



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

Sharing IBVM News:
April 2010

Meeting of Community Leaders & Formators at Entally on 9th & 10th April 2010: *A distinctive feature was the open sharing that took place at the meeting. The feedback from communities gave a wider dimension to the Meeting, and the presence of members from the Region added to the joy and sense of ‘oneness’ of the gathering.*

By now communities would have had a feedback from the Community Leaders & Formators on the outcome of the Meeting in Entally. It is hoped that honest conversations will continue to take place in communities and in different groupings of the Province – e.g. Temporary Professed Gatherings, Age-Group Meetings, or even a special meeting of those members of the Province who were not present at the Community Leaders’ and Formators’ Meeting. If anyone is interested in having such meetings organized, do let me know at the earliest, either verbally, or in writing.

Annual Meeting of Community Leaders in October: *The latest information is as follows:
~ A bus will pick up participants on 15th Oct at 1.00 p.m., in Kolkata, and take them to Abhilasha, Thakurpukur. The Meeting will begin at 5.00 p.m. on the same day and end on 22nd Oct at 1.00 p.m.*

Final Profession: *Sunday 25th April was a glorious day for Loreto as we celebrated the Final Profession of Sr. Subhashini Lakra (Region) and Sr. Shanta Xalxo (Province), in Ranchi. Every single item of the day – the Eucharist, the facilitation in the School, the lunch, the care of the family, etc., was lovingly and thoroughly seen to by the Community, Staff & Students of Loreto Ranchi. Cardinal Teleshore was impressed by the fact that Loreto sisters (Temporary Professed) welcomed him at the Gate of the Church and danced*

him through the grounds and up to the steps of the Sacristy, before Mass! But what caught everyone's fancy was the gift of a live goat, brought in by one of the families to the Convent!

Grateful thanks to Sr. Goretti and those involved in the preparation for the Profession! We extend warm Congratulations, prayers and all good wishes to our dear newly finally professed sisters – Subhashini & Shanta. May the pledge of this consecration be lived out in joy, sincerity, freedom & integrity in the days and years ahead!

Sr. Tressia's itinerary :

- *May – early Aug: At Abhilasha Novitiate. During this time, Sr. Tressia will attend the following courses:*
- *Holistic Awareness Retreat: July 10 – 22nd.*
- *Holistic Health training & Retreat: Aug 05 – 17th.*
- *18th August onwards: The Provincialate*
- *Holistic integration Retreat: Sept 02 – 12th.*

A warm welcome back, Sr. Tressia, to the Province!

Right to Education Act in India:

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 came into effect on 1st April 2010.

Education now becomes a fundamental right – a historical milestone, as India joins a few countries in the world with this historic law.

As per the Act, all educational institutions reserve 25% seats for children from weaker sections of society. It must be noted that Loreto schools in India have long been implementing this policy for about 20 years or more, reserving 20% admission seats to poor and underprivileged children. While we welcome the noble ideals enshrined in the Act, some of its clauses, however, has generated genuine apprehension about its effectiveness. Also sections 21 & 22 violate the educational rights of minorities as safeguarded in Article 30(1) of the Constitutions.

Placements: *With the transfer of Sr. Marian Vase to Loreto School, Ranchi, Sr. Phyllis Morris will take over as Principal of Loreto Convent School, Entally, while retaining charge of the Senior boarders there. It is hoped that Sr. Phyllis will get help in the school and boarding to enable her to undertake the extra responsibility. Thank you, Phyllis, for your generous acceptance of this appointment.*

Visitors: *Welcome to Sr. Jane McDonald and the group of 7 young women student teachers*

from Canada, who will be visiting Loreto School Sealdah, from May 3rd to 9th, for intern experience. Their willingness to endure the heat and stress of Kolkata in the height of summer, speaks much for the experience they are looking for!

Abuse in the Church: The avalanche of allegations has taken most by surprise and remorse. However, the pastoral letter of apology and admission of guilt written by Pope Benedict XVI sends the right message to the victims and accused alike. It is a call for all in the Church to follow a process of repentance, reconciliation, healing and renewal.

Let us, in Loreto, ensure that the Ethical Policy we have is studied and implemented in all schools and communities. We are committed to the care and protection of those under our charge and in our communities - to ensure that good practices are followed for the wellbeing and dignity of all.

Prayers requested:
for the recovery of:

- Sr. Bridget Nazareth, after her hernia operation on the

22nd April - result of a transplant surgery done earlier.

- Sr. Maloti's bro-in-law, who is presently in Vellore, undergoing treatment.
- Sr. Pushpa's mother, who is still ailing,
- Sr. Therese Curran, who was hospitalized in the ICU at Woodlands for about a week and is recovering now,
- Sr. Alma, who has been diagnosed as suffering from chekengunia.

May good health and well being be restored.

Birthdays & Feastdays
in May

16th Nirmala Minj
20th Bernadette Lepcha
21st Baishakhi Mondal
30th Joan Smyth
30th Celine Pinto
31st Elizabeth D'Souza

In union of love and prayers,

Antoinette Rodrigues

