academic year (2024-2025). His Grace then released the newly published books, which were distributed to the Fathers. On the same occasion, Dr. Robinson Teron was announced as the new Director of the Oriens Theological Institute.



After the programme, the second- and third-year students went to their classrooms, while the first-year students remained in the auditorium to elect their class beadles and representatives for the Student Council. The day was meaningful and inspiring for everyone. It marked a good beginning of the academic year and encouraged all to study well, grow spiritually, and live in unity.

Oriens Theological College celebrates Assumption of our Lady and Independence Day.

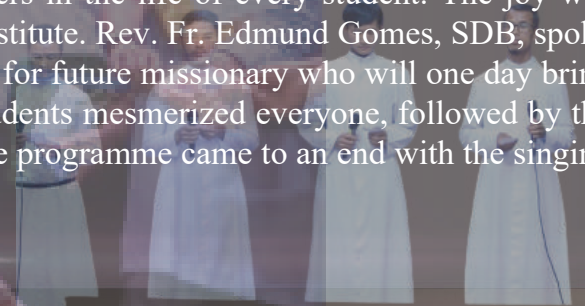
On the occasion of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Independence Day, the OTC community organized a series of spiritual and cultural events on August 15. The celebration began with the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. K.C John, followed by the flag hoisting ceremony and Independence Day program, where the first-year brothers led the patriotic songs. Fr. N.K. George attended as the Chief Guest, and Br. Prince Paul of the third year represented the students.



A football match between the freshers and the house team was held at 9:30 a.m., in which the first-year brothers emerged victorious. In the evening, a farewell for Fr. K.C. John and the Fresher's Day celebration took place at 6:30 p.m., during which Bro. Reckysius Nongkhlaw was crowned as the OTC Master Fresher for the academic year 2025-2026. The day reflected unity, joy, and a strong spirit of community.

Teacher's Day

On 4 September 2025, 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 notes 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.



Annual Lecture

Oriens Theological Institute organized an Annual Lecture on “Visualizing the Shape of the Church in North East India by 2033” on 16 October 2025 at the auditorium of the Institute at 08:30 am. The lecture was delivered by Rev. Dr. Fr. Roy Anthony Parackal, SDB, Professor of Spiritual Theology, Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong. The Moderator of the Day was Rev. Dr. Fr. Athnas Kerketta, MSFS, Professor of Canon Law, Oriens Theological Institute, Shillong.



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 Annual Lecture of 2025 was successfully conducted on 16th October, bringing together distinguished scholars, faculty members, and students for an intellectually stimulating academic session. The lecture focused on a crucial, forward-looking ecclesiastical theme centered on the growth and structural development of the Church in Northeast India. Additionally, the event served as a platform to honor academic excellence among the student body, celebrating a significant inter-institutional achievement. The lecture provided a profound, strategic vision for the next decade, leading up to the milestone year of 2033. Fr. Roy Anthony explored the pastoral, cultural, and structural dimensions of the Church's presence in the region, emphasizing adaptive strategies to meet contemporary challenges while preserving the rich, diverse heritage of the Northeast Indian Christian community.

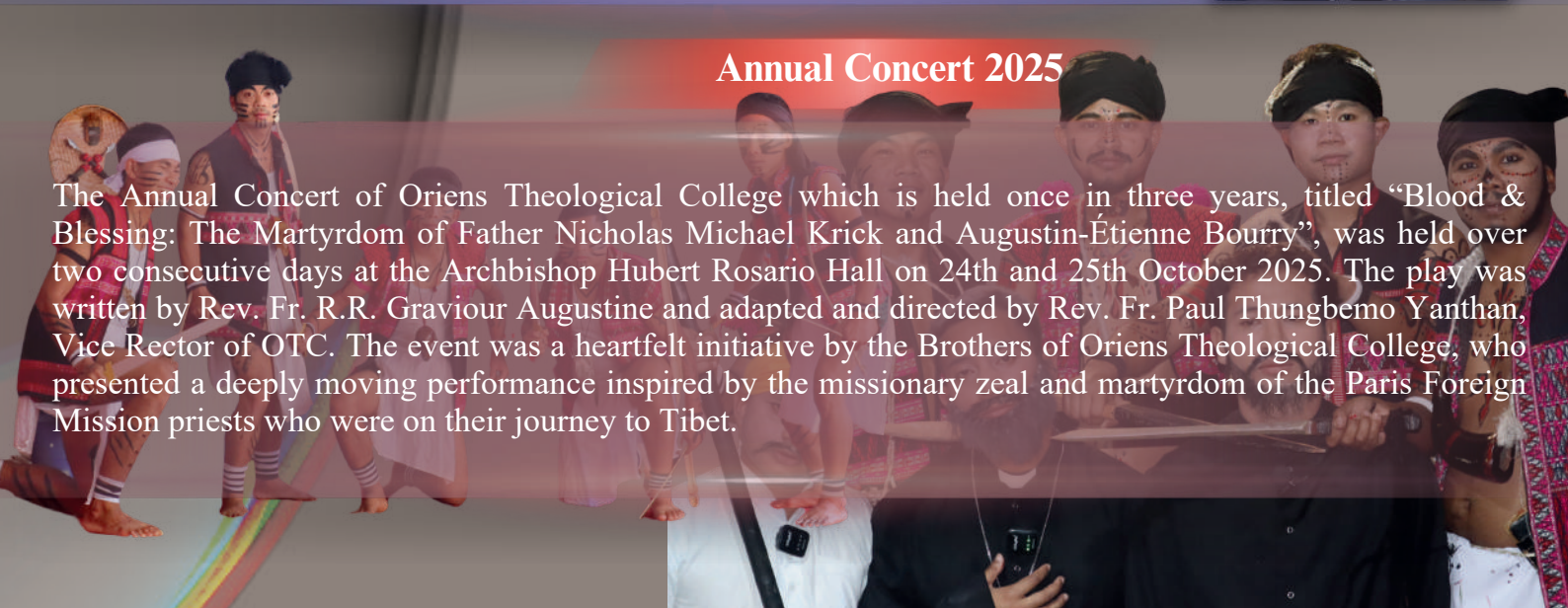
The session was expertly moderated by Rev. Dr. Fr. Athnas Kerketta MSFS. Under his guidance, the floor was opened to a dynamic question-and-answer session. Fr. Kerketta synthesized the core arguments of the lecture and facilitated an engaging dialogue between the speaker and the assembly, ensuring a deep theological and sociological exploration of the theme.

A major highlight of the event was the formal acknowledgment of outstanding student achievement. Bro. Sabenthung Benjamin Ezung, a second-year Bachelor of Theology (II Year B.Th.) student, was publicly awarded a prestigious prize. Bro. Ezung secured this recognition by winning an essay competition organized by St. Paul Seminary in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

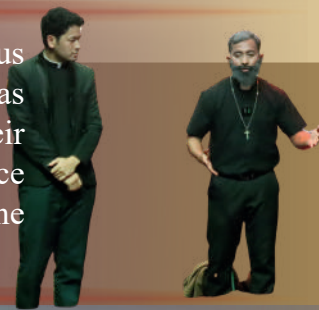


Annual Concert 2025

The Annual Concert of Oriens Theological College which is held once in three years, titled “Blood & Blessing: The Martyrdom of Father Nicholas Michael Krick and Augustin-Étienne Bourry”, was held over two consecutive days at the Archbishop Hubert Rosario Hall on 24th and 25th October 2025. The play was written by Rev. Fr. R.R. Graviour Augustine and adapted and directed by Rev. Fr. Paul Thungbemo Yanthan, Vice Rector of OTC. The event was a heartfelt initiative by the Brothers of Oriens Theological College, who presented a deeply moving performance inspired by the missionary zeal and martyrdom of the Paris Foreign Mission priests who were on their journey to Tibet.



The first day was dedicated exclusively to priests and religious personnel from various congregations and study houses. The atmosphere was one of reverence and fraternity, as the viewers reflected on the heroic witness of Fr. Krick and Fr. Bourry, who gave their lives for the Gospel in 1854 on their journey to Tibet. The brothers' performance valiantly portrayed the missionaries' courage, faith and sacrifice, with the call of the NEIRBC to proclaim the Gospel in preparation for the Great Jubilee Year 2033.



The second day faithful from different oratory centres, who filled the hall with enthusiasm and eagerness. Through expressive acting and music, the brothers conveyed the message that "the blood of martyrs is indeed the seed of the Church." The audience were visibly moved by the depiction of missionary hardship and divine grace.

The event concluded with heartfelt applause and gratitude to the organizers, performers and all participants who made "Blood & Blessing" a memorable and grace-filled experience.



Annual Seminar

OTI Hosts Inspiring Annual Seminar on "Vision 2033"

The Oriental Theological Institute (OTI) community recently gathered for Annual Seminar, embarking on a deep theological and pastoral exploration of the decade ahead. Centered around the evocative theme, "Vision 2033: Collaborative Mission of Love, Growth, and Hope," the event brought together faculty, students, and distinguished guests to discern the church's collective path forward.

The seminar benefited from the guidance of seasoned leaders who framed the day's discussions with academic rigor and pastoral wisdom:

Fr. Kallidical Matthew, OFM Cap. served as the Moderator for the event. With his characteristic skill, he seamlessly guided the sessions, synthesized complex theological points, and fostered an engaging environment for open discussion.

Fr. Kuriakose Poovathumkudy, the main Resource Speaker, delivered a powerful keynote address. He challenged the assembly to look forward to the milestone year of 2033 with a proactive, unified missionary spirit, setting a high standard for the day's deliberations.



A defining feature of this year's seminar was the exceptional contribution of OTI's own scholars. Representatives from both the second and third-year batches took the podium to present thought-provoking papers, breathing fresh perspective into the theme: From the II Year Batch - Bro. Ovingthung James Ezung, Bro. Lyngdoh Shanborlang, From the III Year Batch - Bro. Tirkey Suleman, Bro. Pani Tapon.

The presenters beautifully unpacked how a collaborative mission can be practically lived out. Their insights focused on fostering deep bonds of 'love' within communities, driving spiritual and structural 'growth', and anchoring modern ministry in resilient Christian 'hope'.

OTI Annual Seminar was more than just an academic exercise; it was a spiritual catalyst. By bridging the wisdom of experienced theologians with the energetic research of the student brothers, the event left the entire community with a renewed sense of purpose and a shared blueprint for the journey toward 2033.

Institute Day



The institute vibrantly celebrated its annual Institute Day, centered around the inspiring theme, "Called to continue the Mission of Jesus." The three-day event was a beautiful blend of spiritual reflection, sportsmanship, and creative talents.

On the Day 1st inaugural ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest, Fr. K.D. Joy. Following a solemn opening prayer, the lighting of the lamp, and the college anthem, the campus came alive with a spirited March Past, a special dance performance, and an inspiring address by the Chief Guest.

The day kicked off with an energetic Basketball Match between the II Year and III Year students. In the evening events the focus shifted to literary and musical talents with closely contested competitions in 'Declamation, Group Extempore, and Duet Singing'.

The second day shifted gears into high-energy sports and stunning stage performances. The morning saw intense athletic rivalry, featuring a 'Football Match' (I Years vs. III Years) followed by the thrilling 'Volleyball Finals' (II Years vs. I Years). In the evening the students took to the stage to showcase their creativity through dramatic 'Tableaux, Solo Dance performances, and a vibrant Cosplay competition'. The final day began on a spiritual note with a "Holy Mass" celebrated by Fr. Peter Nengnong, Rector of the Salvatorian Study House (SDS). This was followed by the official release of the Institute Magazine 2026 and a memorable group photo session.



The action then moved to the Hubert D’Rosario Hall for the cultural finale: Debate: A thought-provoking debate on the motion, "Artificial intelligence will help the church more than it will harm it."

Culture: The audience was treated to harmonious Choir competitions and dazzling, dance Competitions.

The grand celebration concluded with a felicitation ceremony and a gracious Vote of Thanks delivered by Bro. Martin Horo, leaving everyone inspired to continue their mission with renewed zeal.



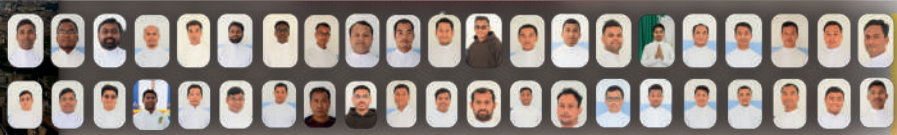
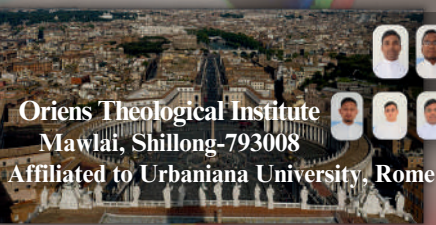
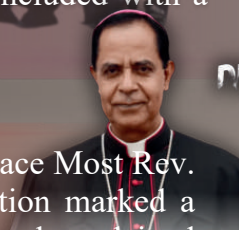
Farewell program

On Wednesday, June 3, 2026, a heartfelt Farewell Programme was held at Hubert D’Rosario Hall to honor and express gratitude to the beloved outgoing brothers. The community gathered at 12:00 PM to thank God for the dedication, friendship, and contributions of the departures, and to pray for their upcoming missions.

The event was masterfully guided by the Master of Ceremonies, Bro. Thubru Sakheus. Bro. Marak Paul led the community in an opening prayer, followed by a warm Welcome Speech delivered by Bro. Horo Martin. The First Year Brothers dedicated a moving Farewell Song to their seniors. This was followed by a poignant Farewell Address by Bro. Kujur Sumit and an inspiring speech by Bro. Wanniang Ioannis. The atmosphere was uplifted by a lively dance performance from Bro. Jose & Co. The memorable event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks expressed by Bro. Klein Vincent.

Diaconate Ordination

On 17 June 2026, forty-three brothers were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons by His Grace Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, in a solemn Eucharistic celebration. The ordination marked a significant milestone in their journey of formation and commitment to the Church. The newly ordained deacons were entrusted with the ministry of service, proclaiming the Gospel, and assisting in the pastoral mission of the Church. The occasion was a moment of joy, thanksgiving, and prayer for the ordinands as they begin their diaconal ministry.



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