



Loreto (IBVM) reaching out.....



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God's Wings



After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast...because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

**'He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge.'
(Psalm 91:4)**

“Man’s ultimate aim is the realization of God, and all his activities, social, political, religious, have to be guided by the ultimate aim of the vision of God. The immediate service of all human beings becomes a necessary part of the endeavour, simply because the only way to find God is to see Him in His creation and be one with it. This can only be done by service to all. I am part and parcel of the whole and I cannot find God apart from the rest of humanity.” (‘Harijan’, 29 aug 1936, p.226).

Dear Sisters,

With great rejoicing we acclaim Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, from West Bengal as he takes up his exalted post as President of India.

I will give you the details of some of the [Meetings](#) planned in the coming months:

At the moment many of us in **Kolkata** are attending the **Ignatian Novena from the 22nd to 30th July at St. Xavier's School**, in preparation for St. Ignatius' feast on the 31st July. The theme for these days is Ignatian Prayer – A Way to God. **Sr. Igora Pinto** will be speaking on the Ignatian Principle and Foundation on the 24th July.

Loreto Catechetical Team are organizing an **Orientation** for our **Catholic Teachers** at **Don Bosco, Nitika, Kolkata** from **2nd to 4th August 2012** from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. The resource person will be **Fr. Gilbert Choondal SDB** (Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore)

The Provincial and Consultors Seminar organized by the West Bengal **Regional C.R.I.** at **Nitika** on **6th and 7th August 2012** will be attended by Srs. Mercia D'Souza, Flora Anthony, Archana Gomes and Tressia T. Aricatt.

The Principals' meeting organized by the **Education Board** will be held from **9th to 11th August 2012** at **Loreto House, Kolkata**. It will also be for **our young sisters and lay staff members** to train them take up leadership roles in all our schools. The Seminar will be conducted by **Bro. Varghese Thecknath SG (Monfort)** and **Ms. Manisha Verma (NAAC Director)** on 'Good Governance in Schools'.

The **International Component of the Tertianship** will be held in **Llandudno** from **mid-February to end March 2013**. Srs. **Ethel Keegan** (Irish Province) and **Beatrice Stuart** will co-ordinate this. **Sr. Maloti Thakur** from India will be participating in it. She will also accompany Srs. Sushila Kerketta and Sabrina Edwards from the Region to Ireland and Spain before they go to Llandudno.

The GC 2014 preparatory committee members are Maria Bongiorno (Australia), Brenda Eagan (USA), Chris Goodman (Ireland), Marie-Ange Lim Kim Yee (Mauritius), Judith Nekesa (Eastern Africa), **Monica Suchiang (India)**, Carmen Diston and Barbara Murphy. **Catherine Ryan OSM** and **Ms. Bardis Seabury** will be the facilitators.

Meetings for Younger/Newer Members –in the “**under 40 years of age**” group – will be held for **20 IBVM members** in **December 2012** in **Kolkata** and **20 IBVM members** in **June 2013** in **Mauritius**. Srs. **Sandra Perrett** and **Anita Braganza** will co-ordinate these two meetings. There will be ten participants from India between Kolkata and Mauritius meetings.

The Formators' Meeting will be held in Nairobi from **16th September to 8th October 2012** inclusive. Srs. **Barbara Murphy** and **Stephanie O'Brien** will co-ordinate this. Srs. **Agnes Bhutia**, **Molly Francis**, **Philomena Dowd** and **Nirmala Minj** from the **Indian Province** and **Gloria Lakra** from the **Darjeeling Region** will attend this meeting.

The Annual Temporary Professed gathering will be from **10:00 am on 17th October to 4:00pm on 21st October 2012** at **Loreto House**. **Sr. Stephanie O'Brien**, **IBVM** and **Fr. Terence Farias, S.J.** will be the resource persons.

L&P recommend that a review of our IBVM presence in India, Bangladesh and Nepal needs to be undertaken jointly by the Province and Region prior to the preparation process for GC 2014. With this in mind **Srs. Marian Moriarty and Sandra Perret** will arrive on the 14th August and depart on 22nd August 2012. There will be a meeting in **Bandel, Kolkata** from **16th to 19th August 2012** with Srs. **Sandra & Marian** from the Generalate, Srs.**Monica & Helen** from the Region and Srs.**Mercia & Tressia** from the Province. The purpose of this meeting will be to name a way of engaging members in looking together at the current reality and listening to where the Spirit is calling us now and into the future.

The National Assembly of Major Superiors of India is to be held in Hyderabad from 28 to 31st October 2012. This Leadership Conference being held after 3 years is expected to break new grounds and bring in reforms for initiating new possibilities. It will also be a paperless Conference after the successful conduct of such an event with the Young Religious in Delhi. It will naturally test the caliber of our Superiors in using modern technology which has become an essential tool of our life and mission as Messengers of Christ.

[News from Abhilasha, Novitiate](#)

The First Years , Valeria Mundu, Sangeeta Surin, Sangeeta Madhuri Jojo and M.Mary Nithya have gone to West Point, Darjeeling with Sr.Agnes Bhutia for their thirty days' retreat from 24th July – 23rd August. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Second Years would like to share their apostolic experience with you:

Isilda Sangriang was happy to go to Jesu Ashram. She was asked to go to the Leprosy Ward and be a presence there. Slowly she learned to move around and listen to their deepest yearnings despite language difficulties. She was able to perform humble tasks with love and compassion. What touched her most was their deep gratitude to all those who cared for them.

Neelam Praffula Kindo spent time in different wards in Jesu Ashram. In the General Ward she moved around freely but spent more time with two women who were mentally disturbed. She listened patiently and with loving kindness to their problems. The Leprosy Ward evoked her love and pity. The patients were lonely and rejected by their families. She was impressed by the atmosphere of love and care among fathers, sisters and staff.



Mann Veronica Thapa found that the destitute children in Ashalayam may disagree and fight among themselves but that basically they are united. They helped their friends to avoid punishment by getting them to do the right thing. Veronica also went to Howrah Station to rescue children. This was hard but she knew she was learning to protect them. She feels her experience was very valuable.

Biviyana Lepcha was actively engaged in both Ashalayam and Howrah Station. She was deeply touched by the love and compassion of the priests and brothers there. Despite the hard and demanding work she felt energized by the example of those running Ashalayam bringing hope into the lives of so many homeless and helpless. This deepened her own love for God.

Sarita Horo felt that in Kritonkhola, Baruipur home for TB patients she encountered Christ washing the feet of His disciples. She was reluctant at first but she threw herself into the work whole heartedly. She returned physically and spiritually strengthened.

Holistic Therapy

The Novices felt that they had gained a lot from the Holistic Therapy sessions conducted by Fr. Joe Kootinal sj. This is what they had to say “We learnt that when we interact with people we experience feelings both negative and positive. These feelings are not enemies. By approaching all feelings with a friendly attitude we grow in maturity. Feelings which we accept will transcend and those which we resist will persist. The session also helped us to see how we value ourselves, whether we have high or low self-esteem. **“The Glory of God is a human being fully ALIVE”**”.

Intensive Journal given my Br. Samuel MC

During these four days of Intensive Journal we have learnt to live in the Present Moment through various awareness exercises. Our Mother Earth symbolizes Christ, so if we stand firm we will never fall. All our difficulties are stepping stones for growth. Negative and Positive experiences are the indicators of the movements of our lives that go beyond our conscious goals. Every event has got something to contribute and we need to explore its meaning in our lives. We all have the ability to face every problem if only we are aware and go deeper within ourselves. Our body is the temple of God, each body has its own life history and the purpose of our life is to Praise God.

News from Mukulika

On 19th of July 2012, Anuranjita Kullu, Binita Surin, Divya Rose Soreng, Luci Meeta Rai, Noela Tamang, Malti Lomga, Madhuri Lakra, Maxima Toppo, Raina Minj, Reshma Minj, and Sosan Ekka began their **candidacy**. The theme for the day was **“To be Wholly God’s”**. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Cyriac SJ, from Dhyana Ashram. During mass the candidates did a role play **“The Eaglet”** which helped them to believe in themselves. These 11 young women wish to give themselves wholeheartedly to God like our foundress Mary Ward.



God has also blessed us **with 8 Pre-Candidates** - Victoria Soreng, Odil Lakra, Franciska Dhanwan, Prafulit Bilung, Anima L. Kerketta, Sumitra Dhanwan, Mariam Ekka and Anima P Kerketta.

News from Bangladesh



On 20th July we completed **seven years in Bangladesh**. Sisters there are organizing a **‘Come and See’** programme for the Class XII girls from 23rd – 26th August.

Linda Mrong, Margaret Bepary and Sandhya Linduar will begin their **candidacy on the 29th August 2012**. This will be the first group beginning their formation in Bangladesh. Please remember them in prayer.

News from the Juniorate

Greta Robert, Swati Lakra, Rajni Tete and Sanjyoti Kerketta are in **Gyanalaya**. Greta and Swati attend Morning Star College from Monday to Friday.

Greta & Swati report from **Morning Star College**:

We, the theology students of Morning Star College, Barrackpore attended the inaugural Mass on Friday, 29th June’12. The main celebrant was Bp. Salvador Lobo (Baruipur); concelebrants were four bishops from different dioceses of west Bengal and 17 other priests. We had a beautiful Eucharistic celebration which was followed by breakfast and an inaugural talk by Fr. Patrick Walsh (Rector), who warmly welcomed the first year theology students. The other speakers for the day were Bp. Cyprian of Asansol, Fr. John Romus, The Dean of Theology and Bp. Salvador Lobo.

We began our first week with a lot of enthusiasm and a little bit of nervousness. Fr. Lord Winner, CMF conducted a one week orientation programme for the first year students. The programme helped us to get to know our classmates as well as the subject. We had a lot of activities and group discussions during the course of the programme. We were divided into groups of six, each group was allotted a day to lead the prayers in a creative way and other such responsibilities. Fr. Winner made the classes very interesting and effective with audio visual - power point presentations, documentaries etc. We also had a bible quiz, debate on the topic ‘in today’s context which kind of leadership is more meaningful for priests- Spiritual or Social leadership’ we also had a skit on the relevance of the prophets of the bible in today’s world. We enjoyed taking part in all these events. The week long programme ended with a class on time management, methodology to study theology and evaluation of the orientation. The feedbacks from both sides were good.

We were more than excited to get back to the juniorate for the weekend and share our experience with Sr. Philomena, our two companions and the Entally community. We had a wonderful time catching up with all that we missed during the week.

National Convention of Young Religious (YRC-2012)

Models of religious life have been giving way to new models on a regular interval in the Church. The post Vatican Church has been experiencing this transition in the light of the changes made by the Council. The Vita Consecrata, after the Synod on Consecrated Life called for commissions to identify some of these new models emerging as specific initiatives. The YRC – 2012 in Delhi has done it.



The first **Young Religious National Convention** was held from 9 – 12 July 2012 at Don Bosco Campus, Okhla under the theme **“Leadership for Consecrated Life 2020”**.

These 220 young religious are the representatives of the religious congregations in India. Only one or two representatives were chosen. They are of **30-35 age group**. Most of them are post graduates or above in qualification. Competent in many areas and being visionaries they were fired to commit themselves to continue with their leadership initiatives. They arrived with laptop computers and other electronic equipments to communicate in digital language without time and space. No secrets. No shyness. The 3 days proceedings were telecast and fully video graphed. They have transformed themselves to a futuristic group. **Sr. Alma Toppo, IBVM** was our representative.

“Were not our hearts burning as we went through this interaction of 220 peer group leaders?” was the uniform response of the many who found an opportunity to express their sentiments.

They were determined to conquer the minds and hearts of the 1 lakh 30 thousand religious of the country.



System thinking and strategy planning is a skill. This collectively shared skill has created a **vision of consecrated life for 2020**, eight years from now. Like the Millennium goals of the United Nations, the YRC has set **12 goals for the year 2020**.

Why 12? It is obvious. It is an apostolic initiative and symbolism speaks and sometimes energizes. These were evolved by the young people with the help of the young people during the last 3 years of search, study and reflection.

The goals they chose are required to be studied in detail by the congregations taking into consideration the context and the needs of each. They are set for an 8 years study reflection and action.

1. Good Governance in Religious Congregations
2. Messengers of the Kingdom of God
3. Transformers of human community
4. People given identity for what they are to them
5. A life style of inclusive communion
6. Powered by evangelical councils
7. Membership of adult prophets and professionals
8. Holistic Creation spirituality

9. Organizational presence and mission thrust
10. Media Active witness of life and intervention
11. Connected to modern technology for effectiveness
12. Partnership and networking for evangelical fruitfulness

If these **goals** are achieved by **2020 the religious congregations** will not only be stamped “**Relevant**” but **necessary for the fabric of the society.**

Congratulations! to Srs. Baiadamary Lyngkhai, Edelin Pompa Kujur, Prabina Anastasia Rudum, Arockia Powlin, Sushila Tirkey, Amia Tete, Josephine Burh and Goretti Tirkey for passing successfully in the various exams they did.

Sr. Claire Mac Farland will be celebrating her **Diamond jubilee** of entrance to Religious life on **8th September 2012.**



Sr. Cyril Mooney received a most gorgeous brightly coloured hood and floppy hat from the Chancellor of Hope University, Liverpool on 19th July 2012. She was formally declared an ‘honorary doctor in humane letters’. On the occasion Sr. Margaret SND spoke fittingly of Sr. Cyril’s work in India for education especially her Rainbow Project and Barefoot Teacher training programme. Nora, Kathryn, Ann Clynych, Jane Beever and Eileen from England were among those present.

Prayers are requested for Mrs. Eileen Crilly, **Sr. Moira’s sister** and Sr. Joseph Michael MC, **Sr. Elizabeth D’Souza’s** sister who are ill.

Itinerary

25 th July – 1 st August	Shillong
5 th – 7 th August	Nitika (C.R.I)
16 th – 19 th August	Bandel
27 th – 28 th August	Asansol
29 th August – 6 th September	Bangladesh
13 th September – 8 th October	Mukulika
19 th – 21 st October	Dhyan Ashram-W. Bengal Reg. CRI
22 nd – 26 th October	Bandel- C. L. Meeting
28 th – 31 st October	Hyderabad- National C.R.I.

AUGUST

<u>FEAST DAY</u>	NAMES	<u>BIRTH DAY</u>
	Sr. Maloti Thakur	4th Aug
	Sr. Bidalin L. Marshilong	5th Aug
	Sr. Philomena Dowd	6th Aug
	Sr. Abhay Ekka	7th Aug
	Sr. Bernadette D’Rozario	7th Aug
	Sr. Mary Archana Gomes	10th Aug
11th Aug	Sr. Claire McFarland	
	Sr. Eileen McDonald	14th Aug
	Sr. Marion Vase	15th Aug
	Sr. A. Kavitha Rosy Mary	15th Aug
15th Aug	Sr. Alice Mary Martyris	
	Sr. Rani Mary Minj	19th Aug

	Sr. Joan Smyth	21st Aug
	Sr. K. Clara	23rd Aug
	Sr. A. Arockia Powlin	26th Aug
27th Aug	Sr. Monica Rozario	

SEPTEMBER

<u>FEAST DAY</u>	NAMES	<u>BIRTH DAY</u>
	Sr. Leena Lakra	2nd Sept
8th Sept	Sr. Mary Stella Lahiry	
	Sr. Amia Tete	8th Sept
	Sr. Shanta Xalxo	10th Sept
8th Sept	Sr. Ponnammamma Nadackal	
	Sr. Lynette Daniel-Palmer	14th Sept
	Sr. Mary DeSouza	15th Sept
	Sr. Beatrice Stuart	18th Sept
	Sr. Anita Lakra	21st Sept
	Sr. Prabina A. Rudum	22nd Sept
	Sr. Tina Farias	23rd Sept
24th Sept	Sr. Maeve Hughes	
24th Sept	Sr. Mercia D'Souza	
	Sr. Ponnammamma Nadackal	25th Sept
	Sr. Anita Cardozo	26th Sept
	Sr. Tressia Aricatt	27th Sept
	Sr. M. Conrad D'Souza	30th Sept

OCTOBER

<u>FEAST DAY</u>	NAMES	<u>BIRTH DAY</u>
1st Oct	Sr. Therese Curran	
1st Oct	Sr. M. Tressia T. Aricatt	
	Sr. Sudha M	1st Oct
	Sr. Jeba T	3rd Oct
	Sr. Moira Cunning	4th Oct
	Sr. Bridget Nazareth	5th Oct
2nd Oct	Sr. Angela Rodrigues	8th Oct
	Sr. Arockia Mary Dass	10th Oct
	Sr. Renata Mistry	10th Oct
	Sr. Cecily Wong	14th Oct
	Sr. Soria Nongtdu	16th Oct
20th Oct	Sr. Mary Irene Ribeiro	
	Sr. Lourdes Noronha	21st Oct
	Sr. Aruna Kujur	27th Oct
28th Oct	Sr. M. J. Jude Hales	

With this letter Srs. Mercia D'Souza, 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.
23rd July 2012