



Loreto (IBVM) reaching out.....



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O what a gift, what a wonderful gift: who can tell the wonders of the Lord?

Let us open our eyes, our ears and our hearts: it is Christ the Lord, it is He

Bangladesh

Linda, the first year Novice of Loreto Bangladesh has just completed her 30 days retreat. Her Retreat was directed by Sr. Stephanie O'Brien ibvm from the East African province. Please keep her in your prayer as she tries to get her visa for India.

Champasari

Sr. Philomena writes:

Being back, living in the **Darjeeling foothills**, after being away from this area for fourteen years is a joy. There are signs of growth and development everywhere and I thank God for Sr. Monica and her valiant team.

My first visit was to **Sadam**. One disappointment was that the road was dreadful though there is hope as there are workers all along the way! There is almost a road up to the Parish! Sunday Mass was alive and interactive and the church was full. Barbara is still very involved! She leads the Ammas and Matilda cares for the youth. Both are also involved in the SCC and CRI.

The SCC National Convention 2013 (Nov 18 -22) is being held at Old Goa for the official concluding of the Year of Faith. Darjeeling diocese has two sisters participating and one is our own Barbara – congratulations Barbara!

The big news is that **Panighatta** has nearly received its recognition. This is thanks to the efforts of so many of our sisters who have worked there over the years and the support and help given by the sisters in the area. Let us all rejoice and thank God.

The school has certainly been built with a view to the future. The class rooms are spacious and well used. Numbers have increased and many teachers have been upgrading themselves as per instructions given over many years. The school is growing and Sunila had to open a second section for K G last year. They have a beautiful library thanks to the recurring visits and the interest of an Australian Volunteer. The



income generating project where the local youth are making cards and paper bags is also growing. Involvement in the Parish and Masses in the tea Gardens continue.

It was great to be whisked up to **Lolay** in 20 short minutes! One can see Madhu's artistic touch everywhere. They held their very first Managing Committee meeting in October. This was a land mark

event for Lolay. While progress is obvious there is still much to be done! The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Parish is a grace. Subhashini organized an Eye Camp which involved doctors from the Eye hospital in Kalimpong.

Dharan is also looking towards the future. The building is certainly forward-looking! Hostel girls look happy and now there is ample space for the Tailoring, Spoken English classes, and the Baldwadi. There are also coaching classes. The Sukumbasi project at the riverside continues under the care of Balika with Poonamma ably handling the funds or lack of funds! Hopefully as time goes on this lovely building will be used to the fullest.



Here at home in Champasari there is a continual buzz from the Center where lovely young women are in and out for training programmes. Often there is heart rendering tales about the people being helped in and around the tea gardens that we are involved in. Thirty five attended a training programme in Loyola Pastoral Centre at the beginning of November and the beauty of it all was that the team members are themselves capable and ready to conduct these programmes. A group from MWSC presented a street play on trafficking for the Bagdogra Diocese Youth

convention which was most effective. Perhaps one of the highlights of the five Temporary professed experiences in Champasari was helping at an eye camp where they really experienced the great work of MWSC team. There is nearly always a volunteer or two around and they enliven our community life and compound!

LORETO ELLIOT ROAD

Loreto Day School, Elliot Road organised a walk in its vicinity on the 16th November, 2013 trying to sensitize the society, most importantly the surrounding areas, about the various atrocities and discriminations inflicted upon women in society.

The walk commenced from the school premises and passed through the neighbouring areas. A street play called 'Pragati Express' by the high school students was dramatised at various focal points depicting issues that highlight these atrocities like female foeticide, domestic violence, dowry deaths etc.

This walk was precursor to the evening's programme on the 22nd and 23rd of November called 'Nabojagaran'. It began with the Dunuchi Dance invoking the presence of God.



This was followed by an original choreographed dance by students of Class X portraying the condition of women even



today, in India. Pragati Express was modified to suit the audience indoors and was yet another dramatization to reinforce the same theme. The next segment was staged by the middle school students and it was based on the excerpts taken from Rabindranath Tagore's 'Chandalika'.

Through this play we brought to the fore the rifts that create barriers between human beings. The solution that only love can heal this and create a sense of bonding was brought out as well.

Loreto Convent Entally staged its annual function on 30th November, 2013 at Rabindra Sadan "I HAVE A TALE TO TELL". This drama was a journey of Kolkata's growth right from the time Job Charnok set foot here. The play portrayed various aspects that added colour, magic and dimension to



the growth of this beautiful city. A beautiful halo circled round the brow of Kolkata and she was worshipped as a deity. About 500 students participated showing their skills in dancing, singing and acting.



PICNIC TO SUNDERBANS –NOVICES DAY

It was the feast of St. Stanislaus, novices' day. At 5:30 am novices and pre-candidates set out from Abhilasha for the Sunderbans. We kept ourselves busy on this four hour journey singing, admiring the beauty of nature and enjoying our breakfast. At last we reached Gosaba at the entrance to the Delta of the Bay of Bengal.





At Gosaba we got into a steamer which was waiting for us. Everybody opted for the upper deck. We enjoyed the peaceful waters that stretched out to the Sunderban Forest on either side. We reached an island called Sanjelakhali, a forest museum. There we got information about the whole of the Sunderban delta. There are 48 islands and five rivers meander through the Forest into the Bay of Bengal. We learnt about the many species of plants, animals, reptiles, fish, crabs that inhabit those places. We were impressed to hear about the breathing roots of the mangrove trees. They even

have a special deity “Bonobini”. People believe that she guards the forest and saves the people.

We visited another island- “Sandhyakhali”. There we saw an old ship called “Tiger” which originally came from Thailand. It consumed 80 liters of fuel per hour. We also saw a fresh water pond, rain-water harvesting, especially for animals. If you are lucky you can see the Royal Bengal Tiger. We had to be content with Tiger footprints! We saw the spotted deer, water monitor, Crocodile, flying snake and many kinds of birds.



S.M.Cyril has just returned from her Sabbatical for which she left in April. She spent part of this time in Ireland visiting family and friends, including her sister, who, unfortunately was quite ill throughout her visit. On Aug. 7th. her set decided to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee year since Eileen MacDonald and Cyril were both at home so the entire set could be together, all fourteen of them including those from Navan and Fermoy and Agnes Ryan who made her Nov. in India. They had a lovely Mass at which they renewed their vows, followed by a day of sharing and renewing memories. After that, Cyril moved over to England, where she stayed in Altrincham and met Nora and to Llandudno, where she met Mary. Both sent lots of love to India and had many questions to ask about old friends.

Cyril moved on to Hawkstone Hall where she joined a three month renewal course, covering a wide range of topics such as various aspects of the Bible, of Psychology, of Transition just to name a few.(if anyone wants to know more, she can contact Cyril for the whole course!!). Towards the end of her stay there, Cyril was informed by the Irish Government that she had been selected for the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for Irish living abroad and flew back to Ireland to receive it from the Irish President followed by a Banquet. There were 10 recipients, mostly Senators, ambassadors and business people. Cyril received it for her work for Social Justice and Education. Each recipient was allowed 4 guests, so Noelle, Margo Mulvey, Paula Doolin and Cyril's nephew, Gregory were there. The Award was made of wood with an open door (symbolising the Irish Welcome) and through the open door one could

see some of the beauty of Ireland symbolised in the colours fused into the glass inside. Each person was given a special wood symbolising the nature of her/his award. Cyril's was Oak. Cyril is now back in India and received a rousing welcome and a concert prepared for her by the children of the Rainbow Homes which she set up in Govt. Schools before she left.

REPORT ON THE LORETO HOUSE ANNUAL SENIOR SCHOOL CONCERT

2013 marks the centenary year of Rabindranath Tagore receiving the Nobel Prize for the Gitanjali. The award projected him from a Bengali writer to an international figure of fame and repute. Loreto House chose to celebrate this momentous occasion in their Annual Senior School Concert, 'An Ode to the Bard', on the 29th and 30th of November 2013.

The first segment of the concert was interspersed with narrations of how "Gitanjali" was conceived and why Tagore chose to translate it into English for a worldwide audience, along with the songs themselves, expressed in dances by the students.

The second segment sought to understand his persona through his antecedents, the fusion of western and eastern culture at his home at *Jorasanko*, as well as highlighted the sartorial styles and lifestyle of the *Thakurbari*, in a tableau which was accompanied by a western music student orchestra,



The final segment showcased the influence of western melodies on Tagore's original lyrics. The students danced to *Rabindrasangeet* sung by a very well trained student choir.

Every single student from classes 6 – 9 and 11 was a part of this concert, either singing, dancing, playing an instrument, narrating, creating the props or helping backstage. The entire concept was an in-house effort conceived, scripted and directed by the teachers themselves.

Sr. Flora is attending the 18th **South Asian Feminist Capacity Building course** organized by the SANGAT being held in Savar city in Bangladesh. 31 trainees, who were keen to enhance their knowledge and skills related to gender issues and feminism are participating.



The one month long holistic course will help the participants to gain a thorough understanding and broad insight on areas of gender, poverty, sustainable livelihoods, human rights and peace.

The course which was initially being held for those who are working on gender issues in South Asia has broadened its wings in reaching other Asian countries this time by incorporating participants from Myanmar (Burma) and Vietnam in addition to the eight member countries of the SAARC.

The participants are being exposed to several feminist resource persons who have expertise in areas of gender, psychology, education, human rights, globalization, food security and many other interesting study areas under the guidance of two main resource persons Kamla Bhasin and Abha Bhaiya.

The course is unique from other trainings taking place in the region with equal importance being given to the body and mind of the participants. The participants begin their day with one hour yoga session and engage in singing and dancing at least three times a day which will keep their energy levels undying throughout the whole month. Being exposed to a veteran dancer Lubna Mariyam, participants are now more aware about the rhythm of their bodies, expressions and ways and methods to take ahead their message by ways of performing arts.

They have also enhanced their ability on critical reading and analytical thinking by engaging in lots of reading activities and watching movies.

Sharing an excellent sisterhood, love and caring, participants are now working as one team dedicated to achieve one goal while exposing each other to ten diverse cultures and traditions as they share their stories from their own home countries.

Juniors Outing 2013.

On the 1st of December, we juniors living in Calcutta went for an outing on account of our Feast Day, which was on 26th Nov. feast day of St. John Berchmans. Sr. Yvonne arranged for our lunch in the restaurant "Golden Joy". The food was delicious and we enjoyed the tasty dishes. Inside the restaurant over the phone we wished Sr. Edelin Toppo and Edline kujur who celebrated their birthdays in their respective places,



Goa and Mangalore. Then we left for Eco Park, where we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. The beauty of the park is the lake lying in the center of the park. In this beautiful lake we went for boating. We chose the paddling boats, which brought a tremendous excitement, since we maneuvered the boats ourselves. On the bank of the lake we played cards (Uno) and had snacks. At the same time we enjoyed playing badminton.



LORETO RANCHI

The Senior School girls presented song, dance and drama with competence and elegance and charmed the audience. Every child in the senior school had an on-stage role as actor, singer, dancer or announcer. No one was left out. A song of thanks and appreciation to parents opened the programme with the girls in smart blouses



and skirts. This was followed by the lively presentation *of Robin Hood* in costumes and hats that re-created the forest scenes of yesteryear accompanied in song by the main choir. Colour, variety and surprise carried the action along.

Then there was a switch from “Merry England” to the classical and folk dances of India with light-footed dancers presenting



Gujarati, Bengali, Manipuri, and

Kashmiri features as well as the ever-popular Bharatnatyam, concluding with a delightful full stage fusion item.



Then we enjoyed the Hindi play *–Eid Gah* a favourite Premchand story.

The entire audience then stood to join in the school chorus with gusto for there were many past pupils among them, notably Ms. Shashi

Minz, our first adivasi student, now Assistant Commissioner for Odissa.

DECEMBER

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
	Sr. Edelin Pompa Kujur	1st Dec
	Sr. Edline Toppo	1st Dec
8th Dec	Sr. Phyllis Morris	
	Sr. Magdalene Munro	9th Dec
10th Dec	Sr. Alma Toppo	
	Sr. Mary Irene Ribeiro	16th Dec
	Sr. Rina Ekka	19th Dec
	Sr. Anjuman Gidh	21th Dec
26th Dec	Sr. Stephanie Miketinac	
	Sr. Stephanie Rodrigues	26th Dec
	Sr. Benedicta Gomes	26th Dec
29th Dec	Sr. Tina Farias	

JANUARY

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
	Sr. Jency. V	2nd Jan
21st Jan	Sr. Agnes Bhutia	5th Jan
	Sr. Banisha Sohkhet	8th Jan
	Sr. Molly Francis	9th Jan
	Sr. Alma Toppo	11th Jan
	Sr. Phyllis Morris	12th Jan
	Sr. Yvonne Gomes	14th Jan
	Sr. Rani Regina Hembram	15th Jan
	Sr. Maeve Hughes	15th Jan
	Sr. Sunila Toppo	19th Jan
	Sr. Monica Suchiang	23rd Jan
	Sr. Anita Nayak	23rd Jan

23rd Jan	Sr. Lynette Daniel-Palmer	
	Sr. Helen Borneo	25th Jan
	Sr. Shalini Rozario	26th Jan
	Sr. Priyanka Topno	27th Jan
	Sr. Ganga Jyoti Bardewa	28th Jan

FEBRUARY

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
	Sr. M. J. Jude Hales	6th Feb
11th Feb	Sr. Lourdes Noronha	
	Sr. Carmella Coelho	1 1th Feb
	Sr. Maria Bastian	19th Feb
	Sr. Igora Pinto	22nd Feb
	Sr. Josephine Burh	28th Feb
	Sr. Swati Lakra	28th Feb

Be born in us, Incarnate Love.

Take our flesh and blood and give us Your humanity.

Take our eyes and give us Your vision.