



*Loreto Provincialate,
7, Middleton Row,
Kolkata – 700 071*

*Sharing IBVM News :
October, 2008*

*Meeting of Community Leaders - 29th
Sept to 3rd Oct 08:*

The success of this year's Meeting lay mainly in the ability of the Group to desire and to begin honest conversation at the Meeting itself. This made for understanding and bonding within the Group. We touched on highlights of Community and Mission, on passion for such ventures as Vocation Promotion, Courage to move to new ministries, JPIC, etc., and shared the input received at the Provincials' Meeting 08. One strong outcome was the insight to focus on Ongoing Formation. As a result the following goals were drawn up:

- *Organize programmes annually for age groups or open groups,*
- *Have two sets of Province Assemblies with the same facilitator, for honest conversation,*
- *Have a support system in place for individuals/community in crisis,*
- *To encourage personal responsibility in availing of courses, etc. and seek ways to free the members,*
- *Get a facilitator to start community building, mediation skills, etc.*
- *To encourage members to avail of spiritual direction. Community Leaders also to have mentor or spiritual director.*

- *Faith sharing, evaluation and reflection on experiences, programmes, events, etc., to be encouraged in ways that are suitable for the community.*

Input was given by Fr. Joe Manna on Psycho-spiritual integration, focusing mainly on mid-life transition. It was marvellous how his talk seemed to correspond with much of what we had been discussing beforehand as a group! Needless to say we gained much from the practical nature of this input.

Formation:

The 2nd Year Novices have returned from their community experience. The whole group is presently in Tarumitra, Patna, on a course in Eco-Spirituality. After the course the 1st years stay on for the 30 days' Retreat, directed by Sr. Igora, beginning from 31st October 08. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Candidates are on mission experience at the different Rainbow Homes in Calcutta – Sealdah, Loreto House, Dharamtalla and Elliot Road. I met the Elliot Rd group and they were thrilled to be learning Bengali and interacting with the Rainbow children. During this time Sr. Alma, the Director, was supposed to be in Toronto, for the Meeting of the Recently Finally Professed Sisters. Unfortunately,

she did not get the Canadian Visa. However, Sr. Anima Kujur, from the Region, is presently in Canada – no doubt benefiting much from her first visit abroad.

Meeting of T.Ps. in Ranchi: 18
Temporary Professed Sisters from the Province and Region met in Ranchi for an 8 days' Retreat, directed by Fr Giorgio Mennini, followed by 2 days of sharing among the Group, guided by Sr. Philomena Dowd, Director of Third Probation. No doubt this was an occasion for much synergy and sharing for the T.Ps.

Medical Bulletin - Sr. Bridget:
Thanks for the prayers for Sr. Bridget. Miraculously she was able to get a donor from the parish and to have the liver transplant surgery on time. Sr. Bridget writes: "Thank God the Bishop advised that the best way to request for donors was by advertising in the Parish Bulletins. So I advertised and got responses from 7 people wanting to be donors. People are not aware that while they donate part of their liver the rest of their liver grows back to its normal size in 4-6 weeks. So on the 22nd of September I had my surgery. I was not afraid. Could not wait for it as the pain and suffering prior to it were worse than ever as I was in the end stages." Bridget is still recovering from the surgery and needs your continued prayers. She can be contacted on the Infirmary phone at The Abbey, Toronto, No. (001) 416 322 6262 between 9.00 a.m. to 5.00p.m. Canadian time.

Prayers are requested for Sr. Monica Suchiang's mother who underwent surgery on 24th Oct.

Transfer: Sr. Ursula Darcy is moving to Trichy on 31st October, as Director of Studies in Trichy. Undoubtedly her presence in the community and her assistance in this House of Studies will be invaluable. I am grateful to Sr. Ursula for accepting this assignment so readily and cheerfully.

IBVM NGO in New York:
Sr. Marilla is familiarizing herself with the Office, New York City and UN Events. The number of communications from her shows that she is well immersed in her work. Our support to Marilla could be in responding to her communications or informing her of local activities in the doing of justice.

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Sabbatical: Sr. Phyllis is full of new insights gained from the Courses in Australia - on Ignatian Discernment, Group Leadership, Spirituality of Mission, Culture and Inculturation, Concept of Development, Human Rights, Truth & Reconciliation, etc. A question they were asked was, "What is dying and rising in the Church". It was an eye opener for Phyllis to see that there wasn't much difference in the sharing of what was dying and rising in the Western and Eastern Churches. Phyllis was invited to a church to share her Vocation Story at all the three masses on a Sunday. She spoke on Mary Ward, her vocation and Loreto, and was warmly

applauded by the parish congregation. Well done, Phyllis! Soon it will be time for Phyllis to go on a well-deserved home holiday to her family in Australia.

Visit to India: *Sr. Barbara Murphy will be visiting the Province between 24th Nov and 20th Dec 08. She comes to familiarize herself with the Province and with Formation in particular. She will not be moving to all the houses this time. A warm welcome, Barbara!*

Orissa: *We are still agonizing over the Orissa persecutions, and seem so helpless in the face of political bureaucracy and religious intolerance. The celebration of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October only served to remind us that the violence in Orissa and other parts of the country against the largely peace-loving Christian community is a dire threat to one of Gandhi's most cherished dreams: religious amity. However, it is important to remember "murder does not have a religion – even when it claims a religious excuse".*

Every diocese has drawn up action plans to demonstrate support for the persecuted in Orissa. Let us continue to: PRAY, COMMUNICATE, PRE-EMPT TROUBLE, PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND PEACE.

First Indian Saint:

It was a moment of pride when Sr. Aphonsa was canonized on Oct 12th by Pope Benedict XVI. This is a special honour for India, more so because it goes to a woman! Aphonsa died at the age of 36 after a life of much physical suffering. Self-sacrifice and kindness were the hallmarks of her holiness.

Honours for Sr. Cyril: *Last month at the Oriel House Hotel in Ballincollig, Sr. Cyril Mooney met the Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe at a reception held in her honour. Mr. Finbarr Buckley introduced Sr. Cyril; Sr. Marie Lagan from Loreto Youghal gave a history of the Loreto Sisters all over the world, who are catering to girls and women from all levels of society; Mrs. Pranjali Kiely spoke of her experience in India while producing a film on Sr. Cyril, and Mrs. Laetitia Gomes Buckley spoke of how her education and teaching in Loreto changed her perspective on life. Congratulations again, Sr. Cyril!*

Courses coming up soon:

Sumedha Centre has moved to Jeolikote, Uttarkhand, 17 miles south of Nainital. Courses offered are: Psychospiritual Integration & Retreat from March 15 – May 15, again from June 14th to July 23rd, and from Sep 18th to Nov. 15th 2009.

Phone: 09968328673.

Email: sumedha.bps@gmail.com.

A certificate course in Pastoral Communications at NISCORT, Ghaziabad (U.P.), from 22nd Jan to 4th April 09.

Phone: 0120 2773200/ 3206/ 3326/ 3480.

Email: niscort@vsnl.com. Website:

www.niscort.com

Youth Animators' Training Programme: in January & Training for Formation

Personnel from Jan to March at Navjyoti Niketan, Patna. Phone: 0612 226 2284

and 0612 2277 144. Email:

njnpatna@redifmail.com

With love and good wishes,

Antoinette Rodrigues

