



# CRI MANIPUR

Poumai Colony, Chingmeirong – PO, Heingang - PS,  
Imphal East – 795010

Rf. No. BJ/CRI-Circular/2025/001

Date: Tuesday, 16 September 2025

**Dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters in Consecrated Life,**

Greetings of peace and joy to you all in this Jubilee Year of *Pilgrims of Hope*! This being my first circular after the election of the new office bearers of CRI Manipur, I take this occasion to thank you for your prayerful support and for the spirit of communion and collaboration which you continue to extend for the good of our religious life and mission in Manipur.

Together with our Treasurer, Sr. Angeli FCC, I had the privilege of attending the 44th General Assembly of CRI Northeast India, held at Social Forum, Guwahati, from 30 August to 1 September 2025. The meeting brought together 115 participants including Major Superiors, Delegates, and Office Bearers from local CRI units. Rooted in the Jubilee spirit, the Assembly reflected on the theme, “*Consecrated Life – A Call to be Pilgrims of Hope.*” The sessions were moments of reflection and renewal, urging us to rediscover the meaning of our consecrated life for today’s Church and society.

The opening day was dedicated to the presentation of the Pastoral Plan 2033, inaugurated by Fr. G.P. Amalraj, Regional Deputy Secretary of the Bishops’ Council. The plan, entitled “*Empowerment of the Religious of Northeast as Missionary Disciples of Jesus for Mission Northeast 2033,*” was prepared with contributions from the thirteen dioceses of the region. Fr. Amalraj highlighted that the mission goals of 2033 can only be realised if priests and religious work closely in collaboration and in the spirit of communion. The words of Fr. Charles Leon, National Secretary for Vocations, Religious, Clergy, and Seminarians (VRCS), also inspired us deeply. Drawing from the Jubilee hymn “*I have decided to follow Jesus*” he reminded us that the cross before us and the world behind us continue to be our enduring source of hope and courage.

The conference was well coordinated under the leadership of Sr. Mabel Gothorp FMA, Provincial of Guwahati and President of the Northeast Regional CRI, along with the new Secretary General, Sr. Teresa Joseph MSMHC, who ensured that every detail of the gathering was meticulously carried out. Sr. Teresa (97067 75055) also extended a warm welcome to all religious who may wish to stay at the CRI Home in Guwahati, provided prior information is given. This year, in addition to the presence of almost all Major Superiors, Provincials, Regional Superiors, Unit Presidents, and Secretaries, a significant number of new representatives from various congregations also participated. Statistics shared during the meeting give us a glimpse of the vast presence of consecrated life in the Northeast: 38 congregations of men (425 houses with 1,821 members), 8 congregations of brothers (40 houses with 152 members), and 120 congregations of women (991 houses with 5,593 members).

The liturgical celebrations formed the spiritual heart of the days together. The first day’s Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Saju Chackalackal CMI, President of National CRI; the second day by Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menampampil; and the final day by Bishop Jose Chirackal DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Tura. Each homily drew from the Jubilee theme and offered insights into our call as pilgrims of hope. A very striking input was given by Fr. Shinto Mathew OCD, who spoke about wellness in priestly and religious life. He stressed the urgent need for us to pay serious



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attention to mental health and holistic well-being in the present times, especially in light of certain tragic experiences in our country. He urged us to take full advantage of wellness programmes available for priests and religious today.

The three-day conference concluded with the preparation of a statement to be presented to the Pastoral Conference for their understanding and consideration. Some of the points highlighted included: the promotion of dignity and respect for all, especially our excluded brothers and sisters including the LGBTQ+ community, through our ministries; sharing annually in a Regional CRI Bulletin stories of outreach to the marginalized; incorporating care for the environment and protection of Mother Earth into our formation syllabi; organizing inter-congregational programmes on personal wellness, evangelization, and shared mission; identifying wellness professionals for awareness programmes at local and regional levels; and developing a common CRI Directory for Northeast India to enhance networking and collaboration.

Dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters, our CRI gatherings here in Manipur must also move beyond pious exercises such as recollections, talks, and confessions, though these are good and necessary in themselves. We are called to radical action in our local situation for the Kingdom of God. It is therefore important that during our meetings we take time to evaluate our life and apostolic involvement, both as individual communities and as a collective body of CRI. We need to concentrate more on the fundamental issues of religious life and, in doing so, revitalize our commitment. We also need to set a vision and concrete targets for our future action, so that our life becomes a credible witness and a meaningful service to the people among whom we live and work.

The goal of CRI is to bring together members of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life so that we may share our experiences, challenges, and concerns and be mutually enriched. It also seeks to promote combined efforts for the greater good of each Institute, while respecting the autonomy and spirit of each, as stated in the Code of Canon Law (CIC 708). Finally, it deals with matters common to all Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, particularly those that affect our consecrated vocation in today's world.

I, therefore, invite all the religious working in Manipur to collaborate wholeheartedly in the activities of CRI. May our collective witness to fraternity and communion contribute to the fulfilment of the prayer of Jesus, "that they may all be one," and may it help us bring God's Kingdom ever more visibly to the people of our land.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother on 8 September 2025, I wish each of you joy and peace. May Mary, our Mother and Model, accompany us as we prepare for the Great Jubilee of 2033 and encourage us to walk as true Pilgrims of Hope.

With fraternal regards,

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ our master and teacher,

  
Fr. Benny James SDB

President, CRI Manipur