



Priests' Films,

Promote Human Rights and Evangelization

by Fr C.M. Paul, sdb

Two Catholic priests dabbling in mainstream cinema for almost a decade claim their two feature films help indigenous people gain dignity and assert human rights. The two Salesian filmmakers have been working for over two decades among the Kokborok people of Tripura in northeast India bordering Bangladesh. Their first film, the 132 minute 'Mathia' (2002), creates awareness of the social evil of witch-hunts, while the second 95 minute film 'Yarwng' (2008) highlights the plight of people sacrificed on the altar of development. They are Guwahati Salesians, Joseph Kizhakechennadu (producer) and Joseph Pulinthanath (director).

Fr Pulinthanath has teamed up with a third award-winning Salesian filmmaker, Fr Jiji Kalavanal, of DB IMAGE Kochi for a docufilm entitled 'The HAND of Don Bosco'. The shoot covering seven states of Northeast India (Assam, Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura) is a homage to Salesian pioneers, on the eve of the first-ever Don Bosco Relics Pilgrimage to Northeast India which began on 1st May 2011.

When 'Mathia' (Bangle) won first prize at the Niepokalanow (Warsaw) festival 2004, Tripura State's first international film award, the Kokborok Sahitya Academy (Literary Society) organized a public event in the state capital Agartala to congratulate the crew.

The Minister for Tripura State Tribal Welfare, Mr. Agnore Debbarma, granted INR 200,000 (4,000

