



Dear Sisters,

We who are beginning the forty days of Lent need to consider why it is kept for forty days. Moses fasted forty days to receive the law for the second time (Gn 34,28); Elijah fasted forty days in the desert (1Kgs 19,8); and humankind's Creator, coming to humans, took no food at all for forty days (Mt 4,2). During this season we pray:

We offer You our failures, we offer You attempts,
The gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view.

Loreto College, Kolkata had a week of celebrations (29th January – 3rd February 2012) marking the close of the centenary year. It began with a walkathon on the 29th January from Babughat to Loreto College at 7.45a.m. The walk was done in memory of Sr.Delphine Hart and companions, our founding sisters who arrived at Babughat in 1841 from Ireland.



Enthusiastic sisters, teachers and students, in all about 1000, took part in this event. Banners and posters, proclaiming the importance of higher education for the girl child, were carried in procession.

The Mary Ward festival was held on the 30th and 31st January where students of different schools and colleges participated in a number of events – painting, poetry and essay writing competitions. On the morning of the 30th the novices enacted a few scenes from the life of Mother Conzaga Joynt, the foundress of Loreto College. There were a few paper presentations by past teachers on 'Mary Ward's Vision today'. On the evening of the 31st the students of the college enacted 'My Fair Lady' which received great applause.

On the 1st February sports were organized for the college on the Bengal Hockey Association Ground. In the evening there was a panel discussion on the theme 'The 21st century is a Woman's Century'. Past Alumni like Gitanjali Aiyar, Professor Krishna Sen, Moon Moon Sen, Uma Ahmed and Renu Roy were on the panel.



On the 2nd February a Thanksgiving Eucharist marked the end of the centenary celebrations. It was held in St.Thomas' Church. Sisters, staff, parents and students attended the Mass. A hundred candles were lit by sisters, each departmental head, benefactors and students. The choir sang lustily and the church resounded with their voices. After the Mass past staff and students who had made a mark in



society were felicitated on the lawn. Some of them shared their experience with Loreto when they were students. The Loreto Chorus was sung by all present. In the evening there was an eastern cultural programme by vocalist, Pandit Jasraj and Kathak dancer, Amita Gupta and her troupe. Their performance captivated the audience.

On the 3rd February there was a Quiz on Mary Ward and Loreto College and its surroundings. Mr.Errol O'Brien did a great job as quiz master. Past and present students made up the eight teams. The Loreto Alumnae Association organized a debate. The topic was '**The truth must be spoken at all times**'. The house was proposed by the team of present college girls and was opposed by past students. The opposition managed to successfully impress the audience and were declared the winners. In the evening there was a western cultural programme where past and present students sang and danced. It was greatly appreciated and the audience danced to the various songs sung on stage.

Thus ended the celebrations for the centenary year of Loreto College with an anticipation of continuing what Mary Ward has said '**Do good and do it well**'. As Loreto College enters into its 101st year, may God bless the institution and all its members. May it always follow the path showed by Mary Ward.

Mary Ward Week Celebrations:

Loreto Convent Ranchi

On the 23rd January we inaugurated the Mary Ward week at Assembly where a photo of Mary Ward was garlanded. The seniors had special assemblies all the days till the 30th. Pre-prep and Prep and Class I coloured her picture and made little wall hangings with her maxims.



On the 30th we had a concluding prayer service with all the children at her grotto which is at the front of the school. The Class 4s began with a prayer dance. Then one of Our Junior teachers Mrs.R.Simes gave her experience of Mary Ward. The junior school then sang the maxim “Be merry and doubt not our master”. Sneha Panna, one of our Class IX Catholic girls spoke on Mary Ward and how she has influenced her life. The junior school shared the message of forgiveness by singing the maxim "Forgive your enemies and pray for them heartily". The service concluded with the song "**Lead us on Mary Ward**" where we had Mary Ward leading all the little ones who carried all the names of the places of mission in India.

Loreto Convent Intermediate College, Lucknow

23rd January, 2012 – Inaugural Prayer Service. Each day during the week one of the **Maxims of Mary Ward** was read by a student followed by the teacher’s reflection.

The Middle School and College had a **Quiz**.

The Junior Section conducted the following activities:

- Completed the dotted picture of Mary Ward and coloured it.
- Pencil holders and photo frames were made using the pictures of Mary Ward.
- Calendar making with pictures of Mary Ward.



Inter House Tableau Competition based on the ‘Life of Mary Ward’ was held by the Middle School and College.

30th January, 2012 Closing Prayer service of Mary Ward Week was observed on Mary Ward’s life. Being the Loreto Feast Day, the service also included special prayers for the Loreto sisters worldwide. Assembly was followed by the Inter House Loreto Chorus Competition by Middle School and College.

Loreto Day School, Bowbazar

The activities organized in our school for Mary Ward Week are as follows:-

- Assembly on the life of Mary Ward (Skit)
- Drawing based on the Maxims of Mary Ward
- Poster painting and book mark
- Paragraph writing and Creative writing on the maxims of Mary Ward
- Essay writing on the maxims of Mary Ward
- Speech and elocution based on Mary Ward
- Act out the Maxims of Mary Ward
- Speech and Elocution on Mary Ward at assembly

Loreto Day School, Sealdah

Our captains had a sharing on Mary Ward's life at the school assembly everyday

- Mary Ward's maxims have been displayed
- Apart from that we participated fully in the events organized by Loreto College, e.g. walkathon, drawing and essay competitions, skit, giving a speech on Mary Ward, etc.



Loreto Day School, Dharamtala



- A special assembly was conducted|
- Book marks and collage making on Mary Ward's maxims.
- The classrooms were creatively decorated on the maxims.
- One act plays, jingles, songs and poems based on Mary Ward's life and maxims were put up.
- 19th January-a special assembly was conducted by class 9. Later during the day the girls participated in an essay and poetry writing competition organised by Loreto College.
- Children of the junior school were encouraged to talk to their family members, friends and neighbours about our foundress.

THE COSMIC VOYAGE –SPORTS, LORETO BOWBAZAR, 11 FEB 2012

As a follow-up to the Toronto Gathering, it was decided that the theme for the Senior Section Sports would be 'THE COSMIC VOYAGE'. The theme was specially chosen to reiterate the belief that, in the grand design of the Universe, there is a deep connection among all forms of life. The various events were decided upon in keeping with this aim.

The highlight of the OPENING CEREMONY was a group dance, titled ‘Our Universe’ portraying the origin and growth of the countless celestial bodies.





Besides the regular track and field events, special interest was shown in the CLASS DRILLS and CLASS RELAYS, which were in conformity with the theme of the Sports. Through their DRILL, THE COSMIC RHYTHM, depicted how the cosmic rays of light and their 3 primary qualities of creation, sustenance and dissolution unite to ensure the mental and physical well-being of human bodies. The students of the Rainbow showed the importance of balance and harmony through their DRILL. Some students demonstrated the way in which rainbows are formed through their Relay 'Spectrum'. To add a touch of light-heartedness, the Support Staff of the school participated in a race highlighting the need to give a 'Helping Hand' while the Parents went on a 'Moonwalk'.



As the shadows lengthened on the field, the CLOSING CEREMONY DANCE focused on the Creative Energy of the Universe that maintains the delicate balance of life.

The much-awaited Final Prize Distribution saw Mary Ward House emerging as the over-all winners. The Chief Guest's speech, the CLOSING ANTHEM 'We Are The World' by the School Choir, and the Vote of Thanks by the Principal brought an end to the colourful and enjoyable COSMIC VOYAGE.

News from the Temporary Professed



Thirty-five Temporary Professed came together for a gathering in Bandel, Kolkata on 27th Dec.2011 evening and there was much excitement. Three were not able to attend for various reasons.

They had four Resource Persons –

Sister Cecily SCN came from Gaya – our own previous mission and dealt with how sexuality and

Spirituality can together promote God's Kingdom. She gave many practical tips such as keeping a Gratitude Journal, using the body for prayer and meditation and the difference between being assertive and aggressive or non – assertive.

Sister Sabina, a Good Shepherd being the directress of third probation in her congregation spoke on the search and call to wholeness, fullness, completeness and oneness – a call to continual conversion, internalization and radical fidelity – **To Be Mystic in the Market Place**.

Sister Stephanie IBVM our own sister from Kenya helped to deepen the understanding of the Just Soul through presentations on the virtues of Justice, Sincerity, Freedom and Joy.

Sister Dorothy PBVM works as a social activist in Patna. Through an exposure programme the group interacted with three economically weaker sections of society – those who live on Bandel station, the Street children cared for by the Peachland sisters and the Brick field workers.

During the days together in Bandel the group visited Chandanagar and had the opportunity to step on the land where our pioneers had left their footprints. Spending time together was very special and being in Our Lady's shrine made us feel doubly blessed.

Srs. K.Clara and Anjuman Gidh will be returning from Bhopal in March. They will make their Final Vows on the 5th May 2012 at Loreto Convent, Entally.

The Juniorate group at Gyanalaya

The Sisters in the Juniorate are: Srs. A. Kavitha Rosy Mary, Ganga Jyoti Bridewa, Rani Regina Hembram, Renata Mistry, Banisha Sohkhet, Ranjeeta Kerketta and Anita Nayak. They discerned and made a choice whether they would belong to the Province or the Region. Banisha Sohkhet and Ganga Jyoti Bridewa have opted for the Region while the rest will be for the Province.

The group are going for their eight days retreat to Ranchi on 26th Feb. 2012. They have their farewell programme on 15th March 2012 and will be leaving for their home holidays on the 1st April. Then they will go for higher studies.

The Novitiate – Four novices, Srs.Greta Robert, Swati Lakra, Rajni Tete and Sanjyoti Kerketta will be making their First Profession on the 19th March 2012 at Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur.



On 22nd January 2012 four new members were added to the Novitiate community- Mary Nithya from Tamilnadu, Sangeeta Jojo from Orissa, Sangeeta Surin from Jharkhand and Valeria Mundo from Kolkata. There was a short prayer service in which these four generous young ladies enacted "Inner Quest" in which they recognized that their deepest desire could not be fulfilled in material things. Only Christ Himself could satisfy their inner quest. Sr. Tressia then received them into the novitiate. After the reception the novices led all to the refectory with a dance "lead us on Mary Ward..."

Visitors:

Srs. Marian Moriarty IBVM and Beatrice Stuart IBVM will be arriving on the 3rd March 2012. They will leave for the Darjeeling Region on the 6th March 2012. We are happy that they will be with us for the First Profession.

Sr. Stephanie O'Brien IBVM has returned on 1st February 2012 to Kenya after being in Abhilasha and helping in Formation for three months. We are grateful to her and the Kenyan Province for her dedicated service.

Sr. Eileen McConnon IBVM from the English Province has been in Gyanalaya helping with English for four months. She returns to England on the 20th March 2012. We wish to thank her and the English Province for her generous service.

Congratulations

Co-adjutor Archbishop Thomas D'Souza was named the ninth archbishop of Calcutta on 20th February 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. He succeeds Archbishop Lucas Sirkar, who resigned after attaining the age of superannuation. We will be welcoming him to Loreto House on the 5th March when he will be celebrating the Eucharist with the community.



Sympathy

Shakuntala's father, Mr. Thomas Kujur died on 19th Jan 2012. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Itinerary

Thursday 23 rd Feb. 2012 - 17 th March	Visitation of Loreto House
Friday 2 nd March	Council Meeting
3 rd Mar. - 6 th March	Srs. Marian Moriarty and Beatrice Stuart will be with us
Monday 19 th March	First Profession in Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur
21 st Mar. - 28 th March	Visitation of BowBazar and Sealdah
Monday 2 nd April	Visitation of Abhilasha
Tuesday 3 rd April	Visitation of Mukulika
Thursday 5 th - 29 th April	Province Leaders' meeting in Kenya
Saturday 5 th May	Final Profession in Loreto Entally

MARCH

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
Feast of Christ the King	Sr. Euphemia Fernandes	10th Mar
	Sr. Christine Coutinho	10th Mar
	Sr. Balika Pal	12th Mar
	Sr. Claire McFarland	28th Mar

APRIL

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
16th Apr 21st Apr	Sr. Binista Kerketta	13th Apr
	Sr. Barnadette D'Rozario	
26th Apr	Sr. Conrad D'Souza	
	Sr. Anjali Tirkey	22nd Apr
	Sr. Baiadamary Lyngkhai	25th Apr
	Sr. Consuelo Murphy	
	Sr. Eithne McDonald	26th Apr

MAY

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
31st May	Sr. Elizabeth D'Souza	2nd May
	Sr. Monica Rozario	4th May
	Sr. Anita Maria Braganza	7th May
	Sr. Stephanie Miketinac	7th May
	Sr. Nirmala Minj	16th May
	Sr. Bernadette Lepcha	20th May
	Sr. Ursula Darcy	20th May
	Sr. Baishakhi Mondal	21st May
30th May	Sr. Joan Smyth	
30th May	Sr. Celina Pinto	

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, IBVM.
23rd February 2012