

We pray with the Church and the world

General Intention: Contribution of Women: That the whole world may recognize the contribution of women to the development of society.

Missionary Intention: Persecuted Christians: That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th. The theme this year is *Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures*.

World Water Day is celebrated on the 22nd of March. When a billion people in the world already live in chronic hunger and water resources are under pressure we cannot pretend the problem is 'elsewhere'. Coping with population growth and ensuring access to nutritious food to everyone call for a series of actions we can all help with: www.unwater.org.

We pray with the Institute

In India on March 19th 4 members of the Indian Province will make their First Profession: Greta Robert, Rajni Tete, Sanjyoti Kerketta and Swati Lakra. We pray for them in this step of commitment and for their ongoing formation.

In Nairobi on March 31st Rosaline Ng'ang'a will make her First Profession at Loreto Convent Msongari.

The Holy Father's intention this month for the contribution of women is indeed a serious one. Julia Ling said in Toronto: *I wonder if Mary Ward might be calling us today to work to liberate feminine energies wherever they are being constrained, both in women and men, so that we might bring them into right relationship with the necessary, but what might have become overly dominant energies, of the masculine principle.*

One Small Voice

The money generously provided by the Grant was used to assist abandoned babies and children with disabilities in Khayelitsha (a township outside Capetown) in association with the Missionaries of Charity.

School uniforms, school bags and school materials were purchased for those children in the shanty town unable to attend school. To have a new school uniform, shoes and requisites for school gives a dignity to these deprived children. They now feel as good as the others as they begin the school year. They also feel loved and cared for.

A special grinder was also purchased to make food softer for the 23 babies in the care of the Missionaries of Charity.

Monica Shanley IBVM



Children in Khayelitsha, South Africa

March 2012

