



LORETO (IBVM) SOUTH ASIA PROVINCE

reaching out...

**NEWSLETTER
JUNE
2022**



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'SERVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART'



Mary De Souza

This month, June is dedicated to the Heart of Jesus. The Bible uses the term heart to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams and affections we have. Let us listen to our hearts, the source of all our motivations – what we love to do and what we care about most. Your heart reveals the real you – who you truly are, not what others think you are or what circumstances force you to be. Your heart determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do and why you act the way you do. Another word for heart is passion. There are certain subjects you feel passionate about. These reveal the nature of your heart. God had a purpose in giving you these inborn interests. Don't ignore your interests. Consider how they might be used for God's glory. 'Serve the Lord with all your heart.' When you are doing what you love to do, no one has to motivate you or challenge you. You do it for sheer enjoyment and you do it with enthusiasm. Figure out what you love to do – what God gave you a heart to do – and then do it for God's glory. (Adapted from *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren).

Let us during this month of June pray to Jesus, our Lord and Master asking Him to fire us with His passion as He went about doing the things He did and saying the things He said. He lived life to the full and so after 33 short years He could say with a feeling of abandonment 'It is finished'.



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Wisdom Corner



SR MALOTI

It is not easy to share a God experience as mine is so deep and therefore difficult to express. But, here goes---

My life is a miracle and blessed by God. From childhood I have faith in God that I got from my father. My father & I always used to talk a lot about God. He used to talk about his God & I used to talk only about Jesus, which I learnt from the Sisters of Charity and Fr. Bernadine SDB and also during the Eucharist sacrifice, homilies and from the Readings. Since my mother died in my early childhood I began to love Mother Mary. From the beginning of my life I had only Christian faith. I used to pray a lot, especially the Rosary. From childhood I had a desire to become a Christian. I used to tell my father about Jesus: how He suffered for us, that I love Jesus and I wanted to become a Christian, but my father was too afraid of society, so he couldn't give permission. But when I was in High School I used to go for Mass and choir, there I met Fr. Bernadine again. I told him about my desire to become a Christian. He observed me and one day he told me that though my family wouldn't agree, he knew I had a desire for Baptism. To strengthen my faith I began to read the Bible & attend the Mass every day. There is no church near my house. So to attend the Sunday Mass I used to go to my Christian friend's house on Saturday evening. In that way I got Sunday Mass.

One thing I realize is that Jesus never leaves me. I am what I am today because of Him. I am sure that He never leaves me. I know from my personal experiences that God turns everything into good if we love Him. Whatever happened in my life till today has been good for me.

Mary Ward Corner



SR BAISHAKHI

Mary Ward was a woman of great faith, justice and truth. She grew up among witnesses to the faith; her parents and grandparents in whom virtues were highly appreciated. With this background she could see and experience that God was an absolute. Her faith was truly a relationship - a relationship of love of God.

She recognized God's heart. Her great, loving effort to know and fulfil God's will was firm, enduring and growing throughout her life. I too have seen the powerful guidance of the Holy Spirit and I feel it's given to those who are pure, free and uninterested in themselves.

Mary Ward always focused on God - that's where everything comes from! Mary Ward always co-operated with God's grace. We all can experience the safe guidance of the Holy Spirit as well, and become better instruments in God's hand. Mary's life was deeply permeated with prayer and a strong connection with God, and this made her able to be so stable, firm and unshaken in times of struggle. She had an open heart for God's will. Rooted in it, she could wait and act accordingly.

Mary Ward loved God but she challenged the Church, though she loved it, to think and act beyond its own theological categories. When silent women find their voice, it not only makes for greater social equality, but for a richer experience of human society, doing ordinary things in an extraordinary manner. Mary Ward encourages us to refer all our challenges to Jesus, allowing Him to be the beginning and the end of our lives.

Ignatian Corner



SR JIWANTI

When I read the life of St. Ignatius, I was struck by his conversion narrative and his openness to do God's will. His journey from a worldly life to the spiritual life moved me greatly. He was born to fight as a soldier forever. Before his conversion, he fought for a worldly King and after his conversion he fought for the spiritual King, Jesus Christ. His commitment to Christ and his humility beckons me to become like him. He has left us a rich heritage in the Spiritual Exercises for our spiritual nourishment. In his Spiritual Exercises, he has introduced several effective ways like the Examen, the Principle and Foundation, the Two Standards meditation, Three kinds of Humility, the Contemplation to attain Love, etc. through which one can attain salvation.

I make my examination of conscience twice a day and I find it very meaningful and helpful. It makes me more aware of myself.

I have made 8 days' retreats as well as a 30 days' Ignatian retreat. I was inspired by the Principle and Foundation, i.e., "God created human beings to praise, reverence, and serve God, and by doing this to save their souls." As I reflected over it, I discovered that the Lord is good and has great love for us. I felt that everyone of us is called by God to serve him with an open heart and mind in a unique way, for His greater glory.

I came to know from the Spiritual Exercises about the Two Standards meditation (The standard of Satan and the standard of Christ). This meditation is very helpful for me and I have become aware of myself, how I am living my spiritual journey daily. It helps me to know more about God's unconditional love.

I also have a broad understanding of the Ignatian concept 'finding God in all things'. We seek God in all things, discerning in all situations the will of God, and thus we find the opportunity to serve God. Finding God in all things is an invitation to experience God's presence in each moment, to become aware of God's beauty in everything in our lives. When we learn to pay more attention to God, we become more thankful and reverent, and through this we become more devoted to God and more deeply in love with our Creator.

My Experience



SR SHEETAL

The parable of the growing seed (also called the seed growing secretly) in Mk.4: 26-29 is my experience during my days in the initial formation and is continuing till now.

I have grown much during my formation days and I am growing secretly in the hand of God with the help of my formators and through my experiences both good and not so good. My formation of pre-candidacy began with 12 of us in Mukulika and 8 of us in candidacy. Thereafter 4 of us returned for our Novitiate, where Shova left for Kenya and as time passed on the other two left, after discerning their vocation. I feel grateful to God for all these companions, though they are not here with me now. They were instrumental in my growth and in helping me to know myself. Obviously, there were times, like diminishing numbers and other situations when I had doubts about my vocation, but by the grace of God it has strengthened me and has drawn me even closer to Jesus.

Among these 3 stages of initial formation, I cherish my Novitiate days. Now as I recollect, it was really a heavenly experience for me because this was the place where I met God, discovered myself, learnt to open up, silenced myself from external things and focused on internal growth, grew in awareness, learnt to love myself as well as fell in love with Jesus. There were challenges, difficulties, struggles with my inner journey and relationships, including a certain loneliness especially during the pandemic. But now, as I recount it all they have turned into enriching experiences of the presence of God. I laugh with Jesus when I look at some experiences where I worried unnecessarily. I appreciated and loved the sharing, the classes, evaluations, different activities, games, prayers, gardening, celebrations, fun and laughter, manual work, making boards, Sunday cooking as well as taking it in turn to cook during the pandemic. They all have left me with some lessons and always something more to be learnt.

The different experiences of community, apostolic and the long retreat helped me to know where I am really going. Knowing the truth, the imperfections, the challenges in apostolic and community living etc. helped me see the true beauty of religious life and my desire to follow Christ and serve him more faithfully has grown.

The Sunday ministry was another beautiful experience of meeting people. Being with them and listening to them, especially after the pandemic has really taught me a lot about life and has brought in me the desire of reaching out to the needy. During my formation days there were directors who helped me to cope with my feelings, struggles and my prayer life and also there was a common time table. When I came out of the Novitiate stage, I found the transition period difficult. Though I had a lot of freedom I struggled to handle it. I was not clear about my role as there was no specific thing to be done. Even my prayer became dry and I felt the absence of Jesus.

But spending time with nature sustains me and I understand it is not only in doing but also in just standing empty before God that I give GLORY to him. This is my desire. As my formation was a process of breaking and building, this process has not ended, but continues. The only thing is, am I ready to accept to be broken into finer and finer pieces so that it will be easier for the Lord to mould me into the shape that He desires?

My Experience



SR SHOVA

Formation is both a period of deeper discernment and a preparation for life as a religious sister. It is a gradual “coming to know”. It is an ongoing process to grow in different areas of one’s being and a deepening relationship with Christ. As I continue in the formation stage, I would like to share my experience that has transformed and is transforming my life each and every day. I began this formation journey on the 29th of November, 2018 in India.

We were ten of us. After I finished my pre-candidacy and candidacy period, I entered the Novitiate on 20th of January, 2020 in Kolkata and then I was sent to Kenya in Nairobi for the Novitiate. We were five of us in the Kenyan Novitiate. Being in the formation house I have learned that as human beings we live and grow by relating to ourselves and to things and people outside of ourselves. The whole meaning of life is thus a confrontation with ourselves, others and eventually God. My life experience of formation is a way of naming, knowing, and living in the manner of a radical self-surrender to God. Perhaps I need to acknowledge and to be aware that God is always in charge of everything.

At the same time, I feel proud and humbled that the Loreto charism resonated well with the inner convictions of my vocation. During my formation I have learned and experienced our Loreto sisters’ activities, spirituality, constitutions etc. I became very aware of how Loreto sisters are empowering women and girls and responding to the greater need of the church despite struggles and challenges. After the canonical year we were sent to the Missionaries of Charity Brothers’ house for our apostolic experience. This experience gave me great joy and made me more humble and grateful before God. It has helped me to understand God’s deep love of me and find out the purpose of my life. Through this experience I have been invited to be more compassionate, generous, loving and patient with others.

My community experience has had a great impact on my life. I have experienced Christ’s presence in the community whereby we share the life of Christ with total openness. The greatest joy I have experienced is that though we are from different places, cultures and traditions we are all united in heart and mind. We can trust each other, understand, support, respect and value each other’s giftedness and spirituality. I felt a sense of belonging and fraternal love through this experience. I enjoyed my Sunday ministry which was teaching the little children and helping them to grow spiritually. I used to teach them Bible stories, action songs, dances as well as games. As I taught them Christ’s values and virtues by telling them simple stories for their spiritual growth it also helped me to become more proficient in using God’s Word and grow spiritually.

In formation I have learned to pray in different ways. My prayer life has been a real heart conversation with God which was a process of reflecting, educating, transforming and nourishing at the same time. It has become more rooted, grounded, enjoyable and eventually a stable experience. The Holy Spirit of God directed me to affirm the presence of God as a vivid expression of my daily life discernment. God is very merciful to me. I have been experiencing His abundant love and faithfulness and that gives me inner strength and peace. I feel that my prayer life and positive motivation that I have received from my parents, community members and from the church has sustained me in life till now. God helps me through them and makes me strong to fulfill His mission.

20 Vicolo della Macella, Rome

May 8th / 59

My very dear Revd. Mother

I write from the Eternal City on my route to the Emerald Isle, where I would wish, if it be the wish of my Heavenly Spouse, to spend the remainder of my life, under the sweet and secure yoke of obedience. I left Dr. Oliffe after me at Naples in a wretched state of health. I spent three weeks there with Dr. Persico's family. Nothing could exceed their kindness to me. Dr. Persico has given me several letters of introduction, among the rest, one to a Russian princess, who has promised me letters of introduction on my route home through Germany, as I have warm invitations to visit the convents of Burghausen and Munich.

I have made known to the Cardinal Prefect, Dr. Cullen & Monseigneur Talbot, my opinion relative to the disadvantages of having missions separated from the Mother House in Ireland. They have all entered into my views but fear that it cannot be at present effected as all the nuns on missions and their respective Bishops should consent to having all united together.

I was presented to His Holiness on Palm Sunday and found him very kind and affable. One of our best friends here is Monseigneur Talbot, he has invited me to remain at Rome until after the feast of St. Peter & Paul. He says after seventeen years in India I require rest, but I have no inclination to stay so long. I am almost devoured by fleas! They are far worse than mosquitoes. I have been disappointed in Rome & Naples. I think after all there are few cities equal to Dublin in beauty!



*Panorama of Rome, 1859, photographer James Anderson
(Image courtesy Getty Images)*

I think I shall be able to find good postulants in England & Ireland for Calcutta but I have no wish to return there, if the cold climate will agree with me. [...]

My ever dearest Revd. Mother,

Your ever grateful and devoted child

Mary Delphine Harte

Institute Archive reference TB/IND/4/12

For a subsequent letter from Monseigneur Talbot referring to the occupation of Papal lands refer TB/IND/4/13

Archive News, 1 June 2022

1859

In this edition of the newsletter we bring you a letter from M. Delphine Hart to M. Teresa Ball, written in 1859 en route to Ireland, from Rome, her first visit home after seventeen years in India.

Tiring of her labours in India Delphine Hart longed for the comfort of Rathfarnham and Ireland, yet kept the needs of her mission in focus. In Rome she hoped to plead the cause of reunion of overseas missions with the Mother House in Ireland, and elsewhere she hoped to recruit suitable postulants for India. In Rome her petition did not meet with immediate success as is evident from her letter, but was nevertheless given consideration. The Pope at the time was Pius IX, and particular supporters of M. Delphine's cause were Cardinal Prefect Dr. Cullen and Monseigneur George Talbot, Chamberlain to the Pope.

It is of interest to note that this was a period of considerable unrest and significant change for the Pope and the lands governed by him. The 2nd Italian War of Independence was soon to commence spearheaded by Sardinia, eventually resulting in the loss of the Papal States to Italy and the curtailment of the Pope's temporal powers. Rome was declared the capital of Italy, and it was only in 1929 that the State of the Vatican City was formed, thus creating the sovereign territory of the Holy See, the modern descendant of the historical Papal States.



1 Monsignor Ricci
2 " Telli (confessore)
3 " (ingenuocitato)
4 " de Marsico
5 " Borromeo
6 " Santo Padre

7 Monsignor Talbot
8 " Principe Nabe-Loe
9 Cardinal Antonelli
10 Monsignor Rocca
11 " (sacrista)
12 " Negrotto (sonovese)



Pope Pius IX and members of the Papal court, 1868 (Image courtesy Wellcome Collection)

M. Delphine Hart's letter to M. Teresa Ball, written from Rome in 1859, follows.

Archive News, 1 June 2022

Shimla Community



Sr Miri

The Sisters from Christ the King Cathedral in Chandigarh had come for a tour of Shimla. We invited them for lunch on Sunday, February 27 and then took them around our campus.

We celebrated the birthday of our Parish priest Fr. T. Raj on 19th March, the feast of St Joseph. He invited us after Mass to the presbytery and had the cutting of the cake along with the parishioners. The celebration was beautiful and meaningful.

On 24th April 2022, eight children received First Holy Communion in St. Michael's Cathedral, Shimla. They were prepared by Sr. Pushpa.

Sr. Mary De Souza and her sister, Catherine had a delightful holiday in Shimla from 19th April to 4th May 2022. Their presence brought joy to the community as we spent time with them. Ms. Catherine gave the community a delicious Chinese lunch as a gesture of gratitude before their departure.

We had a rosary procession and crowning of our Lady from the grotto near the house to the grotto in front of the school. Although there were hailstones and rain during the procession, it was a beautiful experience.

The Sisters of Ajmer from Mashobra joined us for lunch on this special day. It was lovely to have them as it was the first time that they had come to visit us. All of them have been recently transferred to Shimla.



Shillong Community



On Palm Sunday Srs. Soria, Anupa and Rosita went to Nongrah village to attend Holy Mass with the people along with Fr. Teiborlang from Bishop's House. The people were so happy to have us with them.

We bade farewell to five hostel girls with a prayer service prepared by Sr. Rosita.



Sr Rosita



Srs. Soria and Michalina went to Wahrinong for a youth camp organized by the Christian Brothers on 23rd April. There were 85 girls and 60 boys. Sr. Soria gave a session on the topic "The problems young people are facing today". It was a fruitful day where the youth received a lot of insight.

The Community members welcomed Srs. Sabrina and Priyanka to Shillong on the 9th May. In the evening we had the opening prayer for visitation. The theme of the prayer was Mary visits Elizabeth. It was prepared by Sr. Michalina.

Srs. Soria, Priyanka and Anupa went to Sohra. Since Sr. Priyanka had come to Shillong for the first time, they visited many places. They had fun and enjoyed the beauty of creation.

Srs. Sabrina, Priyanka and Soria visited the families of Srs. Soria, Monica Suchiang, Miri, Badarilin, Matilda and Genevieve. The families were very happy to have the sisters with them. It was a great way of us building relationships with the family members.

On the 13th evening the sisters concluded visitation with a thanksgiving prayer prepared by Sr. Anupa. The next morning Srs. Sabrina and Priyanka left for Kolkata.



Elliot Road Community



FAREWELL TO OUR NOVICE, TERESA

On 26th March 2022 a farewell programme was organized for our novice, Teresa at our Rainbow Home. She joined our Rainbow Home on 13th March. She was here in our midst for her Rainbow Home experience. Her experience at our Rainbow Home was very enriching which strengthened her vocation. To show gratitude to her the Rainbow children organized a short programme and in turn she also thanked the Rainbow children and staff for the love and care that she received from them.

Sr Clara



Bengali New Year and Easter Sunday celebration

On 17th April, Bengali New Year and Easter Sunday was celebrated together in our Rainbow Home. Posters were made based on the occasion and the children presented a meaningful programme which was appreciated by all.

Bidding Adieu to Sr. Agnes and Fr. Abinash

On 5th May we bid farewell to Sr. Agnes, our Community Leader and Fr. Abinash, who worked as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Mary's Church for a year.



Lolay Community



Women's day Celebration

In the month of March, we celebrated Women's Day in different places: on 5th March, in Doon and on 20th March, in Bhanjan. It was wonderfully organized and many women attended the programmes. This year we honoured the senior citizens very specially because it was organised in the village and everyone was able to participate. The day began with a prayer service followed by a short programme. It was nice to see women gathering together for the day. Everybody got a cup as a token of remembrance. We cut a cake to celebrate in the different places. We spent time with the women and after lunch we came back home.

SR JIWANTI

Recollection

On 13th of April, we had a community recollection and confession before Easter. Fr. Saji SJ, gave us points. It was a blessed day for us to spend time with the Lord.

Easter celebration

On 16th of April, we went for the Vigil Mass to the parish church. It was a great joy to celebrate with the parishioners. After a long gap of two years lockdown the church was full. On Easter morning, each one got an Easter egg, bun and tea, which the parishioners had sponsored. After sharing the joy of Easter all went back home happily.



LORETO RESIDENCE



SR STEPHANIE

We, in Loreto Residence have a special devotion to Our Blessed Mother, so on her Birthday on 8th September, besides the Eucharistic Celebration in the morning, we had a devotional and appropriate Prayer Service in the evening.

The date 8th of every month being set aside to remember Teresa Ball, books on her life and the extension of the Institute were displayed and a brief introduction was given to each. Keeping in mind our Institute theme - 'Becoming one' on Teresa Ball's Days, we had talks given by Sr. Eithne on - Steps leading to the Reinstatement of Mary Ward as Foundress.



We always look forward to coming together for celebrations with a thematically prepared Eucharist or Evening Prayer, be it a special Birthday, Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day. Sometimes, our neighboring communities join us with goodies for tea adding to our happy celebration.

April was not a happy month for us. Sr Celine took seriously ill very suddenly, and even before the news of the severity of her condition could sink in, the Lord took her to Himself on the 11th. Her sudden going away less than a week before Easter, emotionally shook the 'Residence' Community. We missed her playing for the Easter Services. Sr. Celine was given a fond 'send off' by her religious sisters, many friends and the children of Loreto Entally. The Entally School Choir, so well trained by her, put their hearts into their singing at her funeral Mass.

On Easter Sunday, Bow Bazar joined us for lunch. We were given a pleasant surprise by the Provincial and team who joined us for tea followed by some hilarious games. It was a kind of a 'let off' for the community as we were still struggling to come to grips with Sr. Celine's sudden passing away. We ended with a beautifully prepared Prayer Service. Thank You for your THOUGHTFULNESS, PLT !!!

PS: We have a new ADDITION to our Residence family... Bobo !!!



Dharan Community



SR ANU ANET

Nepali New Year celebration

The sisters and staff had a short prayer for Nepali New Year 2079 and for Easter. The teachers brought some snacks for everyone and the sisters offered a cake for Easter. We all enjoyed and shared the happy occasion.

Visitation 2022

Srs. Sabrina and Priyanka Topno from the PLT and Shakuntala, our Community Leader came for visitation. They visited all the mission places and also visited Sr. Ganga's family, who were delighted to meet them. They sang and danced for them.

It was a grace filled moment for all of us. We shared about our experiences in our mission. We visited two C.J. communities in Sersia and Biratnagar. It was a fruitful time where we shared about our coming together, our fears and challenges. They were very welcoming and they appreciated our visit.



Bishop's visitation

Rev. Bishop Paul Simik had come to our parish for Holy Week since we had lost our parish priest. He came to comfort all the parishioners and spent a good time with everyone. He visited all the religious houses, so he came to meet the sisters and our hostel children. There was a short programme done by the hostel girls followed by lunch.

We were fully involved in the Easter activities (decorations, choir etc).

C.J. visit

Sr. Jessy (regional superior of Nepal) and Sr. Vinita had come to visit us and we shared about the mission activities of Dharan. We enjoyed being together and they appreciated our hospitality.

Silver jubilee

Sr. Neelu CJ in Sersia celebrated her silver jubilee on 8th May 2022. It was a blessed day where we met many CJ sisters as well.



Coming together

We got the opportunity to meet five CJ communities in Nepal. It helped us to see our future with hope and at the same time to surrender everything to God and embrace our fears and uncertainties.

Darjeeling Community



SR ABHAY

“All Our Visitors Bring Happiness.”

Sr. Reena CJ who has been transferred to Singla as a new Principal came for a break to our convent to make her 3 days recollection. She had fruitful days with the Lord. On the next day Srs. Barbara and Manjula reached her to Singla Convent.



25 years Religious Life

On 3rd March, the Singla CJ Community invited us for Sr. Amla's silver jubilee celebration. From Loreto, three sisters joined in the celebration. There was a meaningful Mass followed by a delicious lunch.

Bishops' Conference of Bengal & Sikkim Region Pastoral Council Meeting

BRBC meeting was held from 26th – 28th April 2022 at Loreto Convent School Hall, Darjeeling. The Sisters who had come for the Meeting stayed with us in our community. We were very happy to have Sr. Sabrina with us since she was one of the members of the meeting.



“Together let's be a Community.”

Sr. Arockia joined our Darjeeling Community. We are happy to welcome her. She will be taking up a new mission as Principal of Loreto Covent School, Darjeeling.

“Things end. But memories last forever!”

On 5th May we had a Thanksgiving Mass in our Chapel for Fr. Chrispin Tamang who has been transferred from our Parish. He has been appointed as Youth Director of the Darjeeling Diocese. We assured him of our prayers for his new ministry.



Loreto House Community



SR SANJYOTI

We heartily welcomed Sr. Sudha on the 28th February to Loreto House after completing her Ph.D. in Berkeley, U.S.

We had a meeting with Srs. Sabrina and Anjuman on the 12th of March, who explained to the sisters about the ongoing renovation work in Loreto House. Sr. Sabrina said that the St. Anne's Building is ready and the sisters could move from the St. Joseph's Corridor to St. Anne's Building. The sisters were glad to move.



On Saint Patrick's Day the community went to Loreto Residence to wish the sisters. We were very happy to meet our sisters. We began with a greeting song followed by high tea. It was a lovely get-together which we all appreciated.

During the Lenten season, Sr. Lynette Daniel Palmer prepared a tableau. The write-up says "This is the Season and this is the Reason". The sisters really appreciated her creativity and innovative hidden talents.



On Easter Sunday Sr. Agnes, the community leader invited the parish priest, Fr. Lucas D'Cruze, assistant Fr. Yesudas A. and Fr. Sanjay for lunch. Since the Parish priest and the assistant had been transferred, Sr. Agnes thanked them for their availability and generous services provided during the pandemic. Miss Reba and her friend joined us for lunch. We appreciated her presence too. Being a past pupil of Entally, Miss Reba played the piano and sang familiar hymns with the sisters. It reminded us of our great musician, the late Sr. Alice Mary.



The Loreto House community joined the Easter rally with our fellow brethren of the Church of North India (CNI). Every year the Easter Rally starts from St. Paul's Cathedral Maidan and ends in St. James Church (Jora Girja) Maula Ali, Taltala. The people had gathered in great numbers. Their unity and faith inspire us all.

As the month of May is dedicated to our dearest Mother Mary. We had a special prayer and the Crowning of Our Lady; we implore her blessings upon ourselves, Community, Institute, and society at large.

LH community celebrated Labour's Day on 1st May with the support staff of the college, school and Rainbow. The sisters had organized indoor games for them, followed by a sumptuous lunch. They enjoyed their day.

We had a farewell Mass in the morning and prayer service in the evening for Sr. Arockia Mary Dass. The sisters prayed for her new mission and appreciated her selfless service rendered in Loreto House.



Every 8th of the month sisters from Loreto House and Elliot Road gather together for prayer services on Mother Teresa Ball. Every time the prayer services are becoming more creative and informative about the life of Mother Teresa Ball.

Asansol Community



SR LILY GRACE

Community Recreation

We went for a picnic to Maithan. It's a beautiful place. We went for a boat ride and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. We spent time together as a community. This outing freed us from our daily thoughts and activities. It refreshed our minds and gave us fresh energy. Catching fish from our pond also gives us joy and relaxation.



“A birthday is a reminder to celebrate life as well as to update life.”

Every year, we are all eager to celebrate our birthdays. It is a special day as it comes only once a year and we get to celebrate it with great joy and happiness. We celebrated Srs. Josephine's and Monica's birthdays in the community. We had a meaningful prayer service, thanking God for the lives of our dear sisters. Then we had a cake cutting ceremony, lots of fun and a delicious meal.



Synod-“Journey together”

Sr. Lily and Miss Anupama Jonny a past student of Loreto Asansol, organized and conducted a session on the Synod for the Catholic students in our school. We began with a Bible procession followed by a short prayer. There was a good response from the students and the teachers. It was a very new and great learning for them. The students were able to understand about the synodal Church and the reason for starting a synodal year. Let us “Become what we are meant to be: a Loving, Relating, Listening Family.” At the diocese level also, we had a whole day program on 20th February in our Loreto campus. Sixty members were present from different parishes of the Asansol diocese. It was organized and conducted

by the synodal committee of our diocese. Sr. Lily Grace is an active member of this synodal committee.

A smile is our way of welcoming our visitors

Sr. Sabrina and Sr. Beatrice came for visitation to Loreto Convent Asansol. The visitation was a good and enriching experience. There was deep and open sharing about our struggles and aspirations in this mission. We thank Sr. Sabrina and Sr. Beatrice for lending their listening ears. We visited the CJ sisters in Ekpore, Burdhaman; it is two hours away from Asansol. We were happy meeting them and it was also a memorable visit.



Bangladesh Community



SR SHOVA

Inputs given by our sisters

On 25th of February Sr Yvonne presented an orientation to LHC (Little Handmaids of the Church) sisters in Barishal on emotional maturity and interpersonal skills.

Sr Mary directed Sr Priti Murmu (LHC) during March for her 30 day retreat in preparation for her final vows.

In the month of March we welcomed our new hostel girls. There was a cultural programme presented by class 12 girls and Sr Yvonne gave a small orientation about our way of living.

Recollection / Outing

On 18th and 19th of March the community members and hostel girls went to Kuakata for 2 days of reflection and relaxation. It was a very enjoyable time for us.

Programmes/ Vocation work

Srs. Regina, Aruna and Shova attended the Barishal Pastoral Assembly from 12th to 14th of April. It highlighted the importance of the Child Protection Policy and the implementation of it in all the institutions of the diocese.

On 21st of April Sr Aruna and Sr Shova went to Dinajpur for vocation work. We met many young girls who are interested in joining our Loreto family.

Sr Aruna went for the Diocesan Youth Seminar from the 3rd - 6th May which focused on "Mary arose and went with haste...."



Sr Shova and our candidate, Monisha attended the Magis Bangla Camp conducted by the Jesuits in Dhaka from 2nd to 6th of May. The theme for the days was "We Grow in Freedom". There were 107 youth present. Deep lessons were given through games.

On the occasion of the parish feast of Dashantorkati, a sub-station of Padrishibpur, Srs. Yvonne, Edelin and Shova participated in the Mass, kirtan, rosary and adoration. The theme was "Mary's union, participation and responsibility in mission".

We are very happy to have Sr Maloti with us and so are the parishioners and the children and staff in the school.



Panighatta Community



Visitation

On 25th February Sr. Sabrina and Sr. Priyanka Topno along with the Community Leader, Sr. Shakuntala Kujur came on visitation to Panighatta. It was a great time to be with them and to share about the mission.

Celebrations

SR SWATI

On 27th February -We had a birthday celebration for Sr. Maxima and Sr. Swati in the Parish. It began with Holy Mass, after which there was a welcome song for Sr. Sabrina, Priyanka and Shakuntala. A greeting song was sung for the two celebrating their birthdays followed by the cutting of the cake. This was the first time the sisters' birthdays were celebrated in the Parish.



We visited Sr. Sushila Kerketta's and Sr. Nirmala Toppo 's families. We were delighted to meet all the members of their families.



In the Church with the people

We had Palm Sunday celebration in one of the sub-stations. We helped in the choir and for the altar decorations. This celebration helped us to enter into Holy Week with meaning.

Sr. Ranjita, Sr. Maxima and Sr. Swati went to different sub-stations for the Easter Celebration. We had a wonderful time with the people. We prepared the children for their first Holy Communion and Confirmation.



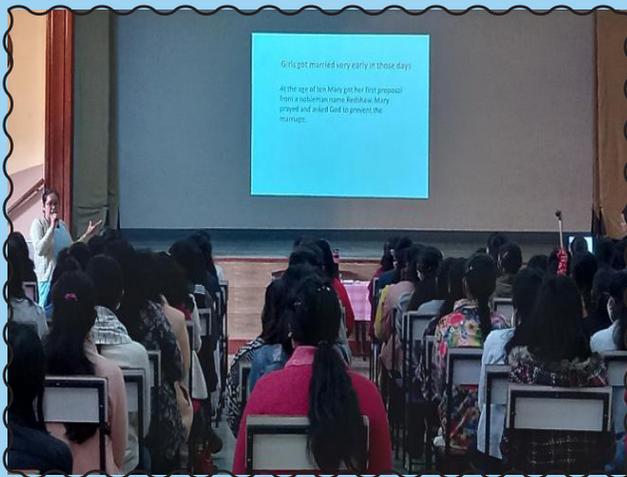
Ranchi Community



SR ABLIN

On 24th February Srs. Soria and Mable came to our community for the vocation camp and the very next day, early in the morning went to Agharma parish, Gumla, for vocation work. They returned in the evening.

The teachers, office staff and the community went for a picnic to a farm house in Khuti. The place was beautiful with roses, lemon grass, coriander leaves and varieties of Adivasi cultural items such as the Adivasi dress, cups, earrings, different kinds of dry sag, potter's wheel, ludo table etc. As soon as we reached the place, we were given rose water to drink. We also went to the river side which was nearby. It was a memorable picnic. Indeed, the presence of the sisters doubled the joy of our teachers and they were very grateful that they got a chance to go for a picnic after two years. They enjoyed it very much and felt that the picnic refreshed them.



We had a vocation camp in our school on 27th February. We had given letters to a few parishes to announce it at the Sunday Masses and also school students from 9 to 12 were asked to join the camp. A hundred and nine students were present. The talk was given by Srs. Soria and Mable and sisters from the community were present too. It went well.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on 17th March in our community. We offered Mass for the Irish missionaries especially our Irish Sisters, Maeve, Cyril and Eithne. Then we wished sister Maeve and prepared a special dish for her.

On 23rd March we had the blessing ceremony of the Mary Ward shrine. The prayer service was prepared by the Friends of Mary Ward group. The children prayed the intercessory prayer and sang the maxims of Mary Ward. The sisters, teachers and students were present. Sister Punitha welcomed the students back to school, since it was the first day of their offline classes after two years of the pandemic and she spoke about Mary Ward.



We were very glad to have the tertians from Asansol. On 26th they went to Hazaribagh along with Srs. Maeve and Punitha to see the tombs of our early sisters. Next day the sisters visited Bagicha where Father Stan Swami stayed and did his ministry. They had a memorable day. They got a lot of information about the place and people. Next day we had Mass in our chapel with Fr. Aurel Brys SJ. After lunch they returned to Asansol.



Ranchi archdiocese asked the Loreto sisters to sing the Psalm of fifth Sunday of Lent, so with the help and guidance of Mr. Arvind Kullu, the music teacher, we sang and recorded the psalm and it has been uploaded in the Ranchi archdiocese YouTube.

Srs. Mary, Yvonne and Greta came to Ranchi for their eight days retreat, after which they visited us and Srs. Banisha and Rina in Gumla.

Srs. Ablin and Rajni teach catechism in the church, visit the houses and accompany the youth whenever they are in need. On Easter Sunday we prepared the altar for Mass which helped the people to pray devotionally and feel the joy of Easter.



Laughter the best medicine



Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl.

"My mother cooks beans," said a boy.

A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."



A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."

The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

My friend thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face.

Two little boys were well-known troublemakers, stealing anything and everything they could get their hands on, including items from the church.

One of the boys was stopped by a priest who inquired, "Where is God?" "Where is God?" the priest asked again, and the boy shrugged. The boy cried his way out of the cathedral and into his house, where he hid in a closet. His brother eventually found him and asked, "What's wrong?"

"We're in trouble now!" said the crying boy. God has gone missing, and they believe we have taken him.



BIRTHDAYS & FEASTDAYS



June Birthdays

SR. A ANITHA	7TH JUNE
SR. DEEPA BISWAS	8TH JUNE
SR. INITHA P	8TH JUNE
SR. MATILDA LAKRA	8TH JUNE
SR. GRETA ROBERT	9TH JUNE
SR. RAJNI LUGUN	16TH JUNE
SR. SANJYOTI KERKETTA	20TH JUNE
SR. MARY NITHYA	22ND JUNE
SR. PUSHPA EKKA	29TH JUNE

June Feastdays

SR. ANTOINETTE RODRIGUES	13TH JUNE
SR. CYRIL MOONEY	27TH JUNE

July Birthdays

July Feastdays

SR. MARIA BASTIAN	6TH JULY
SR. BENEDICTA GOMES	11TH JULY
SR. CHRISTOPHER D'SOUZA	25TH JULY
SR. ANITA M BRAGANZA	26TH JULY
SR. BEATRICE STUART	29TH JULY

SR. VERONICA THAPA	5TH JULY
SR. SHAKUNTALA KUJUR	8TH JULY
SR. GORETTI TIRKEY	9TH JULY
SR. MERCIA D'SOUZA	19TH JULY
SR. CYRIL MOONEY	21TH JULY
SR. RESHMA MINJ	21ST JULY
SR. ANTOINETTE RODRIGUES	22ND JULY
SR. MARIANA BAGE	27TH JULY

August Birthdays

SR. MALOTI THAKUR	4TH AUG
SR. ADRINA RAI	4TH AUG
SR. ABHAY EKKA	7TH AUG
SR. ARCHANA GOMES	10TH AUG
SR. BADARILIN MAJHONG	13TH AUG
SR. MARION VASE	15TH AUG
SR. A. KAVITHA ROSY MARY	15TH AUG
SR. RANI MARY MINJ	19TH AUG
SR. K. CLARA	23RD AUG
SR. A. AROCKIA POWLIN	26TH AUG

August Feastdays

SR. CLAIRE MCFARLAND	11TH AUG
SR. MONICA ROZARIO	27TH AUG

