

## **St. Vincent De Paul Church, Amsoi**

St. Vincent De Paul Church, Amsoi was officially established on May 29, 1995 with Fr. Josphe Pazhakadavan SDB as its first parish priest. It is situated in the Nagaon District of Assam, 60 kilometres away from the state capital. The people of the area are mainly from the communities of Tiwa, Karbi, Garo, and Nepalees. There are more than 3000 families spread across 40 villages within and around the centre. Among them, the Catholics number around 110.

A school is always a welcome factor in any centre in the Northeastern region. However, at Amsoi a handful of local people, instigated by outside agents did not want a Christian presence and tried to persuade the government authorities to deny permission to acquire land or put up buildings. But the Nagaon Distinct Tribal Sanja president, Secretary and others intervened and together with initial opponents gave a signed document to the D. C. of Nagaon, ending all opposition and granting permission to open a Don Bosco School.

In April 1994, St. Vincent De Paul Primary School was inaugurated. It is a proceeding high school and is growing in number. In 1999, the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross (SCSC) established the Holy Cross convent at Amsoi. The sisters collaborate in the ministry of the parish and run the hostel for girls. The hostels at the Parish provide educational opportunity for boys and girls from far-flung villages.

Until today, educational mission of the centre has been bringing laurels with hundred percent of success in board exams. It has been instrumental in bringing socio-cultural transformation by providing education to hundreds of children from the rural areas. The education imparted to them has opened up to them new vistas. Fr. Jose Mathew Kuttappasseril, the present parish priest and Principal of the School is persistent in his effort to develop the centre.

The Church's mission in Amsoi has only begun. The vast area of its proposed mission land with large population offer great opportunities for evangelization and other forms of ministries.

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