



Loreto (IBVM) reaching out.....

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

Ph. No. 2229 7054, Fax 2249 7767. E-mail: loretoindia@gmail.com; loretopro@vsnl.net

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"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6

Dear sisters,

This is my first letter to you after taking over as Provincial Leader of our Indian province. I want to share with you some thoughts, feelings and hopes as well as some news and information.

I am appointed Provincial Leader not because I wanted to be, but because you wanted me. I thank you for the trust you have placed in me and I shall do my utmost to respond to that trust, and work together with all of you to move the Province forward in the way that God and our Congregation is inviting us to at this time in our history.

During the liturgy on 29th August 2010 when I took over the Provincial Leadership from Sr. Antoinette Rodrigues I took a promise, an excerpt of which I am reproducing below:

"I, therefore commit myself to labour for the preservation, development and well being of the Institute and the Indian Province in particular, for the greater glory of God. I resolve to do this by faithfully discerning God's will, and by holding each sister and each Mission close to my heart in affection, support and prayer."

I need the support, prayers and good will of all of you and the wisdom from experience especially of those of you who have been longer than me in the congregation to help me to be faithful to this promise. I know I can count on you. Thank you.

I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Antoinette Rodrigues for her tireless and inspiring service in shouldering the responsibilities of the Indian Province during the past six years. Among the many contributions of Sr. Antoinette we stress on the part she played in establishing the mission in Bangladesh, Darjeeling Region, Trichy and Satarda. Sr. Antoinette is spending some quite time with her family in Australia till the 1st week of January 2011.

I am grateful for the appointment of our consultants Flora Anthony, Mercia D'Souza, Molly Francis and Archana Gomes. I feel assured of their support, guidance and cooperation in discerning the best way forward for the Province. I thank Srs. Moira Cunning and Goretti Tirkey for their commitment in all that they have done as consultants during the past six years.

News and Information

Sr. Marian Moriarty, General Leader will arrive in Kolkata on Monday, 15th November. Sr. Marian writes—“this is not a canonical visitation!! I did that in 2007. However I would like to see the people I missed in 2007 and will try to send a list of those but they also know themselves. I did not see Delhi, Simla, Asansol, Lucknow and Trichy. I cannot go to Bangladesh or Nepal at this time. I would certainly want to see at least some of these places I missed if possible”

Sr. Marian Moriarty will be accompanied by Sr. Helen O’Riordan, Ist consultant of the Irish Province .Sr. Helen works in the Diocese of Wexford on areas of abuse. She is willing to share her expertise and experience in Child Protection issues. She will give awareness sessions for IBVM sisters in the Province and Region as well as give training to key people, lay and religious. Training will be conducted in five locations:-

Kolkata, Lucknow, Ranchi, Darjeeling and Shillong.

It is essential for all the province members to attend the awareness sessions which will be on the first day in each place. If you are unable to come to any one of these five locations, please inform me in writing.

Those trained by Sr. Helen O’Riordan will conduct awareness sessions in late December for the sisters unable to attend at these locations.

Sr. Marion’s Itinerary is as follows:-

Monday, 15th November	: arrive in Kolkata.
Monday, 21 st November	: leave for Simla.
Wednesday, 24 th November	: leave for Lucknow
Sunday, 28 th November	: leave for Delhi.
Tuesday, 30th November	: leave for Kolkata.
Friday, 3 rd December	: leave for Asansol
Saturday, 4th December	: leave for Kolkata
Monday, 6th December	: leave for Champasari
Wednesday, 8th December	: leave for Kolkata
Tuesday, 14th December	: leave for Rome.

Sr. Helen O’Riordan’s training itinerary is as follows:

Kolkata: 20th, 21st & 22nd November, 2010

Lucknow: 25th, 26th & 27th November, 2010

Ranchi: 30th Nov, 1st & 2nd December, 2010

Region: 4th, 5th & 6th December, 2010

Shillong: 9th & 10th December' 2010

Our Novices

The second year novices are on community experience from 9th September 2010 and the 1st year novices are having their thirty days' retreat at Manresa in Kalimpong. We pray for them and their directors Sr. Agnes and Fr. Shajumon, Novice master of Darjeeling Jesuits.

Our Junior Sisters

The junior sisters will have their annual gathering at Abhilasha from 8th to 15th October, 2010.

Council Meetings

The Council members will have their sessions on the 14th and 15th September in the Provincialate.

Community Leaders' Meeting

The annual community leaders' meeting is from 6:00 p.m on 15th to 1:00 p.m on 22nd October at Abhilasha. All these groups will be facilitated by Fr. Kurien Kunnumpuram, S.J.

Preparation for Final Commitment

Srs. Rina Ekka and P. Initha in Bhopal and Sr. M. Sudha in Goa are preparing for their final commitment.

Our Tertians

Srs. Goretti Tirkey, Igora Pinto and Yvonne Gomes are undergoing various experiences as part of their tertianship programme.

Holidays

We are happy to have Srs. Eileen & Eithne MacDonald, Joan Smyth, and Cecily Wong back from their holidays while Srs. Maeve Hughes and Consuelo Murphy are arriving shortly.

Birthday

We were happy to celebrate Sr. Conrad D' Souza's ninety sixth birthday. Her nephew, Bro. Mark was here to greet her.

Other Developments:-

Sr. Margo Mulvey from Ireland will be with us from the end of October. She will be the director of the Mary Ward International Centre. Her office will be in the Provincialate.

Sr. Flora Antony has taken charge of the Rainbow homes and her office is in Loreto Bowbazar. We are grateful to Sr. Cyril Mooney for all that she has done to set up the rainbow homes and we count on her continued support to Sr. Flora Antony.

Sr. Elizabeth Chatterjee is undergoing dialysis thrice a week. She hopes to go back soon to Darjeeling and resume her duties.

Sr. Euphemia Fernandes is still under medical treatment and will be happy to have your prayerful support.

Sr. Ponnamma Nadackal recovered from her cataract operation.

Sr. Benedicta Gomes will be undergoing surgery in the first week of November in Lucknow.

Sr. Monica Suchiang has recovered and has gone back to Hyderabad to continue her studies.

We request your prayers for the speedy recovery of Sr. Tina's mother and Sr. Mercia's mother.

We have had four beautiful programmes over these past few days. Bow Bazar had 'My Little Princess,' enacting scenes from various fairy tales. The children enjoyed entering into the various characters they represented. Entally had a number of dances from various states and 'Cinderella'. The little ones sang and acted with their whole hearts. It was really entertaining. Grandparents' Day was kept in Loreto House. The Junior School put up a number of items which gave great joy to their grandparents. Elliot Road's 'Salutation' - medley of dances and scenes from a few dramas of Rabindranath Tagore, to mark his 150th birth anniversary, were exquisite. The choreography and scripting were done to perfection. Loreto Dharamtalla had Feile Stimulus 2010 which gave opportunities for students to take part in various activities. Loreto Sealdah had an exhibition and sale of work of the Eastern Bypass programme

Centenary Celebration

Loreto College, Kolkata is planning to have yearlong centenary celebration from February 2011 to 2012.

Pope Benedict VI's visit to England

We are happy that Pope Benedict referred to Mary Ward when he addressed Teachers and Religious at Chapel of St Mary's University College, Twickenham, England on Friday, 17 September 2010:

"Looking around me today, I see many apostolic religious whose charism includes the education of the young. This gives me an opportunity to give thanks to God for the life and work of the Venerable Mary Ward, a native of this land whose pioneering vision of apostolic religious life for women has borne so much fruit. I myself as a young boy was taught by the "English Ladies" and I owe them a deep debt of gratitude. Many of you belong to teaching orders that have carried the light of the Gospel to far-off lands as part of the Church's great missionary work, and for this too I give thanks and praise to God. Often you laid the foundations of educational provision long before the State assumed a responsibility for this vital service to the individual and to society."

Mother Teresa's Centenary Celebration

A solemn Mass at the Missionaries of Charity's global headquarters marked the formal beginning of the year-long birth centenary celebrations of Mother Teresa and the lighting of a candle at her tomb by

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo. A message from Pope Benedict XVI who described Mother Teresa as the 'exemplary model of Christian virtue.' was read out at the Mass

"Mother Express" train - a tribute from the Indian Railways - showcasing mother Teresa's life and philanthropic deeds was opened for public viewing by Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Sealdah Station. The train was painted in white and blue, the colour of the Missionaries of Charity congregation founded by Mother Teresa. The train will travel to different stations of the country over the next six months. It comprises three air-conditioned coaches in which photographs and write-ups on Mother Teresa are exhibited to project her life, work and message.

An exhibition on the life, spirituality and message of Mother Teresa was held at the Mother House.

A four-day film festival was organised at the cultural complex Nandan jointly by the World Catholic Association for Communication, Archdiocese of Calcutta, the Missionaries of Charity in collaboration with the West Bengal Film Centre, the festival screened fifteen films from India and abroad on the Mother's life and works. The festival will travel to many foreign countries and across 100 cities and towns across India," said Sunil Lucas, festival director.

An interactive website containing a comprehensive list of all the programmes was installed as part of the centenary celebrations. A quiz show on the Mother was hosted by Derek O Brian and a cultural programme was organised at Rabindra Sadan in the second week of September.

The central government issued a coin to pay tribute to Mother Teresa on her birth centenary.

Indian Catholic Youth Movement

Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) is organizing the Eighth National Youth Convention from 14th to 17th Oct. 2010 at Shillong Meghalaya. More than 3000 Youth Delegates, Diocesan Youth Directors/ Animators and delegates from other youth related movements from all over the country will assemble to evaluate the Theme of the last three years "Live the Word – Liberate the World" with the Thrusts – "Eradicate Poverty, Rejuvenate the Environment, and Building a Culture of Peace". On the last day of the convention a gathering of one lakh people from all around North East is expected to gather in Shillong. Srs. A. Nirmala and Shanta Xalxo will be there with the Shillong Community to spread the message of the Charism of our congregation to the young people who may be inspired to serve humanity through our Institute.

Contacts

My phone nos. and e- mail addresses are given below Mobile nos: 9477310277; 9903152145

E-mail i.ds: tressiat@yahoo.com (personal) loretoindia@gmail.com (official) loretopro@vsnl.net (secretary)

My Itinerary for October is as follows:-

Saturday 2nd to 7th October 2010:

Regional C.R. I. Meeting at Matigara

Thursday 14th & 15th October 2010:

Provincial Council meeting

Friday 15th to Friday 22nd October:

Community Leader's meeting at Abhilasha

Wednesday 27th October to Tuesday 2nd November: Loreto Convent Shillong.

Birthdays & Feast days in October.

1st: Sr. Therese Curran; Sr. Tressia Aricatt; Sr. Sudha
2nd : Sr. Angela Rodrigues
4th: Sr. Moira Cunning
10th: Sr. Arockia Mary Dass
16th: Sr. Soria Nongtdu
20th: Sr. Irene Ribeiro
21st; Sr. Ursula Darcy
22nd : Sr. Jhuma Purkait
28th: Sr. Jude Hales.

I thank each one of you for your support and prayers as I continue my mission especially with Srs. Moira Cunning, Mercia D'Souza, Molly Francis, Archana Gomes and Sr. Flora Antony.

With best wishes,

M. Tressia T. Aricatt

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