

**HISTORY OF
HOLY CROSS NOVITIATE IN
BENGAL**

**By: Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC
Fr. Vincent Bimal Rozario, CSC**

AND

**HOLY CROSS ORIENTAL INSTITUTE:
PASTORAL AND RETREAT CENTER**

By: Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC

SAGARDI, BARISHAL, BANGLADESH



**CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS
SACRED HEART OF JESUS PROVINCE**

2026

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: Rev. Fr. Vincent Bimal Rozario, CSC

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(1951-2026)
Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC.**

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PRESENTATION: Fr. George K. Rozario, CSC,
Provincial Superior,
Sacred Heart of Jesus Province

It is with profound joy and gratitude to Divine Providence that I write this message on the occasion of the publication of *“History of Holy Cross Oriental Institute: Pastoral and Retreat Center, Sagardi, Barisal”* authored by His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’ Rozario, CSC and *“History of Holy Cross Novitiate in Bengal”* authored by His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’ Rozario, CSC, and Rev. Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC.



These books are a significant contribution to the documentation of our Holy Cross presence and mission in the southern part of Bangladesh, especially in Sagardi, Barisal, a place deeply rooted in the spiritual, pastoral, and formative life of our Congregation for more than seven decades.

The history of the Holy Cross Oriental Institute is not merely a chronicle of land, buildings, or institutions. It is the living story of faith, dedication, and missionary vision that has shaped generations of Holy Cross religious, diocesan priests, and faithful. From the early years of the Sacred Heart Scholasticate and the Holy Cross Novitiate to the establishment of the Oriental Institute as a Pastoral and Retreat Center, the Sagardi mission has remained a cradle of formation, reflection, and service to the Church. This work carefully traces the gradual evolution of the Holy Cross presence in Barisal—its ecclesiastical roots, missionary beginnings, and the transformation of the Sagardi property into a center of spiritual renewal. It pays tribute to the many pioneer bishops, priests, brothers, and lay collaborators who sowed the seeds of faith with vision and perseverance.

The Novitiate has always been the cradle of religious life in the Congregation of Holy Cross, the place where the foundations of vocation are formed through prayer, community, and discernment. It is here that countless young men have heard the call to “make God known, loved, and served,” embracing the charism of our founder, Blessed Basil Anthony Mary Moreau, CSC.

In reading this history, one cannot help but be inspired by the foresight of our early missionaries and the steadfast faith of our local pioneers who nurtured vocations in times of both grace and trial. The narrative of our Novitiate, from its beginnings amid the simplicity of Gournadi and Noakhali to its later growth in Sagardi, reveals a living continuity of God’s grace at work within Holy Cross and within the Church in Bangladesh.

I sincerely thank Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC, and Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC, for their painstaking research, historical insight, and personal witness, which have given this work depth and authenticity. Their effort ensures that future generations may remember with gratitude the sacrifices and achievements that have shaped our Holy Cross identity in this region.

May these publications deepen our appreciation for the sacred legacy of the Holy Cross Novitiate in Bengal and renew our commitment to nurturing vocations rooted in the spirit of unity, simplicity, and holiness that characterize our Congregation.

May Blessed Basil Moreau intercede for us as we continue to form “men with hope to bring” for the Church and the world.



Fr. George K. Rozario, CSC
Provincial Superior
Sacred Heart of Jesus Province
Bangladesh

FOREWORD : Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC

The book that I am writing a FOREWORD to, is entitled: “HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS”. This title serves as common backdrop of Histories of two Institutions of Holy Cross in Sagardi, Barisal, Bangladesh: (I) History of Holy Cross Novitiate in Bengal, and (II) History of Holy Cross Oriental Institute: Pastoral and Retreat Centre.

Very hesitantly I am using the word “history”, because in the book the description and analysis of the cultural, religious and social environment as context of historical reflection, is absent, if not totally, but to a great extent. “History” here refers mainly to the collection of historical information and data in different periods of gradual evolution of these two Institutions.

The Platinum Jubilee of the Oriental Institute: Pastoral and Retreat Center, Sagardi, will be celebrated in the beginning of 2026. This coming event motivated me to write a brief history of the place, beginning with the presence of Holy Cross Fathers of Chittagong Vicariate in Sagardi, Barisal and establishing the Sacred Heart Scholasticate in 1951. At that time Oriental Institute was non-existent as it was born only in 1960. Within the same period another historical and very important institution namely, the Holy Cross Novitiate was transferred from Noakhali to Barisal in 1957 and thereon started sharing a common history for the last 68 years in Sagardi. Hence the present book deals with the history of both Holy Cross Novitiate and Holy Cross Oriental Institute.

History of Holy Cross Novitiate is written jointly by Fr. Vincent Amal Rozario, the present Novice Master, Sagardi, Barisal and me. Fr. Vincent supplied all the information about the novices year by year who did their Novitiate in Sagardi, about the physical set-up of the Novitiate along with pictures and formation guidelines. Thanks to Fr. Vincent my competent collaborator.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Placid Prashanto Rozario, CSC, Director of Oriental Institute and Fr. Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC

providing me with the information they had regarding the Oriental Institute and the Pastoral and Retreat Center.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to Rev. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, the Provincial of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, for encouraging us for writing the history and for taking the responsibility of publishing the book on behalf of the Province.

Grateful acknowledgement also goes to Fr. Adam Pereira, CSC and Bro. Ripon Gomes, CSC who were very kind to read the manuscripts and making some corrections where needed. I am also grateful to Fr. Swapon Das, CSC. for taking the responsibility on behalf of the Province to supervise the publication and printing work.

In these few pages of the book, first of all we tried to look at the Holy Cross personnel who were missionaries, we tried to record of what happened, who caused to happen, why it happened, and how it has shaped the present and future.

History of Holy Cross in the campus of Sagardi, Barisal, enacted and evolved in and around the Holy Cross Sacred Heart Scholasticate, Holy Cross Novitiate, Oriental Institute, Pastoral and Retreat Center for the last 75 years, is not just about the past – it is a guide for present reflection and evaluation and a foundation for future orientation.

PART ONE: HISTORY OF
HOLY CROSS NOVITIATE IN BENGAL

Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC
Fr. Vincent Bimal Rozario, CSC



Introduction

The history of Holy Cross Novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Bengal is a story of faith, formation, and fidelity that spans close to one and half century. Over the past 135 years, to be exact, Holy Cross Novitiate has served as initiator to and the spiritual heart of Holy Cross life in Bengal — a place where Missionaries from abroad have sown the seed of the Gospel and engaged in building Local Church since the arrival of Holy Cross to Bengal in 1853.

The call of Jesus: “Come and Follow me” was extended to the young men, who responding to the invitation entered the Novitiate, listened to God’s call, deepened their vocation, and dedicated themselves to a life of service in the footsteps of Christ Jesus. From its humble beginnings amid the challenges of missionary life to its flourishing growth at present times, the novitiate has formed, close to five hundred Holy Cross Candidates (a big number left later), each carrying forward the vision and spirit of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, founder of the Congregation.

The purpose of this history is not merely to recall dates and events, but to remember the journey of grace that has shaped generations of Holy Cross Religious in Bengal. It is a journey marked by perseverance in faith, love for community, and a deep commitment to education, evangelization, human development, pastoral and spiritual care. Within the solitary atmosphere of life in the Novitiate for a year or so, men who entered, have been transformed by prayer, study, and fraternity — preparing to serve God’s people in educational institutions, parishes, and in centers where vulnerable people reside and in many mission stations across Bangladesh, India, and beyond.

This account seeks to trace the development of Holy Cross Novitiate from its earliest roots in Bengal to the present day: its plantations, growth, relocations, and renewal through various historical epochs. Through it all, the novitiate has remained a beacon of formation, guiding each generation to live the motto of Holy Cross: “*Ave Crux, Spes Unica*” — Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope.

As we look back with gratitude, this history stands as a tribute to all who have served and been formed here — the novice masters, superiors, and especially the novices whose faith and generosity have built the living legacy of Holy Cross in Bengal. May this remembrance inspire future generations to carry forward the same spirit of dedication and holiness that has sustained the Congregation through the years.

I. PROVISIONAL NOVITIATE: PERMISSION AND RENEWAL (1890-1942)

The Superior General of the Holy Cross Congregation, Very Rev. Fr. Edward Sorin, CSC (Prot. 1745) asked permission of Pope Leo XIII to open Novitiate in Bengal for formation of future candidates of Holy Cross Fathers and Brothers. It was approved on 20th April 1890. No location was fixed for the Novitiate. Since it is Provisional, Permission was renewed every five years (Examples: on January 31, 1918 and 1923), each time after the request was made to Rome.¹

Individual candidates desired to join the Religious life in Holy Cross. Here are some individuals who received Religious Habit and made novitiate in different places according to the decision of the Local Religious Superiors.²

Bro. Eugene Lefevre, Born on 7/9/1873, Dhaka, first Holy Cross Religious from Bengal, made his Novitiae under Fr. LaFond, CSC, Gournadi in 25/04/1889, First Prof. on June 3, 1900 at Dhaka, worked in St. Gregory, Dacca.³

On 14th June, 1904, (Prot. 61208) His Lordship Bishop Peter Joseph Hurth, CSC, President, approved the petitions of two Postulants, **Magnus Frank** and **Augustine Rebeiro**, to enter into Novitiate. They were later called after Profession Brother Paul and Bro. Thomas respectively.

Prot. 1745.

Vrès Saint Père.

Edouard Lorin Supérieur Général de la Congrégation de S^{te} Croix et Michel Ph. Fallize prêtre de la même Congrégation et Administrateur apostolique du diocèse de Dacca, Bengal prosternés aux pieds de Votre Sainteté humblement La supplient d'autoriser l'érection canonique d'un noviciat commun pour les pères et les frères de la dite Congrégation dans le diocèse de Dacca au Bengal.

Ex Audientia S^{mi} habita die 20^o Aprilis 1890.

In Ius Dominus Noster Leo Divina Providentia P. P. XIII, referente me infrascripto Archiepiscopo Syren., S. Congreg. de Propaganda Fide Secretarius, benigne adnuere dignatus est pro gratia facultatis erigendi praefatum Novitiatum, dummodo ea omnia habeantur quae ad huiusmodi Novitiatum erigendum requiruntur, servatique de jure servandis praesertim quae

prae-

prescribuntur in Constitutione Leonis P.P. XIII,
quae incipit - Romanos Pontifices."

Satum Romae ex aedibus dictae s. Con-
gruis die et anno ut supra.

Nro Secretario
Donato Stretti Off.

Grato quovunque tibi

7. Adolphe Francais, C.S.C., appointed Director of the Institute by His Lordship, the Right Rev. P. J. Hurth, Bishop of Dacca, have this nineteenth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seven, received into the Institute Messrs. Magnus Frank and Augustus Rebeiro.

The investiture with the Holy Habit took place immediately before the High Mass celebrated in the Church of "Our Lady of the most Holy Rosary" Chittagong, all the ceremonies as indicated in the Directory of C.S.C. for the "conferring of the Holy Habit on the Josephites", being duly observed.

Hereafter Mr. Magnus Frank will be called Brother Paul, and Mr. Augustus Rebeiro, Brother Thomas.

Feast of St. Joseph.

Chittagong.

March 19th 1907. A. Francais csg

Witnesses

present:

J. J. Tiefferese
Bro. Joseph. C.S.C.

Fr. Louis Lazarus, CSC, born in Germany, entered Novitiate in Chittagong on 7.03.1904, ordained priest on December 21, 1910. He was assigned in Chittagong Diocese after 1927 and died in 1959.⁴

Bro. Joseph Rodrigues, born in 1885, Chittagong, First Prof. in 1906, died in 1979. Other details are not known.

Fr. Adolph Francis, CSC, was appointed Director of the Novitiate by His Lordship Bishop Hurth of Dacca (13th March, 1907). Fr. Adolph Francis was the first official Novice Master (Director) in Bengal.

Fr. Peter Althohofen, CSC, born in Germany in 1888, arrived in with Fr. Timothy Crowley in 1906, Novitiate 8/12/1907 at Chittagong, First Prof. on 20/12/1908, ordained Priest on December 21, 1910 together with Fr. Louis Lazarus, CSC.⁵

Fr. Augustine Mascarenhas, CSC, born in Akyab in 1890, entered Novitiate on 24th June, 1908 in Chittagong, training in Tumilia but left Holy Cross, Ordained Priest on May 15, 1919, and re-joined after taking Profession in Bandura in 11th February 1925 and then assigned in Chittagong. (Prot. 64568)⁶

Bro. Benedict Sidney Dench, Calcutta, joined Holy Cross in Jan. 20, 1912, Final Prof. 18 Aug. 1921, assigned in Chittagong Diocese, died in Chittagong, 1962.⁷

A Preparatory Seminary started in Tumilia with the approval of the General Chapter of 1920 with Fr. Christopher Brooks, CSC as Director, and later it was moved to Bandura Apostolic Boarding.

In 1923, Fr. Delaunay, CSC, the Director of the Apostolic School in Bandura was serving as Novice Master. The Novices were staying in a separate house in the Little Flower Seminary following special Program.⁸

Nicholas Rodrigues, Born on 24th 1896, Golla, Novitiate February 27th 1918, left in April 1926.⁹

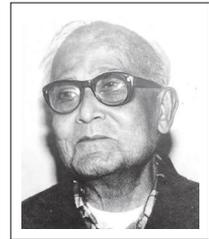
Fr. Peter D'Rozario, CSC. Golla, Born on 28.8.1890; Novitiate: 5.3.1918, First Prof. on 5.3.1919, Toomilia, Final Prof. 21.5.1925;

studied in Ranchi, Ordination to Priesthood on 10.4.1927, Dhaka, by Bp. Legrand, CSC.; Died 7.10.1935 and buried Calcutta.¹⁰

Fr. Anthony Gomes, Born on 6/9/1900) Golla, entered Novitiate in Tumilia 19.3.1918, left on 11th March 1925 and was ordained Diocesan Priest on 10th April 1927, made Novitiate at Gournadi, not accepted by the General Councilors for Final Profession, but served as Diocesan Priest in Dhaka till his death in 1941.¹¹

Bernard Gomes, Born in Padrishibpur on 15th June, 1896, made Novitiate on 19th March, 1918 and quited in Nov. 1918.¹²

Bro. Aloysius Salgado (Coadjutor): Chittagong, Born: 5.10.1902, Entry on 28.4.1918 at St. Gilbert's Novitiate, Toomilia, Dhaka. First Prof. 28.4.1919 in Toomilia. The Novice Master was Fr. Omer Desrocher, CSC. Final Prof. 15.8.1925 Dacca Cathedral, Died 19.12.1989 Moreau House, Dhaka.¹³



Fr. Dominic Ignatius D'Rozario, CSC, Nayansree, Hashnabad, Born: 25.8.1899, Novitiate (1922-1923) in Toomilia and Bandura, May 1923, First Prof. May 1924; Final Prof. June 1927 in Washington DC. Ordination 24.6.1928, at NDC, Indiana; assigned in Bengal, died in Dhaka in 1977.¹⁴

It is a matter of great surprise to discover that from so early in 1890, the Holy Cross Congregation was already aware of the need of recruiting local vocations from the soil of Bengal, although not very much formal way. However, the need was felt and prophetic decision was taken to accept individual candidates to Local Holy Cross in Bengal. Accordingly, individual Priests were assigned for Novitiate formation, although it was not located for longer period in a particular place. It was kind of recognition of the fact that because of Bengal Mission, Holy Cross Congregation was approved by the Holy See. The seeds of recruitment were already sown awaiting final decision to open Novitiate in a fixed location for formation of the future Holy Cross Priests and Brothers.

II. OUR LADY OF HOLY CROSS NOVITIATE, NOAKHALI (1942-1957)

The Holy Cross Fathers of the Priests Society in Chittagong Vicariate, after consultation with other two Vicariates of the Fathers and Brothers of Holy Cross in East Bengal took a prophetic decision to formally recruit local vocations and to establish Holy Cross Novitiate with fixed location for formation in Holy Cross Congregation. The initiative was encouraged and was duly endorsed by the Superior General of the Congregation and of the Provincial Administration of the French Canadian Province. It was called the Novitiate of Our Lady of Holy Cross.

The Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers started Holy Cross Novitiate in Noakhali in 1942 with Fr. Harold Breen, CSC as Novice Master.¹⁵

In January 1947, Very Rev. Albert Cousineau, CSC, the Superior General of the Holy Cross Congregation, appointed Fr. Philippe Payent, CSC, as Novice Master and instructed that he will be directly under the authority of the Religious Superior of the Priests Society in Chittagong.¹⁶

In 1947 January, by a Letter of Rev. Fr. Albert Cousineau, CSC. Superior General, instructed that the Novice Master will be directly under the Religious Superior, presently Fr. Raymond Larose, CSC and not any other Priests or Brothers. He directed that separate area should be arranged for Novitiate and a Bamboo House should be constructed. Other apostolates like Dispensary or School should be transferred to other places for proper atmosphere. For the matters of the parish, the authority should be the Parish Priest.¹⁷

In 1948 there were already five novices and more were expecting. Fr. Cousineau writes: “every local vocation is a special blessing in our missions and our Congregation.” (June 1948)

List of Novices from Noakhali Novitiate¹⁸

1. Thomas Monoranjan Baroi, (Brother Michael)
Novitiate 15/08/1943;
2. Simon Boidya, (Brother Dominic) Novitiate 15/08/1943:
3. Jarlath Januarius D'Souza, (Brother) Birth 1930; Novitiate
15/08/1947: First Prof. 1948, Final Prof. on 02/02/1953.
4. Maurice D'Cruze, (Cleric) Birth 6/4/1929; Novitiate 1948,
First Prof. 1949; (1948-2003)
5. Lawrence Gomes, (Coadjutor Brother),
Novitiate 02/02/1949; First Prof. on 24/02/1950.
6. Mark Archibald Nelson (Cleric), Birth 7/1/30;
Novitiate 02/02/1950 and First Prof. 15/08/1951
7. Paul Gonsalves, Novitiate 02/02/1950
8. David Walker (Coadjutor Brother) Novitiate 14/06/1950.
9. Wilfred Nelson (cleric), Birth 21/5/1932;
Novitiate 01/11/1950; First Prof. 13/04/1952
10. George Gomes (Coadjutor Brother), Novitiate 01/11/1950;
First Prof. 13/04/1952



GEORGE GOMES with his family.

11. Rupert Mendez (Coadjutor Brother), Novitiate 01/11/1950;
First Prof. 13/04/1952
12. Sebastian Gomes (Brother) Novitiate 01/11/1950;
First Prof. 18/06/1952
13. Luke Sikdar, (Coadjutor Brother), Birth 3/9/1927;
Novitiate 1950, First Prof. 1951.
14. Robert Mendes (Brother): Birth 10/6/1931;
Novitiate 1950-1952
15. Marvyn Baptist (Brother) Novitiate 15/08/1951;
First Prof. 02/02/1953
16. Albert Desmond Dias (Cleric) Novitiate 15/08/1951;
First Prof. 02/02/1953
17. Patrick Ruram (Brother), Novitiate 02/02/1952;
First Prof. 13/05/1953.
18. Joachim Rozario (Cleric) Novitiate 15/08/1952;
First Prof. 16/08/1953; S.H. Scholasticate 1953-1956.
19. Benedict Toju (Brother) Novitiate 15/08/1952;
First Prof. 16/08/1953
20. Lawrence Dias (Brother), Birth 1932; Novitiate 15/08/1952;
First Prof. 03/02/1954
21. John Rozario (Brother), Novitiate 02/02/1953;
First Prof. 03/02/1954
22. Anselm Carl Bowers, (Coadjutor Brother),
Novitiate 15/08/1953
23. Daniel Rozario, (Brother), Novitiate 02/02/1954;
First Prof. 03/02/1955
24. Bernard Rozario (Coadjutor Brother),
Novitiate on 02/02/1954; First Prof. 02/08/1955
25. Basil Lawrence Dias (Coadjutor Brother),
Novitiate 02/02/1954; First Prof. 02/08/1955
26. Betram Alexander Nelson (Cleric) Novitiate 13/06/1953;
First Prof. 14/06/1954

27. James Gomes (Coadjutor Brother) Novitiate 02/02/1955
28. Leonard Gomes (Coadjutor Brother) Novitiate 02/02/1955;
First Prof. 15/08/1856
29. Mathew Vadakedam (Cleric, India) Novitiate 15/08/1956;
First Prof. 16/08/1957
30. Hiralal Mondol, Novitiate 15/08/1956;
First Prof. 16/08/1957
31. Varghese Kozhikadam (Cleric, India) Novitiate 15/08/1956;
First Prof. 16/08/1957
32. Anthony Kulangara (cleric, India) Novitiate 15/08/1956
33. Abraham Chamaramppallil (India, Cleric)
Novitiate 15/08/1956; First Prof. 16/08/1957
34. Clement Tete, (India cleric) Novitiate 15/08/1956
35. Mathew P. Kanathukattu (Cleric, India)
Novitiate 13/05/1957; First Prof. 16/08/1957
36. Mathew Ezhanikat (Cleric, India) Novitiate 13/05/1957;
First Prof. 16/08/1957

The old Novitiate in Pingodhi, Noakhali was eroded to the Meghna river. New place was given by District Magistrate for Bro. Andre's School in Noakhali (the present compound) in 1954. Three *kanis* of land given in 1955 at Sonapur. Within that premise at the bank of a pond, the new Novitiate was erected.

Fr. Lapiere, CSC. Religious Superior of the Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers called a meeting on 6-7 September in 1954 on Orientation of the House of formation. Fr. Payent was asked to conduct the session.

Noakhali Novice Masters:

- Fr. Harold Breen, CSC. (1942-1946)
- Fr. Philippe Payent, CSC. (1947-1957)
- Fr. L. M. Lecavalier, CSC. (1955)
- Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC., (Assistant to Fr. Payent 1956-1957;
and then Novice Master from 1957-1959)



Lawrence Dias, Fr. Philippe Payent, John Rozario



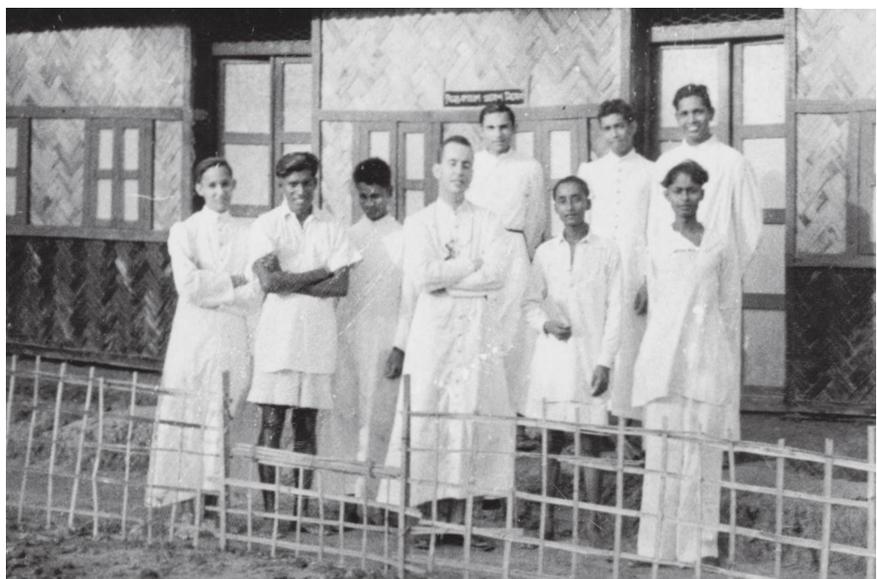
Bernard, Fr. Philippe Payent, CSC, Daniel Rosario & John Rozario



Noakhali - Old Parish Church in 1940s -1950s



Noakhali Novitiate House in 1950s



Noakhali - Novices & Novice Master, Fr. Payent in 1950s



Noakhali- Novices in 1950s



Novitiate in Noakhali -Novices in 1950s

III. LIST OF THE NOVICES WHO MADE NOVITIATE ABROAD

Archbishop T. A. Ganguly, CSC. Novitiate 1951, USA;
First Prof. 16.08.1952

Bishop Michael D'Rozario, CSC. Novitiate 1954, USA;
First Prof. 16.08.1955

Fr. Stephen Gomes, CSC. Novitiate 1962-1963, USA;
First Prof. 16.08.1963

Fr. Benjamin Costa, CSC. Novitiate 1965, USA;
First Prof. 16.06.1966

IV. NOVITIATE AT THE SACRED HEART SCHOLASTICATE, SAGARDI (1957-1964)

The Provincial Superior Fr. Germain M. Lalande, transferred Novitiate from Noakhali to Sagardi Barisal at the Sacred Heart Scholasticate and appointed Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC, as Novice Master on 17th January, 1957. The Provincial was present at this time because of his canonical visit.

**1959-1960: Novitiate at the Sacred Heart Scholasticate,
Sagardi, Barisal**

Novice Master: Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC.

1. Leo Halder (Cleric), Novitiate 13/06/1959;
First Prof. 14/06/1960
2. Sylvester Rozario (Brother) Novitiate 13/06/1959;
First Prof. 14/06/1960
3. Joseph Modhu (Brother) Novitiate 13/06/1959;
First Prof. 14/06/1960
4. Bernard Gomes (Brother) Novitiate 13/06/1959;
First Prof. 14/06/1960

**1961-1962: Novitiate at the North of SHS in one-story building
and Tin-Shed, Sagardi,**

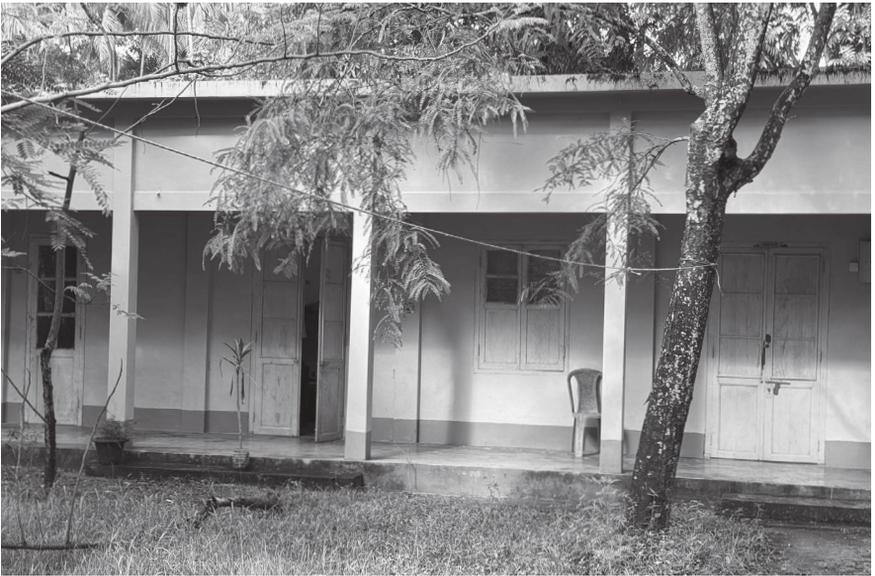
Novice Master: Fr. Guy Breault, CSC.



Novitiate Chapel at Sacred Heart Scholasticate 1961-1963



Novitiate Dormitory at Sacred Heart Scholasticate 1961-1963



Novitiate Recreation, Dinning & Study Rooms (3) at SHS. 1961-1963

1. Lazarus Gomes: Novitiate 13.6.1961; First Prof. 14.6.1962; Ordained in Dec. 1972 and left the priesthood in 1974.
2. Patrick D’Rozario: Novitiate 13.6.1961; First Prof. 14.6.1962
3. Michael Atul Gomes: (Golla, Dhaka) Novitiate 13.6.1961; First Prof. 14.6.1962; Later he left.
4. Benedict Anil Das: Novitiate 06.08.1961; First Prof. 07.8.1962; later he left.
5. Manuel Rodrigues (Goan, Rome): Novitiate 13.09.1962; First Prof.14.09.1963; he left and joined the Diocese of Montreal as Diocesan Priest.

1962-1963: Novitiate at the North of SHS in one-story building and Tin-Shed, Sagardi,

Novice Master: Fr. Yvon Joly, CSC.

1. Oswald D’Rozario: Novitiate 13.6.1962; First Prof. 14.6.1963, Later he left.
2. George Rozario: Novitiate 13.6.1962; First Prof. 14.6.1963, Later he left.
3. Dominic Mree : Novitiate 13.6.1962; First Prof. 14.6.1963, Later he left.
4. Frederick Kalobashi Das: Novitiate 13.6.1962; (did not make first profession) Later he left.
5. Francis Biswas: Novitiate 13.6.1962; First Prof. 14.6.1963, later he left.

1965-1966: Holy Cross Novitiate at Mid-Bungalows, Sagardi.

Novice Master: Fr. Yvon Joly, CSC

Number of Novice: 2

Novice from Chittagong District of Priests’ Society

1. Fr. Theotonijs Gomes (ord. 19.12.1964), Novitiate 15/08/1965; First Prof. 2.9.1966.
2. Bartholomew Shaha: Novitiate June 13/06/1965; First Prof. 14/06/1966

1967-1970: Novitiate remained closed



Novitiate in Mid-Bungalow (1964-1971)



Novitiate in Mid-Bungalow. 3rd Bungalow - Dining & Study Room was demolished in 2017

1971-1972: Holy Cross Novitiate at Mid-Bungalows, Sagardi.

Novice Master: Fr. Laurence M. Lecvalier, CSC

Number of Novices: 13

A. Novices from Dhaka District of Priests' Society (5)

1. Aloysius Milon Khan: Novitiate 05/09/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972
2. Shushil Raphael Rozario Novitiate 05/09/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972
3. Augustine Jyoti Serrao: Novitiate 05/09/1971;
(did not make first vows)
4. Francis Parimal Pereira: Novitiate 05/09/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972
5. Louis Samar Cruze Novitiate 05/09/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972

B. Novices from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (3)

1. Benedict Rozario: Novitiate 5/9/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972
2. Solomon Gomes: Novitiate 5/9/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972
3. Francis Probodh Rozario: Novitiate 5/9/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972

C. Novices from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society (2)

1. Stephen Roy: Novitiate 5/9/1971; First Prof. 22/08/1972
2. Cyprian D' Costa: Novitiate 5/9/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972

D. Novices from Chittagong District of Priests' Society (3)

1. Gordon Dias: Novitiate 5/9/1971 First Prof. 22/08/1972
2. Sylvester Ratno: Novitiate 5/9/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972
3. Constant Bhanu Gomes: Novitiate 5/9/1971;
First Prof. 22/08/1972

1973-1976: Novitiate was closed

V. HOLY CROSS NOVITIATE (FORMER LHC NOVITIATE): 1977-2016

In 1964, the Diocese of Chittagong bought a piece of land from the Holy Cross Fathers, to build Novitiate for the Little Handmaids of the Church. In 1971 when Pakistan Army made their Army Camp in WADA at the time of Liberation War, the LHC Novices had to evacuate the Novitiate for security reason. LHC Novitiate never came back to this place. Land was given back to the Holy Cross Fathers. Holy Cross Fathers, after a gap of few years, re-started their Novitiate in the same compound with Fr. George Laprade, CSC as the Novice Master.



Holy Cross Novitiate



Holy Cross Novitiate



**Novitiate Area before 2017. All the structures
have been demolished in 2016**

1977-1978: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George Laprade, CSC

Number of Novices: 10

A. Novices from Dhaka District of Priests' Society (7)

1. Adam S. Pereira: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
2. Moses M. Costa: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
3. Alfred Gomes: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
4. Joseph Dawa: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
5. Benedict Mangsang: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
6. Boniface S. Toletino: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
7. Victor Sonjoy Pandey: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978

B. Novices from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (2)

1. Bijoy H. Rodrigues: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978
2. Binoy S. Gomes: Novitiate 17/01/1977
First Prof. 20/01/1978

C. Novices from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society (1)

1. Joseph Gerald D'Rozario: Novitiate 17/01/1977;
First Prof. 20/01/1978

1977-1978: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novices: 9

Novices from Dhaka District of Priests' Society (9)

1. Atul Michael Palma: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
2. Benjamin Rodrigues: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
3. Kamal Nicholas Costa: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
4. Paul Costa: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
5. John Baptist Rozario: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
6. Swapan Felix Corraya: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
7. Subrato Edward Gomes: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
8. Jerome Rozario: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978
9. Robi Hubert Gomes: Novitiate 16/07/1977
First Prof. 16/07/1978

1978-1979: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novices: 6

A. Novices from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (3)

1. Daniel Dilip D'Costa: Novitiate: July 19/07/1978
2. Sushil Benjamin Costa: Novitiate: July 19/07/1978
3. Paul Gomes: Novitiate: July 19/07/1978;
First Prof. 7/10/1979

B. Novices from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society (3)

1. Ethelbert Penheiro: Novitiate: July 19/07/1978;
First Prof: 21/11/1979
2. Sylvester Mridha: Novitiate: July 19/07/1978;
First Prof. 7/10/1979
3. Anthony Gomes: Novitiate: July 19/07/1978;
First Prof: 21/11/1979

1979-1980: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novices: 6

A. Novices from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (5)

1. Bikash V. D'Rozario: Novitiate 15/09/1979;
First Prof. 14/09/1980
2. Arjun Theophil Gomes: Novitiate 15/09/1979;
3. Joseph Gomes: Novitiate 15/09/1979;
4. Subal L. Rozario: Novitiate 15/09/1979;
First Prof. 14/09/1980
5. Robi T. Purification: Novitiate 15/09/1979;
First Prof. 14/09/1980

B. Novice from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society (1)

1. Ambrose Gomes: Novitiate 15/09/1979;

1980-1981: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novice: 12

A. Novices from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (4)

1. Ranjan John Bosco D' Costa: Novitiate 16/08/1980;
First Prof. 16/08/1981
2. Prodip L. Rozario: Novitiate 16/08/1980;
First Prof. 16/08/1981
3. Patrick L. Costa: Novitiate 16/08/1980;
First Prof. 16/08/1981
4. Joachim R. Gomes: Novitiate 16/08/1980;
First Prof. 20/01/1982

B. Novices from Dhaka District of Priests' Society (6)

1. Benedict M. Costa: Novitiate 23/10/1980 and
First Prof. 27/10/1981
2. Eugene J. Anjus: Novitiate 23/10/1980 and
First Prof. 27/10/1981

3. Bakul S. Rozario: Novitiate 23/10/1980
First Prof. 27/10/1981
4. Elias Palma: Novitiate 23/10/1980
First Prof. 27/10/1981
5. Paul P. Kubi: Novitiate 23/10/1980
First Prof. 27/10/1981
6. Bimal J. Rozario: Novitiate 23/10/1980
First Prof. 27/10/1981

C. Novice from Chittagong District of Priests' Society (2)

1. Norman Rodrigues: Novitiate 23/10/1980
First Prof. 27/10/1981
2. Paul D. Sarker: Novitiate 24/11/1980
First Prof. 26/03/1981

1981-1982: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC
Number of Novices: 3

A. Novice from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (1)

1. Sushanto A. Purification: Novitiate 12/07/1981:
First Prof. 14/07/1982

B. Novice from Chittagong District of Priests' Society (1)

1. William S. Gomes: Novitiate 12/07/1981;
First Prof. 17/10/1982

C. Novice from Dhaka District of Priests' Society (1)

1. Dominic Shilpi Rozario: Novitiate 4/10/1981
First Prof. 17/10/1982

1982-1983: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Frank Quinlivan, CSC
(6 months)
Fr. Benjamin Costa, CSC
Number of Novices: 7

Novices from Dhaka District of Priests' Society

1. James Kiron Rozario: Novitiate 10/071982;
First Prof. 27/10/1983
2. Hemonto P. Rozario: Novitiate 10/10/1982;
First Prof. 27/10/1983
3. Prodip Dominic Costa: Novitiate 10/071982;
First Prof. 27/10/1983
4. Edmond Cruze: Novitiate 10/071982;
First Prof. 27/10/1983
5. Michael D. Costa: Novitiate 10/071982;
First Prof. 27/10/1983
6. Vincent D. Gomes: Novitiate 10/071982;
First Prof. 27/10/1983
7. Joachim Purification: Entrance on October 10, 1982
(did not make first vows)

1983-1984 Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Benjamin Costa, CSC

Number of Novices: 5

A. Novices from Dhaka District of Brothers' Society (2)

1. Leo J. Pereira: Novitiate 20/071983;
First Prof. 26/10/1984
2. Sonjit L. Gomes: Novitiate 20/071983;
First Prof. 26/10/1984

B. Novice from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society (1)

1. Linus D'Rozario: Novitiate 20/07/1983;
First Prof. 26/10/1984

C. Novices from Dhaka District of Priests' Society (2)

1. Alex R. Rabanal: Novitiate 24/10/1983;
First Prof. 26/10/1984
2. Dipok Hubert Gomes: Novitiate 24/10/1983;
First Prof. 26/10/1984

1984-1985: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novices: 1

Novice from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society

1. Tapan Francis Gomes: Novitiate 16/10/1984

First Prof. 1/11/1985

1985-1986: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novices: 5

A. Novice from Dhaka District of Brother's Society (1)

1. Prodip Placid Gomes: Novitiate 24/08/1985;

First Prof. 14/09/1986

B. Novice from Chittagong District of Brothers' Society (1)

1. Shyamal Moses Gomes: Novitiate 14/09/1985

(Left on April 26, 1986)

C. Novices from Bangladesh District of Holy Cross Fathers (3)

1. James Shyamal Gomes: Novitiate 15/10/1985

First Prof. 16/10/1986

2. Brian Rozario: Novitiate 15/10/1985

First Prof. 16/10/1986

3. Julius Gonsalves: Novitiate 15/10/1985;

(Left on April 20, 1986)

1986-1987: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC

Number of Novice: 1

Novice from Bangladesh District of Holy Cross Brothers

1. Canosious Bepin Palma: Entrance on January 25/01/1986

1987-1988: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Adam S. Pereira, CSC
(for 2 months)
Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC
Number of Novices: 4

A. Novices from Bangladesh District of Holy Cross Fathers (2)

1. Nicholas Baroi: Novitiate 1/08/1987
First Prof. 2/08/1988
2. Lawrence S. Howlader: Novitiate 1/08/1987
First Prof. 2/08/1988

B. Novice from Bangladesh District of Holy Cross Brothers (2)

1. Robert S. Gomes: Novitiate 1/08/1987;
First Prof. 2/08/1988
2. Hubert R. Gomes: Novitiate 1/08/1987;
(did not make first vows)

1989-1990: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC
Number of Novices: 4

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (3)

1. Shekhor L. Gomes: Novitiate 14/01/1989;
First Prof. 15/01/1990
2. Sushanto A. Gomes: Novitiate 14/01/1989;
First Prof. 15/01/1990
3. Leonard S. Rozario: Novitiate 14/01/1989;
First Prof. 15/01/1990

B. Novice from St. Joseph Vice Province (1)

1. Theophil Nokrek: Novitiate 14/01/1989;
First Prof 15/01/1990

1990-1991: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC (6 months)

Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC (6 months)

Number of Novices: 5

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (2)

1. Topon P. Rodrigues: Novitiate 23/01/1990;
First Prof. 24/01/1991
2. James C. Cruze: Novitiate 23/01/1990;
First Prof. 24/01/1991

B. Novices from St. Joseph Vice Province (3)

1. Shankor A. Costa: Novitiate 23/01/1990;
First Prof. 24/01/1991
2. Albert Rotna: Novitiate 23/01/1990;
First Prof. 24/01/1991
3. Francis Folia: Novitiate 23/01/1990;
First Prof. 24/01/1991

1991-1992: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. George C. Laprade, CSC
(6 months)

Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC (7 months)

Number of Novices: 8

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (3)

1. Apollo Rozario: Novitiate 25/01/1991;
First Prof. 29/02/1992
2. Hamlet F. Botlero: Novitiate 25/01/1991;
First Prof. 29/02/1992
3. Lawrence N. Das: Novitiate 25/01/1991;

B. Novices from St. Joseph Vice Province (5)

1. Jude J. D’Cruze: Novitiate 25/01/1991;
First Prof. 24/01/1992
2. Chandan B. Gomes: Novitiate 25/01/1991;
First Prof. 24/01/1992

3. Ripon J. Gomes: Novitiate 25/01/1991;
First Prof. 29/02/1992
4. Nipu H. Rozario: Novitiate 25/01/1991;
First Prof. 29/02/1992
5. Bakul R. Gomes: Novitiate 25/01/1991
First Prof. 24/01/1992

1992-1993: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC

Number of Novices: 5

Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province

1. Liton H. Gomes: Novitiate 26/03/1992;
First Prof. 3/08/1993
2. Hubert J. Palma: Novitiate 26/03/1992;
First Prof. 3/08/1993
3. Solomon J. D' Costa: Novitiate 26/03/1992;
(did not make first vows)
4. Gabriel Toppo: Novitiate 26/03/1992;
First Prof. 15/01/1994
5. Proshanto C. Gomes: Novitiate 26/03/1992;
First Prof. 3/08/1993

1993-1994: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC

Number of Novices: 4

Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province

1. Anol T. D' Costa: Novitiate 16/05/1993;
First Prof. 19/05/1994
2. Polash Z. Rozario: Novitiate 16/05/1993;
left and readmitted on 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999
3. Shekhor R. Pereira: Novitiate 16/05/1993;
First Prof. 19/05/1994
4. Vincent B. Rozario: Novitiate 16/05/1993;
First Prof. 19/05/1994

1994-1995: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC

Number of Novices: 6

A. Novice from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (1)

1. Shankor H. Gomes: Novitiate 15/02/1994;
(did not make first vows)

B. Novices from St. Joseph Vice Province (5)

1. Subir B. Corraya: Novitiate 15/02/1994
First Prof. 17/02/1995
2. Nirmal F. Gomes: Novitiate 15/02/1994
First Prof. 17/02/1995
3. Peter Dio: Novitiate 15/02/1994
First Prof. 17/02/1995
4. Kelison Chiran: Novitiate 15/02/1994
First Prof. 17/02/1995
5. Dipak S. Roy: Novitiate 15/02/1994
First Prof. 17/02/1995

1995-1996: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Br. Binoy S. Gomes, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Fr. Edmond Cruze, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 8

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (2)

1. George K. Rozario: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996
2. Solomon S. Gomes: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996

B. Novices from St. Joseph Vice Province (6)

1. Hamlet F. Gosal: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996
2. Liton F. Rebeiro: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996

3. Vincent S. Gomes: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996
4. Satya C. Costa: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996
5. Joseph Costa: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996
6. Kazal L. Costa: Novitiate 11/02/1995;
First Prof. 11/02/1996

1996-1997: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Br. Binoy S. Gomes, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Fr. Edmond Cruze, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 10

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (7)

1. Dominic S. Sarkar: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
2. Thaddeus Hembrom: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
3. Placid P. Rozario: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
4. Uzzal L. Rozario: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
5. Amal A. Rozario: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
6. Lawrence Rebeiro: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
7. Robert D. Gomes: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (3)

1. Ratan P. Gomes: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
2. Proshanto I. Costa: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997
3. Leo S. Rozario: Novitiate 5/02/1996;
First Prof. 7/02/1997

1998-1999: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Edmond Cruze, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 7

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (4)

1. Polash Z. Rozario: Novitiate 20/01/1998 (Readmitted);
First Prof. 22/01/1999
2. Amal L. Rozario: Novitiate 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999
3. Proshanto N. Cruze: Novitiate 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999
4. Sudhir Das: Novitiate 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999

B. Novices from St. Joseph Vice Province (3)

1. Kamal V. Cruze: Novitiate 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999
2. Silas Murmu: Novitiate 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999
3. Jogesh J. Karmokar: Novitiate 20/01/1998;
First Prof. 22/01/1999

1999-2000: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Edmond Cruze, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 8

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (6)

1. Elias M. Hembrom: Novitiate 24/01/1999;
First Prof. 28/01/2000
2. Subal Kujur: Novitiate 24/01/1999;
First Prof. 28/01/2000
3. Shitol H. Rozario: Novitiate 24/01/1999;
First Prof. 28/01/2000
4. Ashim T. Gonsalves: Novitiate 24/01/1999
First Prof. 28/01/2000

5. Bipul D. Das: Novitiate 24/01/1999
First Prof. 28/01/2000
6. Michael C. Sarker: Novitiate 24/01/1999;
First Prof. 28/01/2000

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (2)

1. Shoylan Z. Rozario: Novitiate 24/01/1999;
First Prof. 28/01/2000
2. Montrojoy S. Tripura: Novitiate 24/01/1999;
First Prof. 28/01/2000

2000-2001: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Edmond Cruze, CSC
Numbers of Novices: 5

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (2)

1. Chandan R. Gomes: Novitiate /01/2000;
First Prof. 2/02/2001
2. Bikash J. Rebeiro: Novitiate /01/2000;
First Prof. 2/02/2001

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (3)

1. Ronjon Purification: Novitiate /01/2000;
First Prof. 2/02/2001
2. Uttam P. Cruze: Novitiate /01/2000;
First Prof. 2/02/2001
3. Elias Gomes: Novitiate /01/2000; First Prof. 2/02/2001

2001-2002: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC
Numbers of Novices: 5

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (3)

1. Donnel S. Cruze: Novitiate 15/01/2001;
First Prof. 1/02/2002
2. Subas J. Costa: Novitiate 15/01/2001;
First Prof. 1/02/2002
3. Lintu A. Halder: Novitiate 15/01/2001;
(left the Novitiate)

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (2)

1. Ujjal P. Pereira: Novitiate 15/01/2001;
First Prof. 1/02/2002
2. Uttam C. Rozario: Novitiate 15/01/2001;
First Prof. 1/02/2002

2002-2003: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi ¹⁹

Novice Master: Fr. Eugen J. Anjus, CSC
Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC
Number of Novices: 6

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (4)

1. Ponkaj X. Nokrek: Novitiate 22/02/2002;
First Prof. 7/02/2003
2. Apu S. Rozario: Novitiate 22/02/2002;
First Prof. 7/02/2003
3. Flavian M. Tripura: Novitiate 22/02/2002;
4. Shujon F. Bhuiya: Novitiate 22/02/2002;

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (2)

1. Liton J. Rozario: Entrance on February 22, 2002
First Vows on February 7, 2003
2. Pranson F. Dalbot: Entrance on February 22, 2002

2003-2004: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC
Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC
Number of Novices: 7

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (5)

1. Mrinal M. Mrong: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004
2. Binoy S. Gomes: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004
3. Hori M. Das: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004

4. Swapan A. Das: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004
5. Nirmal Roy: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (2)

1. Promod T. Rozario: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004
2. James S. Sarkar: Novitiate 17/02/2003;
First Prof. 5/02/2004

2004-2005: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC
Br. Albert Ratno, CSC
(from February 5, 2004 to January 2005)
Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC
Number of Novices: 7

Novices from St. Joseph Province

1. Santosh Hembrom: Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 28/01/2005
2. Provat P. Purification Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 28/01/2005
3. Michael Tripura: Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 28/01/2005
4. Sumon J. Costa: Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 28/01/2005
5. Robindra J. Tripura: Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 28/01/2005
6. Sobuj S. Bala: Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 28/01/2005
7. Joyonta A. Costa: Novitiate 20/01/2004;
First Prof. 1/07/2005

2005-2006: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC

Number of Novices: 19

A. First Batch Novices from St. Joseph Province (5)

1. Chayan V. Corraya: Novitiate 2/02/2005;
First Prof. 3/02/2006
2. Shimul A. Rozario: Novitiate 2/02/2005;
First Prof. 3/02/2006
3. Topon L. Serao: Novitiate 2/02/2005;
First Prof. 3/02/2006
4. Placid P. Rebeiro: Novitiate 2/02/2005;
First Prof. 3/02/2006
5. Taren J. Palma: Novitiate 2/02/2005;
First Prof. 3/02/2006

B. Second Batch Novices from St. Joseph Province (8)

1. Santosh A. Rozario: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
2. Sanchoy M. Rozario: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
3. Nicholas L. Tolentino: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
4. Rinku L. Costa: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
5. Tusher L. Cruze: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
6. Sonjit C. Prongkeng: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
7. Liton S. Roy: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
8. Elias Murmu: Novitiate 8/05/2005;

C. Second Batch Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (6)

1. Samir P. D'Rozario: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006

2. Thomas X. Gomes: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
3. Biblob M. Kujur: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
4. Joseph B. Gonsalves: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 19/05/2006
5. Debanon P. Hagidok: Novitiate 8/05/2005
(left the Novitiate)
6. Sumon P. Costa: Novitiate 8/05/2005;
First Prof. 16/09/2006

2006-2007: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC

Number of Novices: 6

A. Novices from St. Joseph Province (5)

1. Chandon L. Rozario: Novitiate 6/02/2006;
First Prof. 11/02/2007
2. Sumon A. Costa: Novitiate 6/02/2006;
First Prof. 11/02/2007
3. Rinku J. Cruze: Novitiate 6/02/2006;
(left the Novitiate)
4. Prottoy V. Rozario: Novitiate 6/02/2006;
First Prof. 11/02/2007
5. Jony T. Gregory: Novitiate 6/02/2006;
First Prof. 11/02/2007

B. Novice from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (1)

1. Pronoy A. Gomes: Novitiate 12/09/2006;
First Prof. on September 15/09/2007

2007-2008: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Albert Ratno, CSC

Number of Novices: 10

A. Novices from St. Joseph Province (8)

1. Sweden A. Purification: Novitiate 30/01/2007;
First Prof. 2/02/2008
2. Sonet F. Rozario: Novitiate 30/01/2007;
First Prof. 2/02/2008
3. Joy X. Pereira: Novitiate 30/01/2007;
First Prof. 2/02/2008
4. Protim X. Palma: Novitiate 30/01/2007;
First Prof. 2/02/2008
5. Bhubon B. Costa: Novitiate 30/01/2007;
First Prof. 2/02/2008
6. Hubert R. Costa: Novitiate 10/05/2007;
First Prof. 9/05/2008
7. Bikash B. Costa: Novitiate 10/05/2007;
First Prof. 9/05/2008
8. Sattya R. Purification: Novitiate 10/05/2007;
First Prof. 9/05/2008

B. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (2)

1. Paschal B. Sarkar: Novitiate 10/05/2007;
First Prof. 9/05/2008
2. Ashis A. Rozario: Novitiate 10/05/2007;
First Prof. 1/08/2008

2008-2009: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Ratan P. Gomes, CSC

Number of Novices: 11

A. Novices from St. Joseph Province (9)

1. Sumon A. Rozario: Novitiate 31/01/2008;
First Prof. 31/07/2009

2. Rocy J. Costa: Novitiate 31/01/2008;
First Prof. 6/02/2009
3. Shyamal J. Gomes: Novitiate 31/01/2008;
First Prof. 6/02/2009
4. Romeo P. Rozario: Novitiate 31/01/2008;
First Prof. 6/02/2009
5. Mithu J. Costa: Novitiate 31/01/2008;
First Prof. 6/02/2009
6. Sojol C. Costa: Novitiate 31/01/2008;
First Prof. 6/02/2009
7. Abel Tripura: Novitiate 1/08/2008;
First Prof. 31/07/2009
8. Chandan M. Gomes: Novitiate 1/08/2008;
First Prof. 31/07/2009
9. Grener G. Ritchil: Novitiate 1/08/2008;
First Prof. 31/07/2009

B. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (2)

1. Nicholas Nokrek: Novitiate 2/08/2008;
First Prof. 31/07/2009
2. Ruben M. Gomes: Novitiate 2/08/2008;
First Prof. 31/07/2009

2009-2010: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Atul M. Palma, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Ratan P. Gomes, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 11

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (7)

1. Digonto D. Chambugong: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
2. Gracy E. D'Rozario: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
3. Gourob G. Pathang: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
4. Louise C. Kubi: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010

5. Ponkoj T. Mrong: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
6. Robert R. Nokrek: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
7. Samuel S. Roy: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (4)

1. Roxy J. Gosal: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
2. Rocky L. Gosal: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
3. Shaon L. Palma: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
First Prof. 16/07/2010
4. Sinoy S. Mrong: Novitiate 24/07/2009;
(left the Novitiate)

2010-2011: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Atul M. Palma, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Ratan P. Gomes, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 10

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (4)

1. Arun A. Chiran: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
2. Bikash Kujur: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
3. David R. Tripura: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
4. Khokon G. Nokrek: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (6)

1. Prince R. McField: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
2. Racy D. Godino: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011

3. Rocktim L. Chiran: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
4. Xavier Rozario: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
5. Alex M. Pereira: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011
6. Lucas M. Tudo: Novitiate 26/07/2010;
First Prof. 22/07/2011

2011-2012: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Atul M. Palma, CSC
 Asst. Novice Master: Br. Ratan P. Gomes, CSC
 Numbers of Novices: 3

A. Novice from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (1)

1. Count R. Rozario: Novitiate 29/07/2011;
First Prof. 27/07/2012

B. Novice from St. Joseph Province (2)

1. Andrew H. Chiran: Novitiate 29/07/2011;
First Prof. 27/07/2012
2. Lipon L. Chambugong: Novitiate 29/07/2011;
First Prof. 27/07/2012

2012-2013: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Atul M. Palma, CSC
 Asst. Novice Master: Br. Binoy S. Gomes, CSC
 Numbers of Novices: 8

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (4)

1. Anando J. Mondal: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013
2. Nitto A. Ekka: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013
3. Khokon C. Baro: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013
4. Robel R. Biswas: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (4)

1. Arpon B. Purification: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013
2. Planard J. Corraya: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013
3. Saikot S. Linduar: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013
4. Simon Gaddi: Novitiate 31/07/2012;
First Prof. 26/07/2013

2013-2014: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Atul M. Palma, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Kajal L. Costa, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 5

Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province

1. Sohag B. Gabil: Novitiate 31/07/2013;
First Prof. 1/08/2014
2. Mithu L. Palma: Novitiate 31/07/2013;
First Prof. 1/08/2014
3. Duke J. Gain: Novitiate 31/07/2013 (left the Novitiate)
4. Tias A. Gomes: Novitiate 11/11/2013;
First Prof. 1/11/2014
5. Prodip P. Minj: Novitiate 11/11/2013;
First Prof. 1/11/2014

2014-2015: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Kajal L. Costa, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 8

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (4)

1. Badhon H. Rozario: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015
2. Joachim Mondal: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015

3. Timon I. Gomes: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015
4. Jaseng J. Simsang: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
(Left the Novitiate)

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (4)

1. Bablu Pantra: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015
2. Jerry M Rozario: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015
3. Joseph C. Mondal: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015
4. Shanto A. Hembrom: Novitiate 25/07/2014;
First Prof. 24/07/2015

2015-2016: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Sattya R. Purification, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 11

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (4)

1. Amar S. Rozario: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
2. Joy F. Biswas: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
3. Newton O. Sarker: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
4. Nitto A. Ekka: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (7)

1. Anik R. Rozario: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
2. Clinton C. Mree: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
3. Dibos J. Rozario: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016

4. Lenson C. Rebeiro: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
5. Jhalok I. Rozario: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
6. Shovon V. Costa: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/08/2016
7. Ezekiel Murmu: Novitiate 1/08/2015;
First Prof. 5/11/2016

VI. NOVITIATE AT THE NEW BUILDING (2017-2025)



Present Novitiate Building from 2017 (1)



Present Novitiate Building from 2017 (2)



Present Novitiate Chapel from 2017

2016-2017: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC

(until July, 2016)

Fr. Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC

(from Aug 6, 2016 onwards)

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Sattya R. Purification, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 8

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (3)

1. Julius P. Rozario: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017
2. Sojeeb S. Gomes: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017
3. Sunny F. Rozario: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (5)

1. Amit V. Gomes: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017
2. Paper P. Hadima: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017
3. Martin Biswas: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017
4. Samuel S. Rozario: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 28/07/2017
5. Lalin E. Costa: Novitiate 6/08/2016;
First Prof. 27/10/2017

2017-2018: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Sattya R. Purification, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 16

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (8)

1. Chinmoy C. Hagidok: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
2. Nayan J. Gomes: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018

3. Promod T. Rozario: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
4. Sushanto R. Mahali: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
5. Soikot B. Kulentuno: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
6. Tharson F. Mrong: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
7. Titual T. Chiran: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
8. Utsho M. Ruram: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (8)

1. Ankon P. Rebeiro: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
2. Ananto A. Hembrom: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
3. Badhon X. Khan: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
4. Bishownath S. Das: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
5. Lakhichandra A. Tripura: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
6. Liton E. Mardy: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018
7. Shohel P. Mondol: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018 (left as temporary professed and
readmitted on July 20, 2025 for 3 months and made first
profession on October 17, 2025)
8. Ahim S. Palma: Novitiate 31/07/2017;
First Prof. 27/07/2018

2018-2019: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi²⁰

Novice Master: Fr. Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Sattya R. Purification, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 17

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (12)

1. Amal N. Tripura: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
2. Francis P. Tudu: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
3. Jerome Suting: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
4. Liton F. Sen: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
5. Nishir G. Rozario: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
6. Paul N. Dhan: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
7. Polash P. Mondal: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
8. Pranto C. Rozario: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
9. Provahat P. Das: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
10. Rocky M. Palma: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
11. Roshanto R. Mankhin: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
12. Sushil I. Soren: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (5)

1. Antor C. Costa: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
2. Anup A. Nokrek: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
3. Mrinmoy B. Rodrigues: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
4. Roktim B. Rozario: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019
5. Shimion S. Rongkhen: Novitiate 30/07/2018;
First Prof. 26/07/2019

2019-2020: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Shimul A. Rozario, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 17

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (10)

1. Apurbo A. Hajong: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
2. Daniel P. Roy: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
3. Emon F. Corraya: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
4. Joachim P. Biswas: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
5. Killen T. Pereira: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
6. Nicholas S. Ghorami: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
7. Rajon R. Mrong: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
8. Shanto F. Rozario: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
9. Sailen Bormon: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
10. Salestin P. Tripura: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (7)

1. Ayonb M. Gomes: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
2. Gervas Soren: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
3. Jonta Tudu: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
4. Partho U. Palma: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
5. Rimo L. Nardi: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020

6. Sourov L. Costa: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020
7. Clary H. Rozario: Novitiate 29/07/2019;
First Prof. 24/07/2020

2020-2021: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Master: Fr. Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC
Asst. Novice Master: Br. Shimul A. Rozario, CSC
Numbers of Novices: 17

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (10)

1. David Tripura: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
2. Eugene Tripura: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
3. Joney J. T. Tripura: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
4. Michael Mardy: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
5. Nicholas Tripura: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
6. Pias H. Karmakar: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
7. Sojib J. Daring: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
8. Sourov S. Chisik: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
9. Tonmoy M. Toju: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
10. Uchash A. Rozario: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 16/12/20

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (7)

1. Ananda A. Gapho: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
2. Immanuel Gomes: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021

3. Peter P. Tudu: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
4. Remix L. Costa: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
5. Romio M. Rozario: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
6. Suboll G. Tripura: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 10/10/2021
7. Sharon W. Biswas: Novitiate 16/10/2020;
First Prof. 16/12/2021

2021-2022: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC
(until Dec 15, 2021)
Fr. Elias Palma, CSC (from Dec 15, 2021 onwards)
Asst. Novice Master: Br. Shimul A. Rozario, CSC
Numbers of Novices: 4

Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province

1. Arpon C. Costa: Novitiate 16/03/2021;
First Prof. 18/03/2022
2. Pritom F. Ritchil: Novitiate 16/03/2021;
First Prof. 18/03/2022
3. Shuvo A. Rozario: Novitiate 16/03/2021;
First Prof. 18/03/2022
4. Saikot C. Palma: Novitiate 16/03/2021;
First Prof. 18/03/2022

2022-2023: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Elias Palma, CSC
(until January 31, 2023)
Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC
(from Feb 1, 2023 onwards)
Asst. Novice Master: Br. Shimul A. Rozario, CSC
Numbers of Novices: 11

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (5)

1. Hamanando P. Tripura: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
(left on Dec.11, 2022)

2. Parnil A. Gomes: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 1/05/2023
3. Shaon C. Hembrom: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 1/05/2023
4. Sporsho M. Palma: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 1/05/2023
5. Shakti Tripura: Novitiate 19/06/2022;
First Prof. 19/06/2023

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (6)

1. Jakariyas Murmu: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 5/01/2023
2. Jason H. Rozario: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
(Left the Novitiate and readmitted on January 1, 2024 and
made first vows on January 11, 2025)
3. Hans J. Gomes: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 5/01/2023
4. Modhu Mardy: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 5/01/2023
5. Joy A. Rozario: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 5/01/2023
6. Shojon I. Cruze: Novitiate 8/01/2022;
First Prof. 5/01/2023

2023: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi

Novice Masters: Fr. Elias Palma, CSC
(until January 31, 2023)

Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC
(from February 1, 2023)

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Shimul A. Rozario, CSC

Numbers of Novices: 10

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (3)

1. Bicromoni M. Tripura: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 19/12/2023
2. Jonas B. Rozario: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023

3. Roni D. Mankhin: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (7)

1. Akash T. Rozario: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023
2. Andrias Das: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023
3. Dip P. Costa: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023
4. Dipto P. Peris: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023
5. Francis D. Rozario: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
(left the Novitiate)
6. Jim M. Costa: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023
7. Richard A. Cruze: Novitiate 11/01/2023;
First Prof. 29/12/2023

2024-2025: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi²¹

Novice Master: Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC

Asst. Novice Masters: Br. Shimul A. Rozario, CSC
(until June 2024)

Br. Topon L. Serao, CSC (from July 1, 2024 onwards)

Numbers of Novices: 28

A. First Batch Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (8)

1. Astiar S. Mree: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
2. Carry G. Pereira: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
3. Dorshon D. Chambugong: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
4. Johon J. Roy: Novitiate 1/01/2024; First Prof. 11/01/2025

5. Prodip P. Soren: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
6. Pronoy A. Chambugong: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
7. Rudra N. Gonsalves: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
8. Saikot S. Costa: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025

B. First Batch Novices from St. Joseph Province (5)

1. Borshon P. Corraya: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
2. Shanto F. Rozario: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 11/01/2025
3. Jason H. Rozario: Novitiate 1/01/2024 (Readmitted);
First Prof. 11/01/2025
4. Punno Ambrose Murmu: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
(left on March 4, 2024)
5. Stephen C. Tripura: Novitiate 1/01/2024;
First Prof. 7/12/2025

C. Second Batch Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (10)

1. Amil M. Kerketa: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
2. Arbin A. Costa: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
3. Arthik J. Chambugong: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
4. Don Bosco Mankhin: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
5. James I. Hembrom: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
6. Partho P. Chisik: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
7. Prapto A. Rozario: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025

8. Premick J. Tripura: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
9. Sonjoy N. Rangsa: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
10. Tapos A. Rozario: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025

D. Second Batch Novices from St. Joseph Province (6)

1. Alvis G. Gomes: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
2. Hriday S. Rozario: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
(left the Novitiate on Sept 1, 2025)
3. Joggo M. Mrong: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
4. Leo A. Chambugong: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
5. Shom A. Corraya: Novitiate 15/10/2024;
First Prof. 17.10.2025
6. Sohel P. Mandol: Novitiate 20/07/2025;
(Readmitted for 3 months) First Prof. 17.10.2025

First Profession of 15 Novices made on 17th October, 2025, at the Chapel of the Oriental Institute, Sagardi, Barisal is the 135th batch of Holy Cross Religious of Fathers and Brothers in Bengal starting from 1890. The Profession Ceremony was presided over by the first ever Cardinal of Bengal, His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC.



Candidates- 5 for Brothers & 10 for Fathers Society, 17.10.2025



Newly Professed together with Fathers and Brothers on 17.10.2025.



Newly Professed with Novice Masters 17.10.2025

2025-2026: Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi²²

Novice Master: Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC

Asst. Novice Master: Br. Topon L. Seroa, CSC

Number of Novices: 10

A. Novices from Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (6)

1. Benedict S. Tripura: Novitiate 20/7/2025
2. James Tripura: Novitiate 20/10/2025
3. Luxson Mark Rozario: Novitiate 20/10/2025
4. Omio Augustine Dalbot: Novitiate 20/10/2025
5. Shrestho Justin Pereira: Novitiate 20/10/2025
6. Soumik Benedict Kulentunu: Novitiate 20/10/2025

B. Novices from St. Joseph Province (4)

1. David Ruram: Novitiate 20/10/2025
2. Rony Barnabas Lakra: Novitiate 20/10/2025
3. Shrabon Anthony Palma: Novitiate 20/10/2025
4. Udoy Xavier Gomes: Novitiate 20/10/2025

VII. NOVITIATE FORMATION IN HOLY CROSS²³

For Novitiate Formation, Vocation and Formation Guide of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Rome 2005 is followed which is adapted to the situation of Bangladesh. In brief the guidelines and the brief syllabus are mentioned below for information and ready Reference.

Entrance into the novitiate signals the beginning of membership in the Congregation, formally speaking. It is a crucial period in the life of the novices during which they discern the Lord's call in their life in a very profound way while they forms habits that will serve them as religious for their entire life. It is, then, a serious moment and a great responsibility is placed in the hands of the novice director and his assistants who are to accompany them.

At the same time, it is to be recognized that the novitiate is a time of deepening of what has been experienced and learned in previous stages, and that this process of formation needs to be continued. Effective formation has a spiral nature and requires attention to this continuity.

Goal for the Novitiate Program

The novitiate is the beginning of lie in the congregation... [The novices] are challenged and helped to open their hearts to the Gospel, to live under the same roof with one another, and to create a brotherhood of disciples. (C6, 62)

The novitiate is established to provide an environment that facilitates the personal and spiritual formation of the novices through separation, solitude, and personal and communal discernment of God's call.

Program Overview

The novitiate program is a journey in apprenticeship in the consecrated life. The program encourages the novices to reflect on their personal life experiences in the life of the Spirit at work within them. They are introduced to the essentials of the vowed

consecrated life and our Congregational heritage. They are given tools that will help them better understand and deepen their relationships with God in prayer. They are helped to know themselves better and to mature as persons. They are helped and challenged to grow and develop their relationship with others as brothers in community. They come to understand better the mission of the Congregation.

The novice director and his assistants are to help the novices to understand religious life in Holy Cross with its joys and demands.

As each novice is to assume personal responsibility for his formation the novitiate program is to be organized in such a way that the novices are accompanied in this quest for growth in their prayer life, human formation, community life, apostolic life and vowed life through an ongoing review of life.

Areas of Novitiate Formation

- Formation in Prayer
- Human Formation
- Formation in Community Life
- Intellectual Formation
- Apostolic Formation
- Formation in Vowed Life

Basic Elements of the Novitiate Program

- Community Prayer: daily celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours as well as other devotions (Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Station of the Cross, spontaneous shared prayer, etc.);
- Periods of personal meditation and prayer;
- Conferences and workshops;
- Group Meetings (formal and informal discussions);
- Retreats and monthly days of recollection (“solitude” or “desert” days);
- Ministry experiences and reflection (weekly and extended apostolic experiences);

- Local chapters;
- Monthly Interviews with the novice director;
- Spiritual direction;
- Regular participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Housekeeping and manual work on the novitiate property
- Recreation

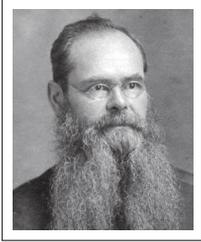
Syllabus/Topics for Various Classes/Conferences

1. Orientation and Novitiate Guidelines
2. Novitiate Formation according to Vocation and Formation Guide, Rome
3. Constitutions and Statutes of the Congregation of Holy Cross
4. Circular Letters of Bl. Moreau and Superiors General
5. Selected Writings of Bl. Moreau
6. Intensive Journal Writing
7. Inner Child Healings
8. Community Building/Helping Relationship
9. History of Consecrated Life
10. History of Holy Cross
11. The Charism, Spirituality, Mission and Common Values of Holy Cross
12. How to Pray the Liturgy of the Hours
13. How to Meditate (*Lectio Divina*)
14. Introduction to the Documents of Vatican II
15. Social Teachings of the Church
16. Introduction to Bible
17. Liturgy (Eucharist)
18. What is Spiritual Direction?
19. Celibacy, Obedience and Poverty in Consecrated Life
20. Human Development
21. Human Sexuality
22. Safeguarding Policy
23. Eco Spirituality
24. Spiritual Exercises according to Ignatius Spirituality
25. Introduction to Milon Somaj

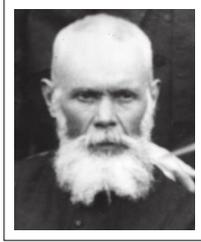
SOME NAMES AND STATATICS

A. NOVICE MASTERS OF PROVISIONAL NOVITIATE

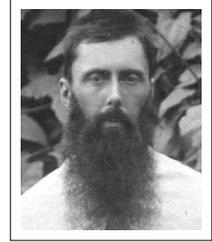
The following names are found in different letters and documents but the list is not complete and gaps remain to be filled with accurate information.



Fr. LaFond, CSC. (1889-1900)



Fr. Adolf Francis, CSC. (1907)



Fr. Omer Desrocher, CSC, Toomilia, (1919)

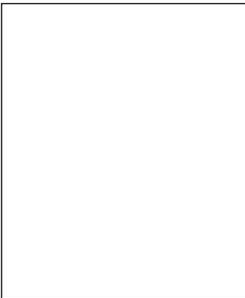


Fr. Christopher Brooks, CSC, Toomilia (1920)

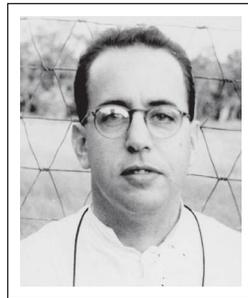


Fr. Delaunay, CSC, Little Flower Seminary, Bandura, (1923)

B. NOVICE MASTERS IN NOAKHALI



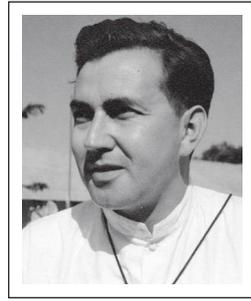
Fr. Harold Breen, CSC. (1942-1946)



Fr. Philippe Payent, CSC. (1947-1957)



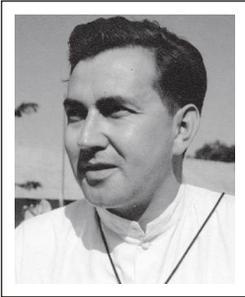
Fr. L. M. Lecavalier, CSC
(1955)



Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC.
(Assistant 1956-1957)

C. NOVICE MASTERS IN SAGARDI, BARISHAL

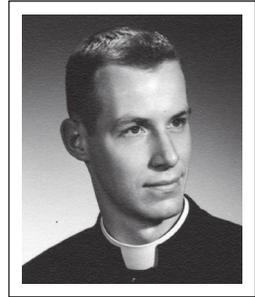
(a) Novice Masters (18)



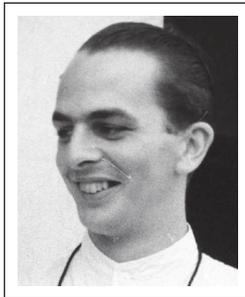
Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC.
(1958-1960)



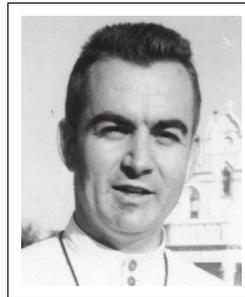
Fr. Guy Breault, CSC.
(1961-1962)



Fr. Yvon Joly, CSC
(1962-1966)



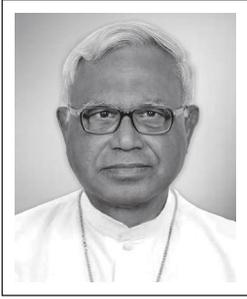
Fr. Lawrence Lecavalier,
CSC (1971-1972)



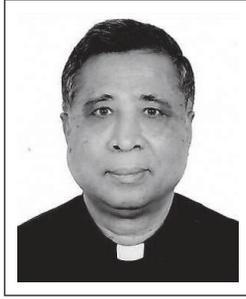
Fr. George Laprade, CSC
(1977-1982, 1984-1987,
1990-1992)



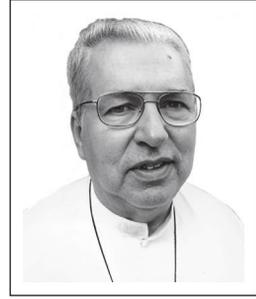
Fr. Frank Quinlivan, CSC
(1982 only for 6 months)



Fr. Benjamin Costa, CSC
(1982-1984)



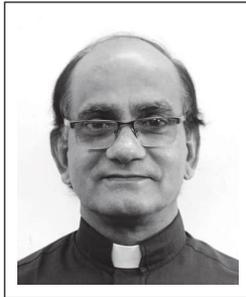
Fr. Adam S. Pereira, CSC
(1987 only for 2 months)



Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC
(1987-1991, 1992-1995)



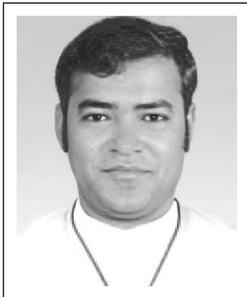
Br. Binoy Stephen Gomes, CSC
(1995-1997)



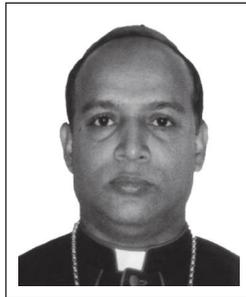
Fr. Edmond Cruze, CSC
(Asst. 1995-1997 and
Novice Master 1998-2001)



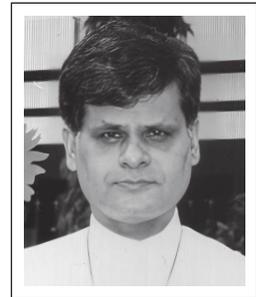
Fr. Eugene J. Anjus, CSC
(2001-2004 and
2014-2016)



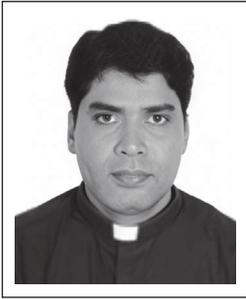
Br. Albert Ratno, CSC
(2004-2005)



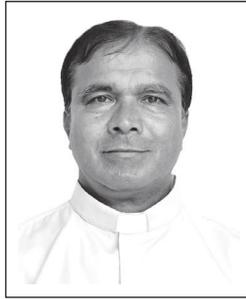
Fr. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC
(2005-2009)



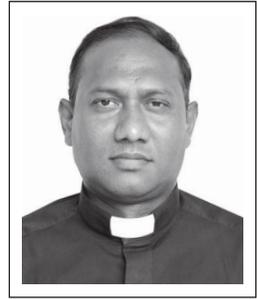
Fr. Atul Michael Palma, CSC
(2009-2014)



**Fr. Ashim Theotonius Gonsalves,
CSC (2016-2021)**

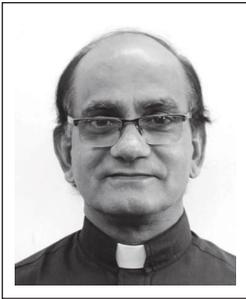


**Fr. Elias Palma, CSC
(2021-2023)**

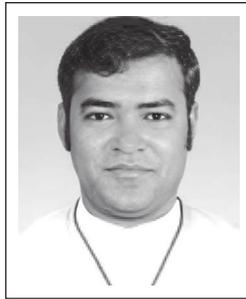


**Fr. Vincent Bimal Rozario,
CSC (2023- present)**

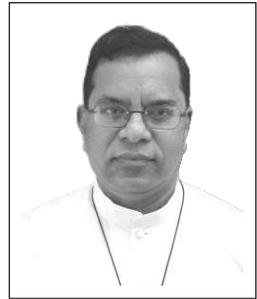
(b) Assistant Novice Masters (8)



**Fr. Edmond Cruze,
CSC (1995-1997)**



**Br. Albert Ratno, CSC
(1998-2007)**



**Br. Ratan Patrick Gomes,
CSC (2007-2012)**



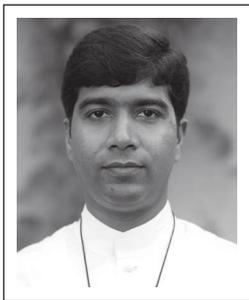
**Br. Binoy Stephen Gomes,
CSC (2012-2013)**



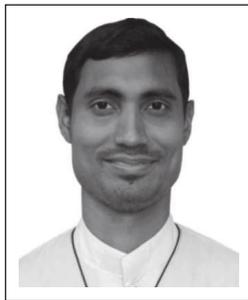
**Br. Kajol Linus Costa,
CSC (2013-2015)**



**Br. Sattya Richard Purification,
CSC (2015-2019)**



Br. Shimul Andrew Rozario, CSC
(Assistant Novice Master: 2019-2024)



Br. Topon Lawrence Serao, CSC
(Assistant Novice Master: 2024-present)

Summary Statistics

Individual Novices from 1890-1941: 14

Novices from Noakhali 1942-1957: 37

Novices who made their Novitiate abroad 1950-1965: 4

Novices from the Sacred Heart Scholasticate 1957-1964: 14

Total number of Novices: 1890-1965 (1964) = 69

Total number of Novices from 1965 to 2025: 414

**Total Number of Novices who made Novitiate
from 1890 to 2025: (69+412) = 481**

Novices for Priests' Society from 1965 to 2025: 214

Novices for Brothers' Society from 1965 to 2025: 198

Novices of Priests' Society left the Novitiate from 1965 to 2025: 19

Novices of Brothers' Society left the Novitiate from 1965 to 2025: 21

Newly Professed for Priests' Society from 1965 to 2025: 189

Newly Professed for Brothers' Society from 1965 to 2025: 173

Novice Masters from 1965 to 2025: 16

Assistant Novice Masters from 1965 to 2025: 8

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Moreau House Archive, Box. 3302, File CSC Novitiate 1890-1923.
- ² Fr. Timm, 150 Years of Holy Cross in East Bengal Mission, p. 42.
- ³ Ibid. p. 42. and Moreau House Archive, Box no. Q. B10,2 List of Missionaries, 1853-1941
- ⁴ Ibid. p. 42.
- ⁵ Moreau House Archive, Box no. Q. B10,2 List of Missionaries, 1853-1941; Cfr. Fr. Timm, p. 42.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Moreau House Archive, Box. 3302, File CSC Novitiate 1890-1923; Cfr. Fr. Timm, p. 42.
- ⁹ Moreau House Archive, Box no. Q. B10,2 List of Missionaries, 1853-1941
- ¹⁰ Moreau House Archive, Q Personal File, Box no. 5.
- ¹¹ Moreau House Archive, Box no. Q. B10, 2 List of Missionaries, 1853-1941.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Moreau House Archive, Q Personal File, Box no. 5.
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Fr. Timm, "150 Years of Holy Cross in East Bengal Mission" p. 187.
- ¹⁶ Moreau House Archive Box no. 3302.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Register Khata, Vol. I: Holy Cross Novitiate, 1943-2002.
- ¹⁹ Register Khata, 2002-2018, Vol. II, Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barishal.
- ²⁰ Register Khata, 2018-2024, Vol. III, Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barishal.
- ²¹ Registration of Reception, 2024, Vol. IV & Registration of First Profession, 2025, Vol. V, Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barishal.
- ²² Registration of Reception, 2024, Vol. IV, Holy Cross Novitiate, Sagardi, Barishal
- ²³ Vocation and Formation Guide, Rome 2005.

PART TWO: HISTORY OF

HOLY CROSS ORIENTAL INSTITUTE:
PASTORAL AND RETREAT CENTER
Cardinal Patrick D'rozario, CSC.



SAGARDI, BARISHAL, BANGLADESH

I. BACKGROUND: Gradual Evolution

Ecclesiastical Background

As a way of introduction to the ecclesiastical background, it needs to be mentioned that Most Rev. Alfred Le Pailleur, CSC, was appointed as the first Bishop of Chittagong Diocese which was separated from Dacca Diocese in 1927. The Chittagong Diocese included mission stations in greater Chittagong (Noakhali, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet) and Barisal area (Gournadi, Narikelbari, and later Padrishibpur annexed to the Diocese on 1930), some parts in Assam in India and Akyab in Burma. The territory was given to the Chittagong Vicariate served by French Canadian Priests, Brothers and Sisters. Bishop Le Pailleur, CSC retired on March 1951 and subsequently died on April 12, 1952. After Bishop Lepailleur, the following were the Bishops of Chittagong in succession: Bishop Raymond Larose, CSC (1952-1967), Bishop Joachim Rozario, CSC (1968-1994), Bishop Patrick D'Rozario, CSC (1995-2010), Bishop and Archbishop Moses Costa, CSC (2011-2020). After the creation of Barishal as new Diocese (2017) the Local Ordinaries have been: Bishop Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC. (2017-2021) and Bishop Emmanuel Kanon Rozario (2022----).

Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers: Land and Property in Sagardi¹

Here is a brief history of how the present land and property were acquired by the Holy Cross Fathers of Chittagong Vicariate.

De Silva families came from Portugal during the period of Portuguese Colonization as early as 1764. In the South of Bengal they first settled in Padrishibpur and they were Zamindars, having many taluks in the South of Barishal. Domingo de Silva was the first family settled in Padrishibpur and some of their descendants were: Peter de Silva, Ignatius de Silva, Pedro de Silva, Edwin Mathew de Silva, Mrs. Irene de Silva, Joanna de Silva; and George Gilbert Wheatley, John Smith Brown (family names inherited

because of inter-marriages). In Barishal Taluk were Mr. C. J. de Silva, whose two sons were: Mr. Stanley Richard Anthony de Silva and Herbert Cecile de Silva and his daughter Miss. Anny de Silva who were mainly owner since 1947. From them Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers bought the present land and property in Sagardi.



**Original House of Stanly D'Silva - Sacred Heart Scholasticate,
1952, Sagardi**

Holy Cross Fathers of Chittagong Vicariate with an Agreement signed on 10th April, 1952 with Mr. Stanley Richard Anthony de Silva, H.C.J. de Silva and Anny de Silva, bought the Land and other properties paying Rs. 45,000. Later a Deed of Sale was finally concluded and signed on 12th August, 1954. The total size of the land was 8.48 acres with existing Sagardi “Lal Kuti” House of one floor (present ground floor). According to another agreement Mr. Stanley de Silva kept the right to use his residence and courtyard in the Western section of ground floor until his death. Mr. Stanely de Silva died in 1974 and thereafter the entire property came to the Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers.

Another plot of 1.81 acre *nal jami*, was bought in 1963 from Hanif Khan, Asman Khan and Isahak Khan. Probably it is situated at the extreme Eastern section of the present property.

Third plot of land measuring 2.60 acre was also bought from Adam Ali on 20th May 1963. Probably it is situated at the extreme South-Eastern section of the present property.

In 1964, the Diocese of Chittagong bought a piece of land from the Holy Cross Fathers, to built Novitiate for the Little Handmaids of the Church (LHC), the newly found Diocesan Religious Congregation of the Sisters . They had their Novitiate till 1971 when Pakistan Army made their Army Camp in WAPDA at the beginning of the Liberation War. Novices had to evacuate the Novitiate for security reason and went to Padrishibpur for temporary Shelter. Sometimes in 1973 the Land went back to the Holy Cross Fathers for the use as their future Novitiate.

Disposal of some portion of land

On 23rd June, 1982, 1.33 acres of land was sold by Fr. Betram Nelson, CSC, representing the Holy Cross Fathers, Priests Society to Caritas Bangladesh receiving a payment of Tk. 671,000.00.

In the beginning of 1980s along the road to Jhalakathi in the West and on Bund Road in the North a total of 10 plots (Approx. 0.97 dec.) were given to Catholic Families with nominal price. Before that on Western side along the Jhalakhathi a piece of land around 0.30-0.40 dec. was sold to Mr. Luke Shikder, Ex-Holy Cross Brother and later the Head of the Shiqdar Constructions. The main intention of disposing the land was a threat that the land would be acquired by Barisal City Corporation for development of the City. The total amount disposed was around 1.27-1.37 acre besides the amount sold to Caritas.

Hence the total size of the property was then: 12.89 acres. The amount deducted (0.97+0.40+1.33) is 2.70 acres. Approximately the present amount of land is: 10.19 acres.

II. EMERGENCE OF HOLY CROSS INSTITUTIONS

1. Felt need of a Scholasticate after Novitiate and its Planning

In early years of 1950s the big concern was the follow-up formation of the Scholastics after they have finished their Novitiate, as regards their life as Religious, studies to be done and other formation needed. The Religious Superior of the Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers, Rev. Fr. G. G. Lapierre, CSC, wrote a letter on August 19, 1951 to the Administrator of the Diocese, Most Rev. Lawrence Graner, CSC, regarding a “Proposal for a Study House” in Sagardi, Barisal. This proposal was in consent with the Provincial in Canada, Councilors of Chittagong Fathers and the Brothers of Holy Cross in Chittagong. On 3rd March 1952 Archbishop Graner, CSC, positively approved the proposal²

2. Common House for Missionaries and Scholastics and its Rationale³

Before 1951, it seems there was already thinking and planning of a House of Study in Barisal for the new Holy Cross Missionaries coming to East Pakistan. The house in discussion was GUPTA LODGE constructed between 1930-1940, cement house with windows, doors and furniture made of teak, foreseen it may still last for 100 years or so. Exact location of the house was not mentioned anywhere.

It was expressed that besides the Missionaries, the proposed Study House would also accommodate the candidates who have finished their Novitiate in Noakhali belonging to four Holy Cross Societies of Fathers and Brothers in East Pakistan.

It will be a House of Study for a period of Four years: 2 years of I.Sc. including studies of Latin and Philosophy and two years of B.Sc.

The studies will be organized with collaboration of B.M. College Authority in Barisal and with its the-then Principal Mr. Edward McNerny, (ICS) an English man and a friend of Holy Cross Fathers. French Canadian Fathers shall provide Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC. as the Director of the House.

The rationale of having the Post-Novitiate formation in the same House of Study as proposed already were cited as below:

(a) For the Scholastics themselves

- Missionary Conferers who will be responsible, shall be able to provide formation as suggested by the Novice Master. So the continuity of Novitiate formation will be assured.
- The contacts with the missionaries and their experiences shall help the Scholastics to receive formation in Holy Cross tradition.
- Scholastics will study in B.M College for science and philosophy and the new missionaries could give spiritual formation and teach Latin to the Scholastics.
- Formation will be deepen in the local culture, language, art, manners and behaviour, etc. having interactions between the Scholastics and Missionaries.

(b) For the new Missionaries

- They will get an intellectual environment which now they do not have.
- They will be able to give courses to the scholastics and help in the formation.
- The program of the house and companionship with the local scholastics will enrich their knowledge of local language and culture.
- The missionaries will have an apostolate which will enrich concretely the Diocese of Chittagong.

(c) Certain limitations are mentioned

- Canadian province has to be more connected to the House of Study.
- Two groups like Missionaries and Scholastics are different and they may find the community life difficult.

- Scholastics may not be given good intellectual formation at B.M. College. However, this lack can be addressed by the missionaries.
 - After B.A./B.Sc the Seminarians can go to Puna in India for studies in theology.
- (d) Final Decision is in favour of having the Scholasticate in Barisal responding with commitment to lessen the limitations gradually.
- (e) Proposed Persons to be In-Charge: Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC (alternative Fr. M. Saint-Pierre).
- (f) The Novice Master, Fr. Philippe M. Payent, CSC, after the nomination of Fr. Raymond Larose as Bishop of Chittagong (1952) proposed that the Novitiate be shifted from Noakhali as soon as possible because of the danger of being washed away by river erosion. Moreover, it is considered advantageous with many reasons that both the Novitiate and the Scholasticate be in same location in Barisal.
- (g) Separate Bungalow should be constructed for Coadjutor Brothers for their own formation, somewhat separated from the Scholastics.

3. Gradual Emergence of Major Institutions

Originally the land was known as De Silva property. The property that belongs now to the Holy Cross Priests Society has accommodated different institutions at different times, emerging new ones and replacing the old ones, institutions existing side by side, some becoming non-existent, others transferring to new locations and others hosting ponds, roads, cultivation field, garden, fruits, paddy, etc.

Here below I submit a list of the major Institutions or major Purposes for which the present property was used. Major apostolates or ministries done from here are mentioned under the Major Institutions named as:

1. Sacred Heart Scholasticate & House of Study (1951-1957)
2. Holy Cross Novitiate (1957-2025)
3. Oriental Institute (1960-2025)
4. Mid-Bungalows: Holy Cross Novitiate, Residence for Students & Formation Program for Diocesan Seminarians, guests house (1964-2025), residence for the students of the Oriental Institute.
5. Oriental Institute: Pastoral and Retreat Center (1990-2025)
6. Notre Dame Kindergarten (2016-2018)

(1) SACRED HEART SCHOLASTICATE IN SAGARDI (1951- 1959)⁴

Regarding the Formation of the ecclesiastics after their Novitiate, a study was done and Fr. McClure, CSC, wrote a 5 page report (28th June, 1951). After studying the pros and cons of different options of sending the scholastics in Canada, India, Dhaka, another College in Pakistan, finally choice was made to send the Holy Cross candidates to Barisal after First Profession for formation and studies of I.A or I.Sc. and B.A in philosophy and theology.⁵

The Scholasticate was officially established in January 1952 by Rev. Fr. Laurent Lapalme, CSC, the Provincial Superior of the French Canadian Province, during his canonical visit to the Vicariate. Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC was appointed the First Director (1951-1958) of the Sacred Heart Scholasticate.

The idea of starting a Scholasticate for the College Courses of Science-Arts-Philosophy was put forward during the first months of the year 1951. The then Novice Master Fr. Philippe Payent, CSC, and Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC, (In charge of two Seminarians in Gournadi Parish) worked out together, in consultation with the Religious Superior and his councilors, a formal proposal in May 1951 for the post-Novitiate Scholasticate.

A House for Scholasticate was absolutely needed because of the difficulties of finding a suitable place for studies of the Scholastics and the problem of getting visa to send them abroad.

Practically the project started in 1951 and received later the formal name: SACRED HEART SCHOLASTICATE.

A. Sacred Heart Scholasticate as Inter-mediate Seminary

Some excerpts of a Letter by Bishop Raymond Larose, CSC, Bishop of Chittagong are given below in order to know the vision and goal of the Proposal under discussion⁶

In 1951 the Fathers of Holy Cross have started a House of Studies for Religious Seminarians and was approved by the Superiors of the Congregation of Holy Cross in January 1952.

It was foreseen that the Religious seminarians of Dhaka and Chittagong and secular seminarians of Chittagong Diocese, and the Scholastic Brothers of Dhaka and Chittagong after Novitiate shall be the prospective candidates of the Study House.

With another decision the house for studies was named as SACRED HEART SCHOLASTICATE. For the Seminarians, it will have Five years program after Matriculation and curriculum proposed were the following:

- (a) to the study of language: Bengali, English, Latin, Urdu, Sanskrit and French;
- (b) the study of sciences: same as required by the I.Sc. course under Dhaka University.
- (c) the study of philosophy: Scholastic Philosophy, History of Western Philosophy, Vedic and Hindu philosophy, Islamic Philosophers.
- (d) there are also courses in General History, World Geography, Islamic History and Culture, etc.

The Sacred Heart Scholasticate is considered as Intermediate Seminary and will provide immediate preparation to the seminarians for the Major Seminary. They shall take the University degrees up to B.A with especial attention to ecclesiastical subjects.

The Sacred Heart Scholasticate shall be affiliated to St. Joseph's University, New Brunswick, Canada, for Theological Studies of Major Seminary. St. Joseph's University is opted because it is connected with English system of education and the Degrees given, will be recognized in the Commonwealth Countries.

Bishop Raymond Larose invites other Bishops of East Pakistan to cooperate with the Sacred Heart Scholasticate, send their candidates and bear some financial responsibility.

Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC, in January 1952, besides himself, submitted a list the staff of the Sacred Heart Scholasticate as follows: Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC, Bro. Leo Dubois, and Bro. Constant, CSC.⁷ and also the new missionaries who come for language and cultural orientation and priests who are already working around Barisal could help part time.

The Sacred Heart Scholasticate will have Religious Seminarians, Diocesan Seminarians as ecclesiastics and Brothers and Coadjutor Brothers as Holy Cross Scholastics with different formation programs.

The construction of the second floor of the Sacred Heart Scholasticate was budgeted (\$16,500.00+1400) and it was finally built in 1954 with facilities for 35 persons. The repairs of the old structures were also done.

Difficulties of keeping secular and religious seminarians together are also mentioned by Fr. McClure.

Fr. Alfred McClure writes to the Religious Superior that on 29th February, 1952, the agreement of "lease of life interest" on the

buying of the property from Mr. Stanley De Silva was finally signed and from that date the property belonged to the Fathers of Holy Cross.⁸

In the year 1953 there were consultations regarding the transfer of Scholasticate to Chittagong, and it did not see the light. Also a talk was going on to have one theologate in Sagardi unitedly with Dhaka Archdiocese.

B. Scholastics at the Sacred Heart Scholasticate

Fr. Yvan Fournelle, Novice Master from 1956-1960 (1956-1957 Assistant to Fr. Phillippe Payent, CSC) provides the following number of Scholastics who were candidates at the Sacred Heart Scholasticate from 1951-1960.⁹

1951-1952: 2 Students

1952-1953: 2 Students

1953-1954: 7 Students

1954-1955: 10 Students (2 from South India)

1955-1956: 9 Students (4 from South India)

1956-1957: 4 Students

1957-1958: 4 Students (3 from South India)

1958-1959: 8 Students (5 from South India)

1959-1960: 2 Students (2 from Goa for studying English and Bengali)

Projection

1960-1961: 3 students

1961-1962: 2 Students every year from St. Joseph Apostolic Boarding, Padrishibpur

Some names of the Scholastics (including Holy Cross and Diocesan Seminarians, Brothers and Coadjutor Brothers) residing in the Sacred Heart Scholasticate were mentioned:

Bro. Luke Shikdar : Birth 3/9/1927; Novitiate 1947-1948
 Bro. David Walker: Birth 4/8/1935; Novitiate 1948-1950
 Mark Nelson (cleric): Birth 7/1/30; Novitiate 1950-1951
 (left in 1955)
 Wilfred Nelson(cleric): Birth 21/5/1932; Novitiate 1950-1952;
 First Prof. 1853; Final Prof. 24 June, 1956, He left in 1958 from Rome.
 Joachim Rozario, CSC. (cleric): Birth 1930, Novitiate 1952-1953,
 S.H. Scholasticate 1953-1956.
 Lawrence Dias (Brother), Birth 1932; Novitiate 15/08/1952;
 First Prof. 03/02/1954
 Bertram Nelson (Cleric) Novitiate 2.2.1953;
 First Profession: 14.6.1954
 Mathew Vadakedam: Novitiate 15.8.1956;
 First Profession: 16.8.1957, India
 Vargese Kozhikadan: Novitiate 15.8.1956;
 First Profession: 16.8.1957, India
 Abraham Chemmarappallil: Novitiate 15.8.1956;
 First Profession: 16.8.1957, India
 Mathew Kanathukattu: Novitiate 13.5.1957;
 First Profession: 15.8.1958, India
 Matthew Ezanikat: Novitiate 13.5.1957;
 First Profession 15.8.1958, India
 Antony Kulangara (cleric. India) Novitiate 15/08/1956

Staff of the Sacred Heart Scholasticate

1952-1952:Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC, Bro. Leo Dubois, CSC,
 Five professors from B.M. College.
 1953-1954:Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC, Bro. Leo Dubois, CSC,
 Four professors from B.M. College.
 1954-1955:Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC, Fr. Fournelle, CSC,
 Five professors from B.M. College.
 1955-1956:Fr. Alfred McClure, CSC, Fr. Joseph Patenaude, CSC,
 Five professors from B.M. College.
 1958: In addition other Professors were: Fr. Sylvio Jean, CSC
 & Mr. Edward McInnerney, M.A. CSP.

List of the Priests who had Residence at Sagardi in 1959.

Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC, Superior and Master of Novices.
Fr. Sylvio Jean, CSC, Prefect of Studies and student in Bengali
Fr. Marcel Gregoir, CSC. Teacher of Philosophy
Fr. Guy Breault, CSC, Student in Bangla
Fr. Benjamin D'Souza (Secular priest, Student in Bengali)

Fr. McClure made a trip to South India for recruiting candidates (Letter of June 9, 1954). In the District Chapter of the Fathers, Chittagong, Fr. McClure and Fr. L. M. Lecavalier were appointed as Vocation Promoters. In 1958 the Indians have almost decided to quit Pakistan because of the problem of Visa. They preferred to go to Halflong. Fr. McClure is transferred to India to open a house of formation there.

Planning was going on to get registered with Dacca University, both I.A. and for B.A. degree. Fr. Martin, CSC at Notre Dame College encouraged and assisted with the Process. It seems at least 12 students were required to get registration. There were only 6 scholastics. It was proposed that a hostel for six secular boys could be built somewhere in the campus and join only the academic classes.¹⁰

The Chapter of 1955 decided to shift Novitiate from Noakhali to Barisal with observations that it will not be in the Sacred Heart Scholasticate.¹¹ Fr. Yvan Fournelle arrives Sagardi with Novices from Noakhali on June 27, 1958. There ends the Novitiate in Noakhali, which started in 1942 with fixed location for Holy Cross Novitiate. A total number of 36 Religious who made Novitiate and the First Professions in Noakhali from the beginning till 1957.

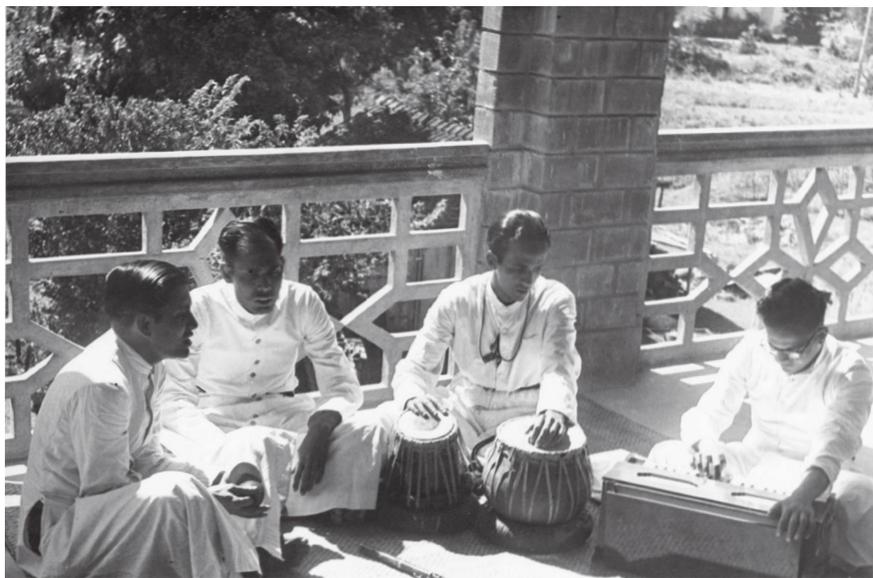
New Orientation

In spite all the efforts, Sacred Heart Scholasticate was unable to meet the requirement of I.A. of the Dacca University. Hence the possibility of affiliation with Dacca University is out of question. Shortage of teachers was always felt and one professor had to teach

many subjects. Diploma from St. Joseph's University will not be recognized by East Pakistan. Moreover, students are not numerous enough to run the Sacred Heart Scholasticate.

In view of the above, the Notre Dame College is found as solution. Notre Dame College Fathers were consulted. Possibility of having special place at Notre Dame College has been already agreed upon by the Holy Cross Fathers in Dhaka.

Sacred Heart Scholasticate of Sagardi, was gradually moved to Dhaka by 1961 in order to avail the College studies for the Scholastics at Notre Dame College. Providentially the Scholasticate in Sagardi and Notre Dame College shall find its continuity of existence in the Holy Cross Scholasticate set up in Rampura, Dhaka in 1989.



Scholastics in Sacred Heart Scholasticate, Sagardi in 1950s

(2) HOLY CROSS NOVITIATE (1957-1971)

Novitiate at the Sacred Heart Scholasticate Building (1959-1964)

In 1958 Holy Cross Novitiate started at Sagardi and for the period of following four years, that is 1959-1963. Novitiate continued for two years (1959-1960) at the former Scholasticate and later from 1961-1963 in the area near the main pond, with one storied building and tin-shed house for dormitory where I was one of six novices and the room for Novice Master. Altogether in four years about 14 candidates have finished Novitiate and made their First Profession from this place. Later Novitiate was shifted to the Mid-Bungalows of the campus till 1977 with closure of the Novitiate during 1972-1977. From 1977 the Holy Cross Novitiate was shifted to the location of the former LHC Novitiate till the new building was inaugurated in 2017.

(3). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE (1960 – 1970)¹²

Already from 1954 some initial thinking and planning was going on as reflected in the paper written by Fr. Roger Maroi, CSC. Fr. Guy Breault, CSC also wrote a paper titled: RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF BENGALI CULTURE and on STUDIES.

Finally on 13th October, 1960, ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, at Sagardi Barisal was established, replacing the Sacred Heart Scholasticate which had been erected in 1951-1952. The Oriental Institute incorporated existing campus, structures and facilities with the exception of adjacent in the North: one storied-bungalow of “L” shape, tin shed House for dormitory, and another tin-shed house for chapel at the North-Eastern side of the big pond, which was used as Holy Cross Novitiate till 1964, the year when it was shifted to Mid-Bungalow of the campus.

At the opening Mass, the Sermon was preached by Religious Superior, Fr. L. M. Lecavalier, CSC who observed the following:

“Together, we are probably going to write an important page in the history of the missions in Bengal.”

“The desire we have, dear Conferers, to become more competent missionaries, meet adequately the repeated invitations of the Popes, of the Vatican Representative in this country, His Ex. Mgr. Clarizio, and of the authorities of the Congregation of Holy Cross.”

“The Oriental Institute had threefold purpose:

A. Apostolic and Pastoral Preparation for Missionaries: To initiate the missionaries coming to Pakistan to religious, cultural and social problems of the country.

B. Research Work: To foster research work for a better mutual understanding and a greater collaboration in helping to the spiritual uplift of the country.

C. The Understanding of Respective Spiritual Values: To be Centre where the Intelligentsia could meet for exchange of views on the vital problems of religion, culture, and social questions. It is normal that, for doing any serious work in a place so different for its historical, cultural, social and religious background, the missionaries have not only a summary but a deep knowledge of all these elements the institute intends to impart to them.”

After appreciating and endorsing the threefold purpose of the Oriental Institute, His Excellency Mgr. Clarizio, the Apostolic Inter-Nuncio of Pakistan, who was present for the occasion, remarked the following:

“I feel it is my duty to express in a special manner to Rev. Fr. Christopher J. O’Tool, CSC, the Superior General of the Holy Cross Congregation, my feelings of most thankful appreciation for donating to Pakistan the so needed Oriental Institute of Sagardi. I understand that he had very much at heart that this Institute become

a reality. It was indeed touching to hear what he told the Holy Cross Religious: ‘It is a must for all of you coming to Pakistan to spend one or two years at the Oriental Institute for missionary preparation, and I would like you to extend the facilities of the Institute to all the Priests and Religious of the different dioceses of Pakistan.’”

STAFF PROPOSED:

Bengali: Teacher and the Director of the Center.

Islam: Rev. Fr. V. Courtois, S.J. Oriental Institute of Calcutta.

Hinduism: Rev. Fr. P. Fallon, S.J. (Calcutta)

Liturgy: Rev. Fr. Antoine, S.J. (Calcutta)

Sociology: Mr. Pierre Bessaignet, Dep. of Sociology, Dacca University.

Pastoral Theology: Rev. Fr. Guy Breault, CSC

Cooperative and Social Work: Rev. Fr. G. M. Tourangeau, CSC
and Fr. Charles Young, CSC

Conferences of Information:

Geography and administration: Mr. Edward McInerny,
M.A. Economics and Demography: Fr. Bride, CSC NDC,
Dhaka Bengali Literature and Uses: Professor of Bengali.

ONE YEAR COURSE AND THE PROGRAMS

Period: From November to October

Syllabus: An Introduction to Bengali Part I and Part II (University of Chicago); Kathabartha, Children’s Bible in Bengali, Sakuntala by Rabindranath Thakur, Texts from magazines and newspapers.

Cultural: Cultural notes – language; Oriental Music, 10 conferences on the history and institutions of the country (Mr. Edward McInerny); Islamic history (Fr. Milot, CSC.); Catechetical and Pastoral for Catholic Students (Fr. Guy Breault, CSC.)

Special Seminars offered by:

Christ the King Seminary Professors, Karachi
East Asian Pastoral Institute, Manila, Philippines
(Fr. Johannes Hoffinger, S.J.)

Annual Retreats organized by different Religious Congregations.

Responsible of the Oriental Institute:

Fr. Martial M. Saint-Pierre, CSC, Director of the Oriental Institute (1960-1963)

Fr. Claude Bruoillard, CSC. (Acting Director 1963)

Fr. Jean Rene Milot, CSC. (July acting App. from October, 1963)

Fr. Guy Breault, CSC, Director: Study of Bengali in 1963-1964 and Director from 1965.

Other Missionaries and Local Intelligentsia.

Mr. Sylvester Shoroj Gomes (Bengali Teacher)

Local Council of the Oriental Institute were: Fr. Paulin Demers, CSC, Director to be replaced by Fr. Guy Breault from June 1965, Fr. Yvon Joly, CSC, Novice Master, Fr. Andre Picard, Director of CEC, Barisal (1965).

Residents and Participants

Since the opening in 1960, the Oriental Institute had thirty six people enrolled:

Chittagong Diocese: Priests- 9, Brothers 4, Sisters 6, Lay Missionaries 5

Dhaka Archdiocese: Priests-4, Brother 1.

Khulna Diocese: Priests 4.

Halflong (india): Priests 3.

Renting the Bungalow to guests from October 1966 to July 1967 to Mr. and Mrs. La Freanaie, when Novitiate will be closed. Holy Cross Sisters from Dacca have also taken the Bungalow for their Residence during the course in 1967.

In 1968 there were 30 students following the course and a group of Norwegian girls. A group of Lutheran Girls also joined.

From 1960 to 1969, during the period of ten years of existence of Oriental Institute, about 135 students spent about six months to a year at the Institute. The profession of the students were: Education 20, Health workers 28, Community Development workers 20,

sociologist social workers 18, Missionaries and others: 49. Fr. Monette made a list by names all the participants of the different programs offered by the Oriental Institute.

Participants of the programs of the Oriental Institute came from: Catholic Church, Anglican Church, Presbyterian Church of England, Santal Lutheran Mission, Baptist Missionary Society, Australian Baptist Missionary Society, New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society. Ecumenical thrust and collaboration of the Oriental Institute can easily be highlighted and appreciated.¹³

On 30th November, 1965, Fr. Guy Breault, CSC, the Director of the Oriental Institute, wrote a two page paper with heading: “What is done at Sagardi Barisal”. He said: “During his last visit, Father O’Tool (Sup. Gen.) asked Fr. Lecavalier, CSC, to set up a regular “language” and “cultural” course for all Holy Cross Missionaries, Fathers, Brothers and also for all the others who would like to join. The previous year the Anglican Church send her missionaries and this year the Baptist Church is sending two students for the first time.

I think that Sagardi is slowly becoming an important institution for the life of the Church in Pakistan. If missionaries are not able to speak, what happens to liturgy, the catechesis, etc. If the missionaries don’t know the cultural patterns and values of the country in which they work, how will they be able to integrate them to the life of the Church?”¹⁴

“Academy of Oriental Music”¹⁵

In 1959, Miss Rita Boucher, a Canadian Lay Missionary did the original thinking and planning which resulted in forming an “Academy of Oriental Music” at the Oriental Institute Sagardi. The “Academy of Oriental Music” was directed by an Executive Committee composed of: Fr. Paulin Demers, CSC, Fr. St.-Onge, CSC, Bro. Raymond Cournoyer, CSC, Rita Boucher (lay Missionary) and Mr. Sushil Baroi (Music teacher).

The vision of the Academy as articulated is quoted as follows:

- (1) The Academy shall develop among its members, pupils, and affiliated bodies, a love and understanding of the music of the country.
- (2) The Academy shall aim at providing facilities for systematic training and instruction in classical music (vocal and instrumental), dancing and drama, in the authentic tradition of the country.
- (3) The Academy shall endeavor to make this musical culture available to various institutions: schools, seminaries, novitiates, parochial associations, clubs, etc.
- (4) The Academy shall promote sound social entertainment.
- (5) The Academy shall propagate Gregorian Chant.

Although the “Academy of Oriental Music” was located at the Oriental Institute and sponsored by the Catholic Education Center, yet the scope of its activities were much wider and spread out to many places within and outside of the country.

Those who were director, teachers and instructors received their training mostly from Indian Classical Music in Agra University and Nainital in India. School of Bengali Music held programs in in different places: St. Placid’s School, 15-29 May, 1959; Session of Bengali Music (vocal and instrumental) at Pravati High School for one month duration in May-June, 1960; Session on Gregorian Chant at St. Scholastica Sept-24 to October 3, 1960; Mr. Sushil Baroi completed the Bengali Mass with Bengali singing of Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei in 1962; Session on Gregorian Chant in Shilong in 1962 and second Session in Jamalkhan in 1963. The last course was organized in 1970 for about 50 teachers, Religious and students which was held in Tejgaon. Miss. Rita Boucher and Fr. James Banas, CSC, were the coordinators.

One year course was organized on Music (vocal and instrumental) in 1967 and certificate was given to those passed the exam. The one year course was repeated for three years. The number of students who participated were: 1st Year Tabla – 8, Vocal – 24; 2nd Year Tabla – 5, Vocal – 7; 3rd Year Tabla – 3, Vocal – 2.

In 1967 at the closing session of Hindustani singing, the boys and girls staged Rabindranath Thakur’s lyrical drama or *Gitinattya*, *Shayma* in Padrishibpur. The drama contained songs and dances. The most outstanding performance was done by Fr. Jean-Guy Monette, who had just concluded one year Bengali course. He acted the role of Bojroshen, the wandering traveler, and gave a very skillful rendering of twenty-two songs in Bengali composed by Tagore himself. I am proud to say that I, writer of this history, have been present for the occasion and enjoyed the beautiful performances of everyone and particularly of Fr. Monette who had such a typical Tagorian voice.

The Academy of Oriental Music brought a revolution in the development of Liturgical Music in Bengali and thereby renewal in Liturgy after the Second Vatican Council. Hundreds of new hymns have been composed with lyrics and notations by Sushil Baroi, Rita Boucher, Motilal Das, Bartholomew Prattush Shaha (who was trained with required skills which helped him to produce later so many religious hymns and 150 lyrics based on 150 Psalms of the Bible), Fr. Francis Sima Gomes, Bibhu Ranjan Baroi, Andrew Biswas, Joseph Sarker, Fr. Paulin Demers, Mr. Dwijadas Halder. The Present *Gitaboli* testifies to their invaluable contributions.

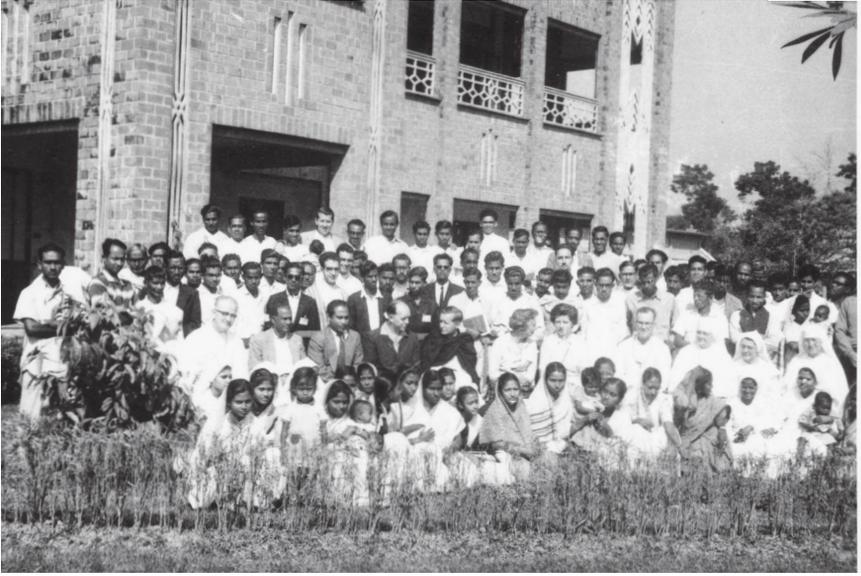
For the Liturgical aids, the Oriental Institute supplied regularly: Christojager gan: Kyrie eleison, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Agnus Dei; Antiphons for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passion; Exultet, hymns, Prarthona Sankalon, Psalms; Prayer meetings for Advent and Lent, Pentecost, National Day; Commentaries and Liturgical Formation, Liturgical Bulletin called “Living Water” etc.¹⁶

Oriental Institute was the **Center for Renewal or *Aggiornamento*** called by the Second Vatican Council and held many seminars, symposium and workshops and trainings on: Liturgy, Catechetics, Islamology, Culture and Inculturation, Green Revolution in Agriculture, Cooperative and Credit Union, etc. Many teachers were brought from India, West Pakistan, Rural Academy of Cumilla and other Academicians within the country.¹⁷

For the maximum use of the property at the Oriental Institute, thoughts were share about opening a Hostel for College boys, without any charge, to provide education to the students coming from the village parishes and others. The District Chapter of 1967 even passed a resolution to implement the proposal if the Religious Superior together with the Council deem feasible.

Holy Cross gave excellent services to the Diocese of Chittagong and to all the other Dioceses of Bangladesh with inclusive attitude of Team Spirit and with inclusive orientation to all. The Oriental Institute played a prophetic role in the Church with clear aims and objectives. However, it seems it was born before time, and hence could not be continued because of shortage of sufficient personnel, abrupt departure of the Missionaries because of political situation, departure of some Priests and Religious to lay state, and so on. With the growth of Holy Cross Congregation, has the time come to invest to revive with same vision, mission and zeal, with more zealous and professional personnel?

As a conclusion, what the Notre Dame College contributed to the Educational apostolate of Holy Cross Fathers in Dhaka District, the Oriental Institute of Sagardi played such important role in Chittagong Vicariate by the Holy Cross Fathers, as an academic institute.



Oriental Institute, Sagardi, Program in 1962

(4). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE: LANGUAGE INSTITUTE-CUM-GUEST HOUSE (1971-1989)

With less Holy Cross missionary personnel and more NGO foreign missionaries and workers came to learn Bengali during this period of 1971-1989.

On April 4, 1970, Fr. J. Guy Monette, CSC, reports that an academic Board of Oriental Institute was formed with membership listed describing its functions and terms of office. Fr. Monette reported as follows some information about students studying in some particular year and period.¹⁸

During the year of 1968-1969 there were 44 missionaries and during the 1969-1970 there were 34 Missionaries Students at the Oriental Institute.

From 1959-1978 there were altogether 376 students for one year course out of which Catholics were 51% (195) and 49% were Protestants from 25 Churches and denominations.¹⁹

For the short course there were in the same period 273 students out of which only 11.7% were Catholics and others were from Protestant Churches and NGOs.

For the year 1978-1979 there were 25 applications for one year course, out of which 11 were Catholics and 4 only for short course.

On 14.10. 1979 an Advisory Committee was made with 5 members.

There were 11 teachers both male and female who were paid on average Tks. 5.20 per hour in 1977.²⁰

Evaluation of the Oriental Institute (1981)

As follow up of the decisions of the Chittagong District Chapter in 1981, the District Superior, Fr. Benjamin Labbe, CSC, requested Fr. R. W. Timm, to carry out a brief evaluation of the Oriental Institute Sagardi which was done and he submitted his Report on March 12, 1981. The some of the highlights of the results of the evaluation are as follows.²¹

Fr. R. W. Timm, CSC used as methodology, interviews of some key persons who were involved in the Institute. After a short brief resume of the past history, Fr. Timm, presented his evaluation under (a) Finances, (b) Occupancy, (c) Assessments and Comments and (d) Conclusions.

- a) Finances: A sample survey was done for the period of 1976-1980. which showed an average of 134,655 takas of incomes and expenses per year indicating an accumulated deficit of Tk. 5,261 at the end of 1980. The most of the expenses were done to upkeep the language Library which may not be useful in the long run.

- b) Occupancy: Some figures during 1959-1978: There were 376 persons for one year course and 273 for short course. For the period from 1974-1977, almost 100% occupancy were there. But It is foreseen that in 1981 there will be only 50% of the occupancy.
- c) Assessments and Comments: There is no indication whether and how much of the objectives that set were achieved. Independent language courses are set up by HEED and other Protestant Churches. The general consensus is that although the Institute has served a good purpose in its time, it has been going downhill ever since Fr. Guy Breault, CSC, left. A new animator is needed now. To quote Fr. Timm, “If a pastoral institute were set up it would be a wonderful place for scholars to come to do studies and writings. The quiet, the peaceful surroundings and the good library are all conducive to scholarship.”
- d) Conclusions: “Someone (or 2) should prepare detailed plans for the use of the Oriental Institute as a scholasticate or a Pastoral Institutes, considering all the advantages and disadvantages. The Property is a beautiful one and should not be sold if possible. The novitiate could be moved into the big bungalow, however, and that property sold.”

(5) PASTORAL AND RETREAT CENTER AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE (1990-2014)²²

In the beginning of this section I would like to quote some lines written by Bro. Alberic which I think provides the perspectives of the new phase:

“The Oriental Institute had been started at Sagardi, Barisal, in 1960. For the next twenty years, it rendered very precious services to the new missionaries of different dioceses, to the members of the different Christian Denominations and to the laymen working for different Non Government Organizations (NGOs). With the rapid fall of vocations in many western countries, the number of students

at the Oriental Institute became rather small. After Independence in 1971, many Protestant Denominations sent their members to different centers in Dhaka to study Bengali. For a few years, the Fathers of Holy Cross who were running the Oriental Institute had realized that it was no longer fulfilling its original purpose. Therefore a vital question arose: how to use fully the facilities offered by the Oriental Institute to serve the pastoral needs of the diocese?"

In 1983 Fr. Patrick D’Rozario, CSC came to Barisal to have Pastoral experience along with the regular teaching job in the Major Seminary. He was also Superior of the District of Chittagong. He replaced in 1983 Fr. Labbe the Parish priest of Padrishibpur who was sick and left for Canada and Fr. Patrick took the responsibility of the Parish Priest for 10 months and then returned to Sagardi and took his Residence in the Tin-Shed House for his bed room and his Office near Oriental Institute in Sagardi. Fr. Patrick stayed in this house from 1983 to 1985.

Fr. Patrick D’Rozario, CSC, in 1983, the Superior of the Chittagong District wrote a three page paper entitled: “ORIENTAL INSTITUTE: SOME THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE NEW ORIENTATIONS”.

1. New Orientation proposed was: “Oriental Institute for Pastoral Services”:
 - a) an Institute of research and studies of Religions, Cultures and Language.
 - b) an Institute of Pastoral Services to Chittagong Diocese but open to other Dioceses
 - c) Continuation of the language School.
 - d) Continuation of the services to the Holy Cross Community.
2. Rationale of the proposal has been detailed out citing mainly: re-orientation to the original objectives of the Oriental Institute; the need of language school is fading, maximum utilization of

O.I for local Church; to follow-up of the District Chapter of 1982; need of organized mechanism for the renewal of the Church in Chittagong by following the priorities of the Pastoral Plan of the Local Church (1985).

3. Aims and Objectives: Implementation of the Pastoral plan: Option for the Poor, Building Communion and Community, Inculturation and Formation.
4. Means to achieve the objectives: Residential and Mobile courses, seminars, retreats, workshops; research and studies and trainings.
5. A Team of Animators suggested were: Fr. Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, Sr. Myriam Richard, CSC, Christopher Robi D'Costa and another woman.
6. Finances be seen by the (a) Holy Cross Community, (b) Chittagong Diocese, (c) Fees and charges.

Pastoral Service Team (PST)

Bishop Joachim Rozario in consultation with the Bangladesh District Superior of the Fathers, Fr. Thomas Zimmerman, Fr. Patrick D'Rozario was appointed the Director of the newly formed Diocesan **Pastoral Service Team (PST)** in August 1983 with initially three persons in the team: Fr. Patrick, Sr. Richard Myriam and Mr. Robi D'Costa.

Because of not finding anyone, Bishop Joachim appointed Fr. Patrick in 1986 the Parish Priest of Barisal Parish to replace Fr. Germain Grandmaison, CSC who was already in Canada. The PST was organizing at that time many outreach pastoral programs for which the team had to travel to others parishes and hold training programs locally. The PST has been using Barisal Parish, Madona House and Sisters' hall and campus for residential programs for Priests, Religious and lay people as Fr. Patrick and other Team members were living at Barisal Parish campus. This arrangement

of PST continued till the end of 1989. In 1990 the Office of the PST was shifted to the Oriental Institute with Fr. Patrick and Robi D'Costa having residence there and Sisters of the Team stayed in 5 Sadar Road.

Pastoral and Retreat Center (PRC)²³

On 14th February 1990 the former Oriental Institute was inaugurated as the Pastoral and Retreat Center (PRC). This was a joint project of the Holy Cross Community and the Diocese of Chittagong. The main aim of the Pastoral Service Team (PST) and the Pastoral Retreat Center (PRC) is to provide pastoral and spiritual formation in the light of the Second Vatican Council and of the Pastoral Plan of the Church in Bangladesh.

Objectives were:

- To assist building communion and community at the grass-root and parish level and to work for the same with other Churches and people of other Religions.
- To provide formation and training of the laity: Children, youth and adults to deepen their Christian faith and commitment, to promote spiritual life and lay participation, and to develop lay ministries in the Church.
- To give assistance in on-going pastoral and spiritual formation of priests, Religious, catechists and other pastoral agents in the Church.
- To provide religious and spiritual motivations and formation to those people who are involved in human development work and who work for justice, peace and solidarity for the kingdom of God.

Activities and Functions of PST and PRC

- To respond to the needs and requests of the parishes regarding formation.
- To promote pastoral planning of activities in the diocese at different levels.

- To help diocesan commissions to implement their programs and to serve as their executive office for information, documentation and circulation.
- To animate seminars, workshops, course, retreats, missions and other gatherings organized by different groups.
- To organize seminars, retreats, courses and Pastoral Assemblies or Conferences at the Diocesan and Regional levels.
- To serve as Diocesan Secretariat for Pastoral matters.

Team Members and their Responsibilities in PST and PRC in 1989

Fr. Patrick D’Rozario, Director – Pastoral Formation

Mr. Christopher Robi D’Costa – Formation of youth and the laity

Fr. Benjamin Labbe, CSC – Maintenance of the Oriental Institute

Sr. Rose (Therese Crepeau), CSC. – Family Apostolate

Fr. Gilbert Lague, CSC. – Retreat and Religious Communities

Fr. Enzo Corba, PIME – Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue

Sr. Clara Gomes, LHC – Formation of Children

SOME OBSERVATIONS:

- A **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between the Bishop of Chittagong and the Religious of the Holy Cross Fathers. Among others the most important points were: (a) Director of the Oriental Institute will be appointed by the Holy Cross Fathers and the Director of the PST and PRC, preferably a Holy Cross, by the Bishop of the Diocese after consultation with the Superior. (2) Some rooms on the Western section be reserved for the use of the Holy Cross House and their guests. (3) Program expenses will be borne by the Diocese and Maintenance of the Oriental Institute by the Holy Cross Community. (4) Services provided by the Oriental Institute is the Contribution of the Holy Cross to the Diocese. (5) Both Oriental Institute and PST-PRC will have annual budget which be approved by its respective authority.

- Because of the frequent demands of PST services from other Diocese, Bishop Joachim Rosario only permitted to take commitments to those Training Centers of other Dioceses which assist formation and trainings in Chittagong.

1990: The opening of the **Pastoral and Retreat Center (PRC)** at the Oriental Institute, Barisal took place on 14th February, clearly stipulating the role of the Oriental Institute belonging to the Congregation of Holy Cross and the Pastoral Retreat Center belonging to the Diocese of Chittagong.

The Objectives and Activities are articulated in the document were agreed upon by Fr. Zimmerman, CSC, the Superior of the District and Bishop Joachim Rozario, the Bishop of Chittagong.²⁴

Directors of Oriental Institute: Pastoral Service Team (PST) and Pastoral and Retreat Center (PRC)

DIRECTOR OF ORIENTAL INSTITUTE (O.I)

Fr. Martial Saint Pierre, CSC. Director (1960- 1963)

Fr. Paulin Demers, Fr. Claude Brouillard, CSC. Fr. Jean Rene Milot, CSC. Acting (1963-1965)

Fr. Guy Breault, CSC, Director (1965- 1967)

Fr. Jean-Guy Monette, CSC, Director (1968-1978)

Fr. G. M. Tourangeau, CSC. (1979-1986)

Fr. Benjamin Labbe, CSC. (1987-1998)

N.B. Different Persons were given responsibility for short period (1988-1999)

DIRECTOR OF PST AND PRC ONLY

Fr. Patrick D'Rozario, CSC. (1983-1990 June)

Fr. Adam S. Pereira, CSC. (1990 Six Months)

Fr. Philip D'Rozario, Vicar General Chittagong Diocese (1991)

Fr. Bimal Joachim Rozario, CSC (1992- 2 months)

Fr. Adam S. Pereira, CSC. (1993-1995)
Fr. Frank Quinlivan, CSC. (1995-1996)
Fr. Francis Parimal Pereira, CSC. (1996-2000)

DIRECTOR OF O.I, PST AND PRC

Fr. Atul Palma, CSC. (2001-2003)
Fr. Guilbert Lague, CSC. (2004-2009)
Fr. Eugene Anjus, CSC. (2010-2014)

DIRECTOR OF O.I and PRC

Fr. Hamlet Botlero, CSC. (2014-2016)
Fr. Ujjal Linus Rozario, CSC. Acting (2016 June-2017)
Fr. Subash Joseph Costa, CSC (Jan. 2018-2022)
Fr. Placid Rozario, CSC. (Jan 2023.....)
Fr. Robi Gomes, CSC, was appointed by the Provincial as
Resident at the Oriental Institute with objective of assisting the
Director.

(6) ORIENTAL INSTITUTE: CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION (2014-2022)

From the year 2014 there has been a big change in the functioning of the Oriental Institute and the Pastoral and Retreat Center. The change had come not smoothly with proper studies and understanding and hence there were tensions between the Oriental Institute, which was the property of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province and the Pastoral Service Team (PST) and the Programs of the Pastoral and Retreat Center (PRC) which were belonging to the Diocese of Chittagong.

In view of the future Diocese of Barishal which was imminent, a new building as future Bishop's House was constructed with necessary structures and facilities at 5 Sadar Road Parish Compound. Hence came the following steps:

- b) Already in 2013 the Head Office of the PST was transferred to Chittagong Bishopp's House under the Responsibility of Mr.

Manik D'Costa.

- b) Shifting of PST Office with personnel from Oriental Institute, Sagardi to the future Bishop's House building in 2014 at 5 Sadar Road, Barisal.
- c) Fr. Eugene Anjus, CSC, was appointed in 2010 as Director of both the Oriental Institute and of the PST and PRC. Hence the administration was in one hand. After him total administration of the Oriental Institute and the Pastoral Retreat Center went to the hands of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province.
- d) Fr. Hamlet Botlero was appointed in 2014 as Director of the Oriental Institute. Hence he was not responsible for the programs of the PRC.
- e) Although a joined Committee was made to study the raised issues, some consensus and agreement reached, but cooperation was not there for implementation.
- f) With the intention of making the Oriental Institute more financially self-sufficient, the fees were charged much higher than before, which caused a feeling of non-cooperation of the Oriental Institute to the Diocese of Chittagong and other partner agencies.
- g) Finally, the Chittagong Diocese took the decision to do its PRC program at the parish compound of Barishal Parish and at the newly built two storey building in Gournadi Parish which is located at the Northern side of the road of the Parish compound.

In order to provide education service and to have some more income Notre Dame Kindergarten English Medium Nursery School was started with renovation and re-planning of the site. Fr. Donnel D'Cruze, CSC, was given the Charge of running the School. But it was finally closed in 2018 because it could not be financially solvent.

In order to increase more income, Fr. Hamlet made the open field in the Eastern side, a big pond digging it and widening the banks of the pond on three sides with earth filling.

Fr. Ujjal Linus Rozario, CSC. was appointed as Acting Director of the Oriental Institute in January 2016 and stayed till June-2017.

With the construction of a new building for Novitiate in 2017, demarcation between the Holy Cross Novitiate and the Oriental Institute was specified. During the same period the East Bungalow of the Mid-Bungalows was demolished.

Fr. Ujjal did the earth-filling at the Southern side of the property along the canal in order to raise the land and make it useful for gardening. He also constructed the internal roads for easy walking and moving.

Fr. Subash Joseph Costa, CSC served as Director from January 2018-2022. During his time some renovation was done to the building increasing living facilities. He also made a Lemon Garden at the South-East corner of the property in 2020.

(7) PRESENT ORIENTAL INSTITUTE: PASTORAL AND RETREAT CENTRE (2023-)

Fr. Placid Rozario, CSC. is the present Director of the Oriental Institute: Pastoral and Retreat Centre, appointed from January 2023. Resident with him is Fr. Robi Hubert Gomes, CSC who came to the Oriental Institute in July 2023 and is assisting the Director.²⁵ During the last three years some renovation work was done putting tiles on the ground floor walls of the old building, in the chapel, dinning room, more living rooms and facilities were created with new tiles, living conditions and standard of the rooms were improved, air conditions are provided in the guest rooms and in conference hall, beatification of the campus was done with lights, court yard; CC camera was installed, parking lot were improved, one grotto of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, two grottos dedicated to Our Lady, Blessed Virgin Mary, were constructed and set up. In 2024, Holy Cross Oriental Institute established a Heritage Room to preserve the historical evidences and materials. A new gate at the

As far as the activities and programs are concerned, the following written description has been submitted to me by Fr. Robi Gomes who is assisting the Director and which I insert here in toto.²⁶

I. Religious and Spiritual Activities

- The Center regularly hosts annual retreats, training sessions, and workshops for Sisters, Fathers, Brothers, and members of various Religious Congregations.
- The Diocese of Barishal holds its Annual Pastoral Assembly at the Center.
- The Diocesan Commissions of Barishal utilize the facilities for workshops, seminars, conferences, and retreats designed for their respective pastoral groups.
- Retreats and workshops are also organized for Christian Churches of various denominations from across Bangladesh.
- The Novices use the Center's chapel twice a week for the Eucharistic celebration and celebrate their First Profession here each year.
- The Pastoral and Retreat Center hosts an annual Christmas celebration with the participation of the local Bishop, priests and religious, members of other Christian denominations, local leaders, government officials, regular users of the center, novices, and staff.

II. Educational and Formation Programs

- The Center conducts seminars for teachers, youth, children, parents, and guardians.
- Leadership programs are arranged by various NGOs for students, youth, teachers, and professionals.
- NGOs also conduct awareness and leadership programs for parents and families.
- Career development programs are held for students and young professionals.
- Motivational workshops are organized for selected groups.
- The Center hosts Marriage Encounter programs to strengthen family and marital life

III. Community and Social Development Activities

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and corporate entities frequently use the Center for retreats, workshops, meetings, and capacity-building programs for their staff and target groups.
- Special programs are organized for persons with disabilities.
- The Christian Life Organization (CLB) has its main office at the Center, from where it conducts its regular formation and outreach activities.
- The Payra Trust NGO also maintains its head office here and operates its social programs from this location.
- Every year, various NGOs celebrate Christmas at the Center using its facilities.

IV. Guest and Visitor Services

- The Center provides comfortable guest accommodations for both local and international visitors.
- Guest rooms are available for those seeking medical treatment at nearby hospitals.
- Many tourist groups traveling to Barishal and Kuakata Sea Beach stop at the Oriental Institute to rest, refresh, and use its facilities. Some groups stay overnight and continue their journey the following day.
- Throughout the year, many visitors come to the Oriental Campus simply to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of its peaceful environment.

V. Media and Cultural Activities

- Various groups of television and drama (*natok*) actors frequently visit the Center for video shoots and production activities. Occasionally, they stay overnight and engage in additional professional commitments outside the premises.
- The novices use the center's chapel twice a week for the Eucharistic celebration. Each year, they also use the chapel for their First Profession celebration. They also use our Basketball court to play Basketball regularly.”

The Director of the Oriental Institute reports saying that the Oriental Institute has good environment and atmosphere suitable and conducive to the programs with capacity of 80 people residing. On average about 3-4 live-in programs are held every month.



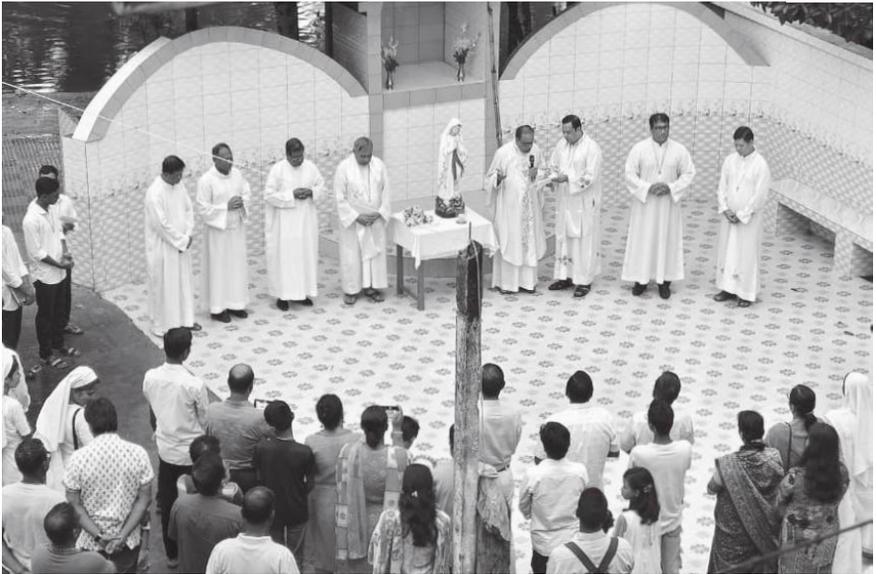
Diocesan Commission Program of Barishal Diocese



Program for the Youth of Different Church Denominations.



Church of Bangladesh: Program for the Bishop and the Priests



Blessing Ceremony of the Newly Built Grotto of Blessed Virgin Mary at the Oriental Institute.



Program of the Sisters of the Little Handmaids of the Church (LHC)



**World Communication Day:
Program of the Barishal Diocesan Commission**



**Blessing of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
at the Oriental Institute**



Women Program for the Church of Bangladesh



Annual Retreat for the Holy Cross Fathers and Brothers in 2025

III. FUTURE PLAN OF HOLY CROSS ORIENTAL INSTITUTE : PASTORAL AND RETREAT CENTRE

The following write up was submitted by Fr. Robi regarding future plan, as they see, of the Holy Cross Oriental Institute and the Pastoral and Retreat Center.²⁷

“1. Ongoing Mission and Programs

For decades, the Holy Cross Oriental Institute and Pastoral & Retreat Center has been dedicated to moral, religious and catechetical and faith formation of the youth, teachers, catechists, priests, and religious. In today’s rapidly changing social, cultural, and digital world, the demand for pastoral accompaniment and values-based education is more urgent than ever. For our future mission we see the following:

Our Vision: To inspire and form young men and women, parents, teachers, and students to be responsible leaders in society and in the nation.

Our Goal: To strengthen the faith, values, and leadership capacity of youth, teachers, catechists, priests, and religious through holistic formation and awareness programs at Holy Cross Oriental Institute, Sagardi, Barishal.

Key Objectives:

- Provide faith-based formation and moral guidance to youth annually.
- Train and empower teachers and catechists in values education and faith formation.
- Offer ongoing retreats and renewal programs for priests and religious.
- Promote social awareness, interreligious dialogue, and community harmony.
- Strengthen the Center as a hub for learning, renewal, and spiritual growth

2. Plan for a New Building

The current building of the Center has a rich history. Originally owned by the De Silva family, the property was purchased by the Holy Cross Fathers in 1952. Since then, it has served the Church and wider community in many ways: as a scholasticate, a language and cultural Institute and pastoral and a retreat center. For over seven decades, it has welcomed diocesan programs, the Holy Cross Congregation, NGOs, private organizations, and local and foreign visitors.

The Present Situation:

- The building is over 100 years old.
- Several parts of the ceiling are broken, with pieces falling at times—posing serious safety risks.

- Cracks in the walls indicate that the structure may not be usable within the next 10–20 years.
- In several places, the roof is damaged and leaking water.

The Urgent Need: In 2025, as we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Center, we recognize that a new, modern building is essential. It will provide safe, adequate, and standard facilities for training, retreats, and faith formation, ensuring that the Center can continue to serve as a vital place of renewal for future generations.”

IV. RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS DURING THE PERIOD (1938-2025)²⁸

- Fr. Raymond Larose, CSC, Religious Superior, Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers (1938-1951)
- Fr. Lapierre, CSC, Religious Superior of Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers (1951-1957)
- Fr. L. M. Lecavalier, CSC. Religious Superior of Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers (1958-1967)
- Fr. Joseph Patenaude, CSC. Religious Superior of Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers (1967-1972)
- Fr. Benjaim Labbe, CSC, Religious Superior of Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers (1972-1981)
- Fr. Patrick D’Rozario, CSC. Religious Superior of Chittagong Holy Cross Fathers (1981 Sep-1984)

In 1984 the Merger of the two Districts of Chittagong and Dhaka Holy Cross Fathers took place. From this date there were only one Holy Cross Superior of the Fathers.

- Fr. R. W. Timm, CSC, Religious Superior of the Bangladesh District (1982-1988)
- Fr. Thomas Zimmerman, CSC, Religious Superior of the Bangladesh District (1988-1991)
- Fr. Benjamin Costa, CSC, Religious Superior of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Vice Province (1991-1997)

- Fr. Stephen Gomes, CSC, Religious Superior of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (1988-2006)
- Fr. Frank Quinlivan, CSC, Religious Superior of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (2006 -2012)
- Fr. James Cruze, CSC, Religious Superior of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (2012-2021)
- Fr. George K. Rozario, CSC, Religious Superior of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (2021-----)

V. CONCLUSION: NEW ORIENTATION AND OBSERVATIONS

1. Will the Province be willing to revisit Oriental Institute of 1960s? its vision, aim and objectives, functions and activities?
2. Do we see the relevancy of such vision for the Local Church where Holy Cross Missionaries of Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of the present time are now all local but facing the urgent needs and the same kind of challenges.
3. Let us once again re-consider the following objectives in a new way?
 - **Apostolic and Pastoral Preparation for Local Missionaries** to initiated and deepen to the religious, cultural and social problems of the country. A centre for ongoing formation of the Priests, Religious and the Lay faithful.
 - **Research Work:** To foster research work for a better mutual understanding and a greater collaboration in helping to the spiritual uplift of the country. Bangladesh Church very badly need a Research Centre for the good of the Church and the nation.
 - **The Understanding of Respective Spiritual Values:** To be Centre where the Intelligentsia could meet for exchange of view on the vital problems of religion, culture, and social questions.
4. Oriental Institute has been an Ecumenical Centre for many years. Could this be a Center of Dialogue for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Harmony?

5. We are thankful to God that we have more personnel now, Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters for running such Center with expertise in different fields and contributing to Christian Community and to the society at large.
6. If new orientation be given to the Oriental Institute, with the initiative of Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, and not by any individual, a thorough STUDY be done regarding the urgent needs of the time, taking stock of the opportunities and threats, and possibilities and feasibilities, responses and engagement that can be professionally done according to the Charism of Holy Cross in Bangladesh. Let there be an articulation of Shared Vision, Shared Methodology with clear aims and goals. Such an apostolate could be a new and special ministry which may invite the Holy Cross Personnel of all branches of the Holy Cross Congregation to make visible our unity and communion and for engagement in greater collaboration and shared mission. Such mission will not only benefit the Holy Cross Fathers, Brothers and Sisters but also bring enormous contribution to the whole Church.

CONCLUSION: SOME OBSERVATIONS

From the long period of history of the Holy Cross Apostolates as described in the two articles on Holy Cross Novitiate in Noakhali and Holy Cross Institutions in Sagardi Barisal covering the period from 1989 to 2025 we may pick up some most important highlights that have worked behind the history.

1. Chittagong Diocese was created in 1927 and the Holy Cross Canadian Priests, Brothers and Sisters were given the responsibility to take care of the Diocese which extended some area of India and Burma. Under the Chittagong Diocese these two institutions came to existence and operated during the past eighth decades.
2. A vast mission area with limited number of Holy Cross Missionary Personnel were engaged.
3. Aftermath of the Second Vatican Council which brought so many new Ideas, demands, challenges and apostolates.

4. A tension between Old Missionaries and Young Missionaries working in Chittagong Diocese, particularly in Barisal area in 1950s and 1960s was experienced.
5. We see the Charism of the Holy Cross always present namely, reading the signs of the times and discerning the urgent needs and responding to the situation with zeal and trust in the Divine Providence, with unity and team spirit, etc.
6. We witness an ever openness in adapting to the new situation, responding to the urgent call and taking up new apostolates. Institution and infra-structures are there but the purpose of their usages have changed according to the needs of the time. Here we see a dynamic attitude of the missionaries.
7. Holy Cross had a spirit of service to others which went beyond all kind of boundaries, played a prophetic role, worked hard for the renewal of the Church and building the Local Church in Bangladesh.

(Endnotes)

- ¹ Moreau House Archive, Land Papers of Holy Cross Fathers, Chittagong)
- ² Moreau House Archive, Box no. 3305, (Letter of Fr. Lapierre, CSC, on August 19, 1951).
- ³ Moreau House Archive Box no. 3305)
- ⁴ Moreau House Archive, Box 3305 (Historical Notes, I: The Planning Stage (Prior to the foundation)
- ⁵ Moreau House Archive Box no 3302
- ⁶ Moreau Archive, Box No. 3307 (Letter of Bp. Larose to Archbishop of Dhaka., et al on 30th September, 1953,)
- ⁷ Moreau Archive, Box no. 3307, Letter of 9th November, 1953
- ⁸ Moreau House Archive, C-7, Code No. 3305.
- ⁹ Moreau House Archive Box.3307: (Doc. of Fr. Yvan Fournelle, CSC. 30th October, 1959).
- ¹⁰ Moreau House Archive Box.3307: (Sacred Heart Scholasticate, Letter of Fr. McClure on 12, 1958)
- ¹¹ Moreau Archive, Box no. 3322.
- ¹² Moreau House Archive, Box 3312 (FC – 10: Document prepared on 6th January, 1960)
- ¹³ Bro. Alberic Houle, CSC, History of the Diocese of Chittagong (1927-2003). p. 368-376.
- ¹⁴ Moreau House Archive (Canadian Province Archive, Oriental Institute, Box 3312).
- ¹⁵ Bro. Alberic Houle, CSC, History of the Diocese of Chittagong (1927-2003). p. 322-364.
- ¹⁶ Moreau House Archive, Box 3312: Oriental Institute
- ¹⁷ Moreau House Archive, Box no. 3312, Oriental Institute 1960-1968 FC-10
- ¹⁸ Moreau House Archive, Box 3312, BB Z.1.2 Oriental Institute
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Bro. Alberic Houle, CSC, History of the Diocese of Chittagong (1927-2003). p. 493-497.
- ²³ Joseph D’Rozario, JIBON CHARIT of Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC, January 8, 2022, pp.71-72.
- ²⁴ Ibid. pp 70-72.
- ²⁵ Interviews with Fr. Placid and Fr. Robi on 7/10/2025
- ²⁶ Fr. Robi Gomes, Regular Activities at the Holy Cross Oriental Institute
- ²⁷ Fr. Robi Gomes, Future Plan of the Holy Cross Oriental Institute
- ²⁸ Moreau House Archive, Box No. 3222 and 3223

কার্ডিনালের প্রকাশিত রচনাসমূহ

- ২০২৫ December 30-31: Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC and Fr. Vincent B. Rozario, CSC, *History of Holy Cross Novitiate in Bengal* and History of Holy Cross Oriental Institute : Pastoral and Retreat Centre.
- ২০২৪ ডিসেম্বর ২৫: প্রধান লেখক ও সম্পাদক “শ্রীমন্ত-বাটে পাদ্রীশিবপুর: ঐতিহ্যবাহী একটি খ্রিস্টান জনপদ”। প্রকাশক শ্যামল লরেন্স গোমেজ, পাদ্রীশিবপুর।
- ২০২৩ জুলাই ২২, সম্পাদনায়: “খ্রিস্ট যে তুমি: আধ্যাত্মিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির নবায়ন”, বিশপ রেমণ্ড লারোজ, সিএসসি; অনুবাদক মন্টু ডি'কস্তা, কলকাতা, প্রকাশক মণ্ডলীর ক্ষুদ্র সেবিকা সংঘ, বরিশাল।
- ২০২৩ এপ্রিল ৯: “একান্ত বাসনা করেছি”, অনুবাদ, Desiderio Desideravi, Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis. সিবিসিবি, এপ্রিল ৯, ২০২৩ খ্রি.
- ২০২৩ মার্চ ১৩: শিক্ষা ও সেবা: ধর্মশিক্ষা - সামাজিকশিক্ষা - শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠান কার্ডিনাল-পরম্পরা, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী, ১৭ই মার্চ, ২০২৩ খ্রি.
- ২০২২ December: Talks and Presentation Series – 3 *Church and Ministry: Bangladesh Local Church Cardinal Porompura, Pratibeshi Prakashoni, 25th December, 2022*
- ২০২২ মার্চ: ধ্যান-সংকলন - ১: ভস্ম থেকে পুনরুত্থান - তপস্যাকালীন ধ্যান কার্ডিনাল-পরম্পরা, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী, ভস্মবুধবার ২রা মার্চ, ২০২২ খ্রি.
- ২০২২ জানুয়ারি: কার্ডিনাল প্যাট্রিক ডি'রোজারিও সিএসসি-এর জীবন-চরিত, গ্রন্থ-লেখক: যোসেফ ডি'রোজারিও, কার্ডিনাল-পরম্পরা, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী, ৮ই জানুয়ারি ২০২২ খ্রি.
- ২০২১ অক্টোবর: বক্তব্য ও রচনা সংকলন - ১: খ্রিষ্টমণ্ডলী ও পালকীয় কর্মকাণ্ড - প্রথম খণ্ড; প্রেক্ষিত: চট্টগ্রাম ও রাজশাহী ডাইয়োসিস।
- ২০২১ অক্টোবর: বক্তব্য ও রচনা সংকলন - ২: খ্রিষ্টমণ্ডলী ও পালকীয় কর্মকাণ্ড - দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড; প্রেক্ষিত ৪ ঢাকা আর্চডাইয়োসিস।
- ২০২১ পুনরুত্থান: উপদেশ-সংকলন - ১: ধর্মোপদেশ : উপাসকমণ্ডলী ও ঈশ্বরের সাথে সংলাপ, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী।
- ২০২০ বার্তা-সংকলন - ১: বড়দিন: সর্বকালের সুখবর, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী।
- ২০১২ “কাথলিক মণ্ডলীর সংক্ষিপ্ত ধর্মসার”, সম্পাদক, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী।
- ২০০২ “কাথলিক মণ্ডলীর ধর্মশিক্ষা: পবিত্র শাস্ত্রের উপর পালকীয় ধর্মোপদেশ পরিকল্পনা”, অনুবাদক ও সম্পাদক, জাতীয় ধর্মীয় ও সামাজিক প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, যশোর।
- ২০০০ “কাথলিক মণ্ডলীর ধর্মশিক্ষা”, অনুবাদক-দল, প্রধান সম্পাদক, প্রকাশনা: সিবিসিবি।
- ২০০০ “মহান জুবিলী ২০০০” স্মরণিকা, লেখক ও সম্পাদক, চট্টগ্রাম।
- ১৯৯২ “মঙ্গলবাণীর পথযাত্রা”, পালকীয় পত্র, রাজশাহী বিশপ ভবন।
- ১৯৮৯ “ধন্যা কাতেরি তাকাকুইথার: সংক্ষিপ্ত জীবনী”, অনুবাদক, প্রকাশনা ময়মনসিংহ।
- ১৯৮৭ “বাংলাদেশে খ্রিস্টধর্মবিশ্বাস ও মানবোন্নয়ন”, গ্রন্থগণা, প্রকাশকাল।
- ১৯৮৫ “তুমি আমায় ডেকেছো ৪ এই তো আমি”: ‘মণ্ডলীতে ভক্তজনগণের আহ্বান ও সাড়া দান’ অনুবাদ, প্রকাশনা, ঢাকা।
- ১৯৭৪ “খ্রিস্টীয় বাংলা-পরিভাষা”, সহ সম্পাদক, প্রতিবেশী প্রকাশনী, প্রথম সংস্করণ ১৯৭৪।

BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE AUTHOR



Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, Archbishop Emeritus of Dhaka Archdiocese, hails from Padrishibpur. He was born on 1st October, 1943, brought up and educated in the "Parish of Our Lady of Guidance" in Padrishibpur.

Patrick D'Rozario passed Matriculation in 1961 from St. Alfred H. School. With a view to becoming a Holy Cross Religious he entered the Novitiate in 1961 in Sagardi, Barisal and made his First Profession on 14th June 1962.

He did his I.A. and B.A. from Notre Dame College, Dhaka and B.A in Philosophy and B.Th in Theology from Christ the King Seminary, Karachi. After his Priestly Ordination on 8th January, 1972, Fr. Patrick went to the University of Leuven, Belgium and received STL Degree and did STD studies.

From 1976-1990 Fr. Patrick taught Moral Theology in the Post-Graduate Philosophical and Theological Institute, Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Banani, Dhaka. He was consecrated as Bishop on 12th September, 1990. He did his Episcopal Ministry as Bishop of Rajshahi (1990-1995), Bishop of Chittagong (1995-2010) and as Archbishop of Dhaka (2011-2020). On 19th November, 2016 Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, was installed as Cardinal by Pope Francis.

Besides the work of a Bishop, teaching, lecturing and writing have been Cardinal's main pre-occupations. In addition to his regular writings in periodicals Cardinal has already 21 publications.