

St. Peter's Church, Chandrapur

St. Peter's Church, Chandrapur is 32 kilometers away from Guwahati, the metropolitan city of Assam. It is a small town close to the well-known river Brahmaputra and covered by hills. The people of the area are mostly Garos, Adivasis, Assamese, Bengalis and Boros. They belong to lower middle class section and depend on farming and daily wages. Many of them are vulnerable to Malaria a common disease of the place.

Establishment of the Mission

Chandrapur area was part of Resurrection Parish, Sonaighuli. As the Archdiocese foresaw the possibility of evangelization and the need for strengthening the faith of the Catholics decision was made to erect a parish at Chandrapur. The new parish was inaugurated in the year 2001 with Fr. Thomas Mattathilani as the parish priest.

The Catholic population of the parish is limited to the Garo Communities of Gobardhan and Missamari Villages and an Adivasi community of Milanpur. Presently, there are around 190 Catholic families.

In the year 2009 the Archdiocese entrusted the administration of the parish to the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (MSFS) and Fr Joseph Puliylakat was appointed the Parish Priest and Headmaster of Don Bosco School. In 2011 Fr Mathew Vazheparambil succeeded him.

Don Bosco School started in the year 2001 has become a high school today. It continues to impart quality education to the children in and around the area. The hostel facility available in the centre has served in accommodating children from rural areas. Through the years, the school has become an ideal institution in the area, which is truly a confluence of customs and culture where students are united in spite of their differences.

In the year 2011, the first batch of students appeared in the High School Leaving certificate (HSLC) Examination under SEBA and brought out 100% result. Since then the school has produced 100 present results till date. Students are given ample opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities.

Activities of the Parish

The parish undertakes developmental activities under the aegis of Northeastern Diocesan Social Service Society and FAsCE India, the developmental wing of the MSFS. Their activities focus on development of children and the people in the villages. FAsCE India has a programme named: "Formation and Strengthening of Fransalian Kids" while NEDSSS has 'Formation of Self-Help Groups' (SHGs) programme. All the activities of the parish are directed by Fr. Saji Tharayil MSFS, the present parish.

Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (SMMI) joined the mission in 2001. They render assistance to carry out the parish activities and help the educational mission. The dispensary managed by the sisters provides medical care to the people, especially those from rural areas.

The priests and sisters who serve in the mission continue the work of evangelization and building up of communities, giving thrust to the pastoral and educational mission of the Church.

Conclusion

Over the years, the mission at Chandrapur has been helpful in impacting the society with development in all spheres of life. Its relentless effort to instil values in the lives of people has born fruits. Its services have benefitted many to improve their standard of living. The centre is moving forward with its set goals to better the lives of its people.

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