



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

Sharing IBVM News:
June 2009

***Meeting of the Province
Leadership Team 09:***

15 of us met in Shimla, from 9th to 13th June, along with the Resource Person, Sr. Shalini Mulackal - a Presentation Sister from Delhi.

The theme of the Meeting was 'The Role of Religious in the Church & World'. Emphasis was placed on the prophetic role of religious to respond to the needs of the times.

"The task before us is to reconstruct a humanity that reflects the image of God."

Much time was spent on clarifying the role of Community Leaders/ Principals/others in charge of Depts/other works, and mapping out their areas of authority and accountability. Most of this material will be passed on to the respective persons by the Community Leaders.

What was striking was the deeper level of honest conversation evident at this Meeting, and the sense of hope prevailing throughout.

***The situation of the persecuted
Christians in Kandhamal, Orissa:***

The situation still remains unstable. There are stray incidents of house burning.

However, steady progress has been made by the Archdiocese of Kandhamal and the CRI to initiate relief and rehabilitation work in the area. There is an appeal for funds to construct simple concrete houses for the displaced families in new areas that are safe. About Rs. 30,000/- would ensure completion of one house. The funds could be sent to the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, or to the Regional CRI of Orissa.

I would like you to know that the CBCI/CRI in a joint statement have made a special appeal to all Religious Congregations to open a Religious House & Ministry in Orissa, in solidarity with the poor and the harassed there. Perhaps we could look at this request at our next Province Meeting.

It is comforting to note the efforts being made by the Union Home Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, to bring law and order in the area. He visited the relief camps in Kandhamal in the face of grave risk so that he could apologize to the victims and assure them of his support.

Aila Cyclone & our Response:

The extent of the destruction of Aila is gradually emerging from the interior villages of the Sunderbans. Thousands of villagers are homeless - deprived of food, shelter, medicine and clothes. Photographs reveal how pathetic is the condition of the people, and how desperate they are for any kind of help. Sr. Christine Coutinho with some college Professors, visited a camp site and distributed food materials to the people. It emerged that medical care is the most urgent need as water-borne diseases are spreading fast. Sr. Monica Suchiang and the Entally Staff organized medical help to some camps. Sr. Shanta Xalxo plans to visit the camps on the 30th with the help of Seva Kendra. Should you wish to render any kind of assistance, please contact: Fr. Jothi, s.j. 9932250024 or Fr. Reginald: 9830029752

Visits abroad:

~ Sr. Moira Cunning is on home leave in Ireland, from mid June to end August 09. We wish Moira a restful and enjoyable holiday.

~ Sr. Lynette Daniel-Palmer is on a family visit to her sister & family in Australia, from mid June to end August 09. Lynette is eager to be of some assistance to her niece, who is seriously ill.

RIP:

~ Sr. Bernadette D'Rozario lost her dear brother, Christopher, on 13th June. His family came out from Canada to be present for the funeral. It is good that Bernadette could offer some medical attention to Christopher in Loreto Entally, when he was convalescing after the hip surgery.

~ We join Sr. Philomena in grieving on the death of her young nephew-in-law, Steve Sweeney, in Ireland. Many communities have been following the story of Steve's illness till the end.

We express our prayers and deep sympathy for the grieving family members, and the fullness of grace and blessings for the departed.

With fond love and prayers,

Antoinette Rodrigues