

GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT ASSAM

"We must not be attached to one little corner of the earth. We must rouse ourselves; we must be ever ready to go ahead. One town, one foundation will not satisfy our zeal, it must embrace the world".

- St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

Inspired by these words of our Mother Foundress, we religious of the Good Shepherd from Central East India Nepal Province, initiated to venture into the Diocese of Bongaigaon, Assam in North East India. The province was happy to respond to the invitation of Rt. Rev. Thomas Pulloppillil, the bishop of Bongaigaon Diocese. Prior to our arrival members of our province team had made visits to the Diocese.

On 8th January 2017 Srs. Arokiammal Selvanayagam and Hemalatha Boddu accompanied by Sr. Sabina Pathrose, the Province leader of CEIN and Sr. Mariam Kulangara, one of the PLT reached to Bahari Hat. Fr. James Vadakiyel, the parish priest of Bahari warmly welcomed us and we are grateful for his goodness, especially as he accompanied us in the beginning of our stay here. We are living in a rented house and the inaugural mass which was celebrated on 16th January 2017 by bishop of Bongaigaon Diocese along with Fr. James, sisters from neighbouring parish,





teachers of Don Bosco School, village community elders and neighbouring families. It also gave us an opportunity to know the history of the area and interact with people. After the celebration of the Eucharist the Bishop welcomed us in the presence of the village leader Mr. Govindo Morale and the villagers.

Education Ministry:

On 26th January 2017 officially we began our teaching ministry in Don Bosco School, Bahari run by the Diocese. On 29th of July 2017 Sr. Thomasy joined our community and on 1st of August sister was welcomed by Fr. James the principal of the school, staff and students in solemn traditional way. She was appointed as the Head Mistress of the school. At present we are in the midst of three categories of people -- Assamese, Bengalis and Muslims. The presence of the sisters is raising the standard of the school and the admissions started to be on the increase.

Visit to the families:

We do not have Catholics in this area except our teachers. Apart from our ministry in the school, we do visit the families of our school children, other houses and during holidays we visit other mission stations of the diocese in order to build rapport with





them and witness their ministries with different tribes. We are happy to participate in the local community celebrations to know and understand the people better; many more things

to learn from children and the people of the locality. We conclude with a quote from Prof. Dr. Clare W. Graves:

“As life conditions change, we are awakened to change our way of thinking, there is a call to shift our consciousness and respond to the signs of time.”