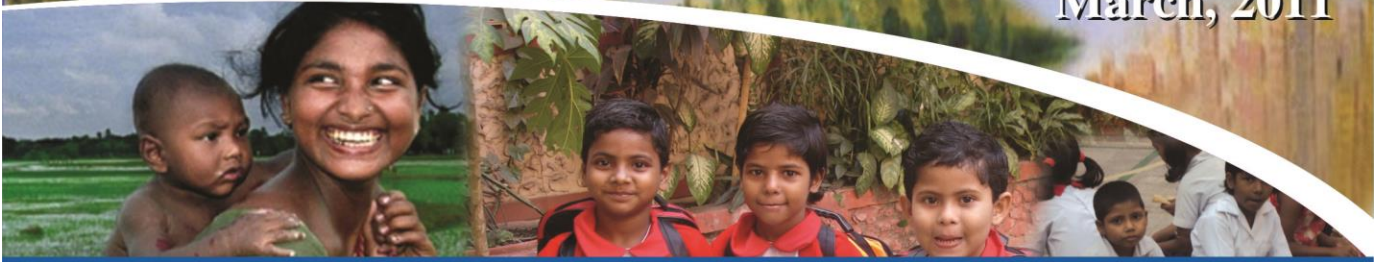




# Loreto (IBVM) reaching out.....

March, 2011



Loreto Provincialate , 7 Middleton Row, Kolkata - 700 071 • Ph. 2229-7054 • Fax : 2249-7767 • E-mail : protressiat@gmail.com, loretopro@vsnl.net

**Lent** is a time of reflection and conversion. Let us join the Participants at The International Meeting( 29th May – 7th June, 2011 )at Loreto College, Toronto, to begin a journey of personal reflection using excerpts taken from the chapter ‘Holding what gives you life’ from the book ‘Sleeping with Bread’ by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn & Matthew Linn SJ.

For what moment today am I most grateful?  
For what moment today am I least grateful?

When did I give and receive the most love today?  
When did I give and receive the least love today?

When did I feel the most alive today?  
When did I most feel life draining out of me?

When today did I have the greatest sense of  
belonging to myself, others, God and the universe?

When did I have the least sense of belonging?  
When was I happiest today? When was I saddest?

What was today’s high point?  
What was today’s low point ?.



With this quote as a help to ‘Conscious’ examen, I now move on to news from the Houses.

**Loreto College, Kolkata**, began its year long celebrations on 2nd February. The former President of our nation, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the Chief Guest.

His words on this occasion were:

“I am delighted to address the Students of Loreto College, Kolkata. My greetings to the Principal, Members of the Faculty, Students, Staff and other invited guests. I am very happy that Loreto College is celebrating one hundred years of its mission of empowering women with

education through courses in Liberal Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. I am happy to know that Loreto College became the first college in West Bengal to be assessed by NAAC in 2000 and was awarded the highest rating of five stars. When I was reading about the College I was glad to know its mission was ‘to evolve and prepare young women for the needs of our world with knowledge, which gives them the power to act, and be



motivated by the love which gives them wisdom in their actions...’ This is indeed the need of the hour for the nation and the society. I congratulate the pioneers of this institution, both past and present, who have continued the mission of education for a century now.

“Dear Students, development of the nation requires development of states, development of districts, development of villages, and development of individuals. While there is no contradiction among these, to make the development inclusive and sustainable in a democratic set up, we need to empower ourselves with a sense of purpose and knowledge, with righteousness at heart, and imbibe the strength from the lives of many indomitable human beings whether they are from science or arts or public service or for that matter, any other field”.

On this occasion, too, West Bengal Governor M.K. Narayan released a commemorative stamp in honour of Mary Ward, the foundress of IBVM Institutions, and the First Day Cover, issued by the Indian Postal Department. In his speech he said: -

“Loreto College has a chequered history. It is respected as an institution that has produced students who are the embodiment of many virtues, and not restricted merely to scholarly attainments. Even as the number of students has swelled over the years, Loreto College has remained firmly anchored in the principles and precepts, as well as in the commitment to fundamental values that marked its beginning on this day 99 years ago.

There are several landmarks and several firsts to Loreto College’s credit. From ten students in 1912, today there are 900 in Loreto College. From an Institution originally intended to prepare young women for the teaching profession, it has ranged far beyond its origins, focusing not only on academic excellence by offering courses in the Honours and General level in the Humanities, but also job-oriented courses in subjects such as Journalism, Film Studies and Computer Applications.

“The young women who come out of Loreto College are sensitive to the needs and problems of the underprivileged, and those who face deprivation, or constantly need assistance. The College management assists in this by encouraging social service and community service. A Women’s

Cell run by dedicated teachers provides adult literacy classes for underprivileged women, and, inspired by the example of their teachers, students are enthused to take care of the weak and the needy. Justice, Truth and selfless service are the watchwords of the wards of Loreto College”.

As we note with quiet satisfaction our successful achievement in evolving with the changing times, we are mindful of new changes and challenges that lie ahead. In our centenary year, we would like to spend time in introspection, to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to the past while preparing ourselves for a dynamic future.

Mrs. M. Gasper recalls that the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 was a red letter day for **Loreto Day School, Bowbazar**. It was the Junior Section Sports at Loreto Entally. The entire programme was spun around the theme **CELEBRATION**.



The captains of Class 5 led the march past. The chief guest Mr. Gopi Nath Ghosh, President of the Bengal Table Tennis Association, took the salute. He declared the “Celebration” open by lighting firecrackers such as sparklers. The dragon dance was the opening ceremony which set the tone for the evening’s celebration. Each class had a relay based on a joyful event such as Birthday, Christmas, Independence

Day, Raksha Bandhan, Holi, Wedding and Dewali. The flat races were based on Houses and division. The baton relay was a relay involving all divisions. The field events were held earlier.

Classes 3, 4 and 5 displayed a colourful pom-pom drill, and Yoga Exercises. The high light of the programme was the Karate display and the Aerobics by the children of our Outreach programme, Ashadeep. The parents participated in a ‘passing the ball’ game. The children enjoyed watching their parents and cheered them. The prizes were given away by important guests. The Bhangra dance of the Punjab was the closing ceremony. The Chief Guest’s speech was very encouraging and inspiring. The Principal tendered the vote of thanks and the celebration concluded with the National Anthem.

Sr. Moira Cunning and I visited **Loreto Convent Lucknow** from 8<sup>th</sup> February till 14<sup>th</sup> February. The welcome we received from the Convent, Loreto Convent Intermediate College, Loreto Jagriti School, St. Agnes’ Loreto Day School and Pushpa Vidyalaya brought great joy to us.





Ms. L. George of the Intermediate College, Lucknow, writes that the students and teachers welcomed Mother General, Sr. Marian Moriarty, along with Sr. Helen O’Riordan and other Loreto nuns on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. A short cultural Programme was put up by the students to accord a traditional Indian Welcome to the visitors.

The celebrations of Mary Ward Week commenced from January 24, 2011 with the Inaugural Prayer Service. A skit based on one of Mary Ward maxims, which was an Inter House Competition, followed. A Cleaning campaign was organized in the School by all our children. The campaign prepares the students to respect work and develop a sense of cleanliness. Various Competitions like Singing, Quiz on Current Affairs, Collage making, Calligraphy and Drawing based on Mary Ward were held in honour of our Foundress and to make the students realize what Mary Ward meant by “Women in time to come will do much”.

Then on 9<sup>th</sup> February Sister Tressia visited the Inter College. The day started with a prayer service followed by a short welcome programme for Sister who emphasized the importance of making a “Difference” in our lives for both the staff as well as the students.



A Retreat was offered for all Catholic/ Christian teachers and students on the 10<sup>th</sup> by Mr. G. Morris on Christian family values. He is the National Secretary of Laity and Family Commission. A special extra half an hour session was conducted for the staff where they were briefed on how to imbibe those values in their professional and personal lives.

Keeping our mission statement in mind –“make our school a centre of preferential love of the poor - is lived out both in attitudes and structures”. The group Peace Doves distributed rice, dal and sugar to the approximately seventy underprivileged families of the River side Colony on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2011. Our students from Classes V to XII regularly visit the same families throughout the year as part of their Social Service Project.

Sr. Moira Cunning and I visited **Loreto Convent, Delhi** from 15<sup>th</sup> February. I was impressed by the students of Classes X and XI by their open sharing and suggestions for the development of their school.

Mrs. A. Davies of Loreto Delhi informs us that as per the guidelines of CBSE, the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system was introduced in Loreto Delhi in October 2009 in class 9 during the second Term. CCE has now been introduced in all classes from 5 to 10 starting from 2010. CCE is an assessment of the development of students attempting to shift emphasis from testing to holistic learning.

The academic year is divided into two terms. In each term three sets of assessments are taken and grades are awarded. Besides these the teachers regularly observe the children and grades are awarded for work experience, art education, physical education, creative or literary skill, performing art skill, thinking skill, scientific skill, life skills, attitude and values.

The system of clubs is introduced to the students and they willingly take part in the club activities, and they are observed and assessed by the teachers. Besides these the students participating in the zonal and national level in different competitions are given due recognition in the report card. Besides grades, descriptive indicators for each skill are also entered in the report card.

CCE also aims to help students make a choice of subjects for class 11, based on their aptitude, interests and academic performance. Keeping this in view an Aptitude test is conducted for Class 10 students. A proficiency test is planned in the month of May by CBSE to help the students know where they stand among peers. They have an option of taking the Board Examination or School examination. However, the Board recommends that the students who wish to move out from the CBSE system and students studying in secondary schools should opt for the Board-conducted Examination.

Feedback has so far indicated that the students have welcomed the new changes in the evaluation system wholeheartedly. Children have started enjoying all the activities as the new system emphasizes a stress-free atmosphere for the students to learn. The atmosphere in the class room has undergone a change with increased level of involvement both from the teacher and the taught. All students are engaged in the learning activities and this in turn improves the learning outcome. It has also reduced students' examination strain as well as parental anxiety.

I visited Loreto **Shimla** from 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2011. This is what Sr. Antoinette has to say about Shimla. The new school year began with Orientation days for the Teachers on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February, which were geared to drawing up a Mission Statement for the School. This gave the teachers a great sense of belonging and commitment. All recognized the need to go ahead with the construction of the building at the site of the landslide. Their dreams went even further – to transform the new building into a Degree College in the future! This was seen to be a pressing need in Shimla.



They felt fortunate to have Sr. Tressia with them from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Her challenge to the students and teachers to pray for the school and their dreams for it has now been taken up at Assembly each day.

The school building, furniture and facilities were left in a very dilapidated condition, though it is amazing how much Sr. Anita Braganza had done in the past three years to restore the place to some semblance of dignity. The school has also come up to Higher Secondary level, and the CBSE Board has been introduced. The work continues... and your prayers and support would be greatly appreciated.

As you might know, Br. Steve Rocha (Christian Brothers) organized an eight day workshop on ‘**Social justice in our schools**’ in Chandigarh from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> February’11. The resource people were: Brendan Macartheigh, Gayatri and Mira of ‘Project Citizen’, Ms. Anita Lodi of Spastic Society and Mrs. Reena Majumdar who heads the JPIC movement in our schools.

The time has come for us to move from charity to justice to advocacy. What is the way forward?  
The message was:-

- We must communicate at all levels
- Network among schools at the local, national, international level and with the UN.
- Question ourselves whether our action will lead to justice and advocacy.
- We must showcase our activities
- We must use the tool Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to put our demands before the UN.



Sr. Roselima and Sr. Liza were present from the Presentation Sisters along with representatives from the Edmund Rice schools in India. Bro. Steve was particularly interested to know how we have set up structures and systems in our schools. A PowerPoint presentation of MWI, the Rainbow project, and our JPIC was an eye-opener for all those who were present.

The group felt that for this year, the schools could work on

1. UPR (for which the staff must be trained)
2. Project Citizen
3. Any other issue about which the school feels strongly.

It was a great learning experience and an opportunity for us to move ahead with others sharing the same dream.

**Sr. Archana Gomes** has started her B. Ed classes in St. Mary's Shillong. She will be replaced by **Sr. Philomena Dowd** as a participant in the International meeting at Toronto from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**Fr. Kurien Kunnunpuram, S.J.** will be conducting **eight days retreat** in Loreto House from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Sr. Cecily Wong says that you are most welcome to avail of this opportunity, and to inform her in due time.

#### **Visitors:**

We are happy to welcome **Sr. Beatrice Stuart** who arrived on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in India. Sr. Beatrice is helping with formation till April 2011 since Formation in India is a priority. She plans to support, help and work around what is needed in our Formation... for our Formators and those members being formed. She will be mainly in the Novitiate as that is where the help is required just now. She will leave with Sr. Monica Affonso for the Region on 20th March.

We are happy to welcome **Sr. Mary Mallany, Ibvm** who is accompanying the students from Toronto. They will be visiting some of our schools in the Province and Region.

#### **Prayers are requested**

For our **2<sup>nd</sup> year novices**—Banisha Sohkhlet, A. Kavitha Rosy Mary, Rajneeta Kerketta, Anita Nayak, Ganga Bardewa, Renata Mistry and Rani Hembram – who will be making their first Profession on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, at Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur.

**Tertians** - Srs. Yvonne Gomes, Goretti Tirkey and Igora Pinto - have finished the international part of the Tertianship programme in Llandudno and are off on the Mary Ward pilgrimage in York, London, San Omer, Liège and Augsburg/Munich/Altötting. They will return to India on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011.

Please pray for **Srs. Anita Cardoza and Beatrice Stuart** who will be having cataract surgery in the coming days.

## MARCH

<u>Feast Day</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Birth Day</u>
	Sr. Euphemia Fernandes	10th Mar
	Sr. Christine Coutinho	10th Mar
	Sr. Balika Pal	12th Mar
	Sr. Claire McFarland	22nd Mar

## APRIL

<u>Feast Day</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Birth Day</u>
	Sr. Easterla Badwar	5th Apr
	Sr. Binista Kerketta	13th Apr
16th Apr	Sr. Bernadette D'Rozario	
21st Apr	Sr. Conrad D'Souza	
	Sr. Anjali Tirkey	22nd Apr
	Sr. Baiadarmy Lyngkhoi	25th Apr
26th Apr	Sr. Consuelo Murphy	
	Sr. Eithne McDonald	26th Apr

With this letter Srs. Mercia D'Souza, Molly Francis, Flora Anthony and Archana Gomes send their greetings to you.

Let us continue to support each other in prayer.

*M. Tressia T. Aricatt*

M. Tressia T. Aricatt, ibvm.