



# Loreto (IBVM) reaching out.....

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“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6



**We Celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1<sup>st</sup> January, the Octave Day of Christmas.** Her cousin Elizabeth knew what a special privilege Mary had been given. When Mary went to visit Elizabeth, Elizabeth called her “the mother of my Lord” (Luke 1:43).

Mary is the mother of Jesus. But the Gospel speaks of his Father being God, not Joseph. Mary is the mother of the person who is Jesus but Jesus, through his divine nature, is also God. Mary, then, in that sense is the Mother of God. She is the mother of the Jesus who is divine but is not the mother of his divinity. On the contrary, she herself is a creature of God's making.

As we begin every year with a celebration in her honor, we, the members of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, can pray to Mary, the Mother of God, every day. We can ask her to help us say “yes” to God's plan for us and that we will follow Jesus in everything we say and do.

'New Year 2011' gives us the opportunity to spend this auspicious time with our loved ones and to recognize the importance of their presence that brings meaning to our lives. It is often a great time to reflect, to rejoice over the progress of the past year while also learning from the setbacks and mistakes. Commit your needs to Him in prayer. Then continue to seek His help throughout the year, and watch Him guide, provide, and take care of you!

## Visit to Bangladesh



Srs. Moira and Tressia were very happy with the visit to Bangladesh. We attended the Annual Prize distribution of St. Alfred's High School. We were very impressed by the appreciation given to our sisters by the Bishop, clergy, staff, parents and students. We were energized meeting the hostel girls who are interested in joining Loreto.



## Mukulika : Candidates



We Thank God for 7 young women who have answered His call generously. Neelam Prafulla Kindo from Simdega, Mann Veronica Thappa from St. Agnes's Church, Lucknow, Scholastica Xalxo from Bokaro, M.Mary Nithya from Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu, Valeria Mundu from Kolkatta, Rasmi Rita Minz from Rourkela, Orissa and Isilda from Shillong. We pray that they may deepen and cherish the spirit of Mary ward in the next stage of formation in the Institute. At present all have gone home and they shall return on 15<sup>th</sup> January. They will enter the Novitiate on 17<sup>th</sup> January and will be received on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Alma Toppo**

## Bowbazar: Pre-Candidates



We have five pre-candidates. They all have finished their Class XII. - Mary Nithya from Tamilnadu, Valeria from Kolkata Toliganj but originally from Jharkhand Neelam from Jharkhand, Kiran from Jharkhand and Meries from Shillong. At the moment they all have gone home for Christmas holidays. They will be back on 11<sup>th</sup> January and will begin the Candidacy in Thakurpukur Mukulika.

**Josephine Burh**



## Abhilasha Novices



Our Christmas was preceded by a colorful display of the “O Antiphons” distinctly printed on seven ribbons with the Biblical introduction. It climaxed in the Christmas eve prayer at the crib leading up to the Solemn Announcement Of the Birth of Christ. Mid night mass in the parish was followed by Christmas get together. Next morning all left for ministry /mass said in different languages simultaneously in the parish. Then we came home to cook the three freshly killed ducks which helped to make a tasty lunch out of doors. Our traditional visit to the crib keeps the spirit of Christmas alive. We, at the novitiate, are looking forward to

The **MWI** office is up and on its way – though still on the first lap! We have a lovely spacious room on the ground floor of the Provincialate that is easily accessible. Thanks to each one who sent in art work and photos to help create a vibrant atmosphere – it works! Thanks to Bowbazar, Asansol and Loreto College for your contributions (depicted below) – you help keep my spirit alive too!



The model of a house created by the young ladies at Loreto College depicts the structures of Human Rights that protect the lives of all human beings to live healthily and happily in a just society. Their challenge to us is to ... BE THE CHANGE ...

The students from Bowbazar went to great trouble to create a collage that speaks of the life giving work that their school is creatively involved with through their outreach activities. Their activities include counseling; environmental awareness; health; education programmes; empowerment of women and networks. Congratulations girls! Keep up your great work.

Our beautiful dancers from Asansol complete the picture – I'm sure you'll agree, they are a treat for the eye. The Asansol outreach activities are reaching for the stars – they in the process of developing educational for local marginalized children in their new refurbished building. Monica and her staff have our full support – we are proud of you!



Margo Mulvey, IBVM

## Safeguarding of Children – Best practice Workshop

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 six sisters attended the Raising Awareness Program in the Provincialate since we were unable to attend the Course with Sr. Helen O'Riordan, ibvm. This course conducted by Srs. Moira, Philomena and Agnes helped us to become aware of the need for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Sr. Moira was very happy with our group because of our active involvement and practical responses. We are extremely grateful to sr. Tressia making this opportunity available for us. **Initha and Sudha.**

We are grateful to **Sr. Helen O'riordan** for conducting awareness sessions on "safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults" in Shillong, Darjeeling, Ranchi and for Rainbow staff. All were inspired by her patient, gentle and caring attitude.



### **Sr. Marian's visit to Asansol and Champasari**

Sr. Marian Moriarty visited Asansol from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December. The entire School was out to greet Srs. Marian and Tressia welcoming her from the gate with flags of various countries where Loreto is present. She participated in the First Friday Mass. She also met the School Staff and Bishop, and also had a wonderful picnic at Lamaya Park. Sr. Marian's visit to the Region in Chapasari on 7<sup>th</sup> December was very encouraging for all.

## **Studies:**

- Sr. Josephine Burh will be teaching in Loreto Dharamtalla from January to June 2011.
- Srs. Josephine Burh, Anita Lakra and Initha P. will join B.Ed in Loreto college from July 2011.
- Srs. Soria Nongtdu, Shakuntala Kujur will be doing T.T.C. at Loreto House from February 2011.

## **Transfers:**

Loreto Abhilasha and Loreto Mukulika will form one community with the Novice Mistress as sister-in-charge.

Loreto Bowbazar will be part of Loreto House community from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011.

You are probably aware that Sr. Anita Braganza will not be going back to Shimla on her return from home leave. She will be going directly to Atmadarshan, Patna. I want to thank Sr. Anita for her great commitment to both school and community in recent years in Shimla. Her term of office as community leader actually continues to March 2011 but as she is not going to be there we have moved with a new appointment. Circumstances were such that we did not manage to consult you for suggested names. We trust that you will accept the need to move with this. We have asked Sr. Antoinette to take on the role of community leader as well as principal and we are grateful to her for agreeing to do this and hope that she will find life and ministry in the hills very good.

## News from Loreto College

Loreto College will complete its Centenary in February 2012. We will begin our Centenary Celebrations from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011. It is on this day after an inter-faith thanksgiving prayer that a postage stamp of Mary Ward (1585 – 1645), our Founder, and First Day cover will be released. Mr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, ex-President of India will be the Chief Guest for the occasion.

A Panel Discussion in the afternoon 'Policy makers and Private Players hold the Key to Higher Education' will see key persons sharing their views on the direction that Higher Education is moving towards. The sun will set that evening to the melodies of a musical recital by Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar and a Manipuri Dance performance by Priti Patel and her troupe. All the above programmes will be conducted on the College lawn. We invite all our Sisters and Alumnae to join in the celebrations.

**Christine Coutinho.**

## Congratulations!

**Sr. Magdalen Munroe** celebrates her **Golden Jubilee** of Religious life on the **28<sup>th</sup> January** at Loreto House.. Thank you Sr. Magdalen for your dedicated and loving service all these years.

## Sympathy

**Mrs. Dolorosa Affonso**, Sr. Monica's mother, died on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at around 1.30pm. She had got news from her sister that her mother was sinking. She is very grateful to have been with her mother when she died. Let us rejoice in the blessings of this peaceful death while acknowledging the sadness for the family. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## Prayer Requests:

Prayers are requested for the speedy recovery of **Sr. Therese Curran**, **Sr. Stephanie Miketinac**, **Sr. Bridget Nazareth**, Mr. George Ekka, father of **Sr. Abhay**, Mrs. D'Souza, mother of **Sr. Mercia**, Mrs. Farias, mother of **Sr. Tina**, Margaret, sister of **Sr. Molly**, Anne Murphy, sister-in-law of **Sr. Consuelo** Murphy, Jeffrey Sequeira, nephew of Sr. **Christine Coutinho**.

## Itinerary:

I will be away from 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> January in Kerala.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011: National C.R. I. Meeting at Cochin.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>: Council Meeting

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January: Reception in to the Novitiate at Abhilasha.

## Birthdays & Feast days in January 2010.

<b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Sr. Jency V.	<b>12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Binista Kerketta	<b>26<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Shalini Rozario
<b>5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Agnes Bhutia, Sr. Sharmila A. Sr. Sushila Tirkey	<b>14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Yvonne Gomes	<b>27<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Priyanka Toppo.
<b>9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Molly Francis	<b>15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Maeve Hughes		
<b>11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Sr. Alma Toppo	<b>23<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	Sr. Monica Suchiang		

I hope each of you take responsibility to read and reflect Sr. Marian Moriarty's letter to the Province and use it from time to time at community meetings.

Let us continue to support each other in prayer.

*M. Tressia T. Aricatt*

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