



If the LORD were not my help, I would long have been silent in the grave.
When I say, "My foot is slipping," your love, LORD, holds me up.

Psalms 94(93):.17-18.

May the power and spirit of our cloud of witnesses be with each of us during this month as we remember our loved ones who have gone before us.

L&P Financial Trustees Ltd. Ireland (Helen Harrington and Shane Cowley) helped us to **review our life and ministry**. They, together with Srs. Geraldine MacLeer, Barbara Murphy and Beatrice Stuart with the other participants from the Australian Province, the Darjeeling Region and the Indian province were here in **Loreto House, Kolkata** from **27th-29th September 2011** for the meeting. We expect a report from them soon which will help us to gain a greater understanding of life within each area of the congregation which will enable us to understand our resources- personnel, ministries and finance- and do the necessary projections for our provinces and regions.



The Province Gathering was held from 3rd to 6th October 2011 at Loreto House, Kolkata. Seventy - six sisters attended the sessions while twenty- five sisters were not able to attend due to sickness, age and studies.



The Province days began with Holy Mass at 7.00 a.m. on the theme '**Mission**'. The Mass was celebrated by his Grace, Archbishop Emeritus Henry D'Souza.

Sr. M. Tressia T. Aricatt welcomed the Province and the **Facilitators - Srs. Barbara Murphy and Beatrice Stuart from the Generalate**. She announced that the Agenda would be as follows: **Day 1 – Mission, Day 2 – Union of Hearts and Minds, Day 3 – Formation. Day 4 – Celebration of the 400 years of 'Take the Same as the Society', and the Jubilees of Srs. Conrad (75 years), Sr. Eithne (60 years) and Sr. Stella (50 years).**

A creative exercise was given to the Group to re-image IBVM in India for the next 5 years in a way that is life-giving for members and freeing and energizing for ministry. The group was given time to reflect quietly and respond creatively in drawing or in writing. The members shared their vision for mission in the Indian Province in their age groups. The essence of the sharing was depicted on a chart in each group and this was explained to the general gathering. A great hope for the future and energy for mission was sensed. There was a desire for rootedness in God and a change of direction. The need for formation, networking and lay collaboration was also felt. After a short break, the members reflected personally on 'What steps do we need to take in order to meet our desires for mission'.

The theme for the second days' Eucharist was '**Union of Minds and Hearts**'. Fr. Aelred Gomes, SJ spoke of community in mission through obedience to a leader as exemplified in the first Ignatian group of friends.

Sr. Mercia D'Souza asked the members in table groups to draw up **specific norms for community living**. These were shared with the general group and recorded on flip charts.

The third day's Eucharist was celebrated by the Parish Priest, Fr. Patrick Rodrigues on the theme '**I have called you by name**'.

Sr. Barbara Murphy introduced the new **Formation Booklet**, edited and compiled from the previous Formation Booklets. Every member present was given a copy. The Group was asked to draw up questions on Formation to be taken up for review by the appropriate committee.

Sr. Molly Francis informed the Group of the **Vocations Promotion Team** that was appointed: Sr. Archana Gomes – as Vocation Promoter. The Vocation Contact persons would be: Amia Tete, Anita Braganza, Anita Sahaya, Aruna Kujur, Bidalin Marshilong, Flora Anthony, Initha P, Prabina Rudum, Shanta Xalxo and Yvonne Gomes.

Sr. Beatrice Stuart introduced the topic of **Ongoing Formation** with a reading from the Constitutions (5.46). The members gathered into their age groups to discuss what needs to be done for nurturing their own ongoing formation.

This was followed with a concluding Prayer Service on ‘The Treasure’. A part of the prayer service was sharing in table groups on the treasures gathered at the Province Meeting and which would be taken to the Mission and Communities.

The fourth and last day at 9a.m. the Novices and Temporary Professed organized the celebration of the **400 years of ‘Take the Same as the Society’**, and the **Jubilees of Srs. Conrad (75 years), Sr. Eithne (60 years) and Sr. Stella (50 years)**. They put up a play directed by **Sr. Eithne Mc Donald** on Venerable Mary Ward’s vision ‘Take the same of the Society’ and then added a few other items for the occasion.

Frs. Jayaraj (Provincial of the Jesuits) and Patrick (Parish Priest) celebrated the Eucharist. The Liturgy was meaningful and Fr. Jayaraj as a Jesuit claimed a share in the grace of Mary Ward and was happy to notice that **God Himself had directed her to own the Ignatian spirituality**. An introduction to the three Jubilarians was read out and at the end of Mass they received the Papal blessings.



All proceeded to the refectory where the Jubilantes was sung to the ringing of bells, the toast was raised and the cake was cut and lunch followed. With this great celebration the Province days came to an end.

The meeting of the **Community Leaders'** was held on 8th & 9th October 2011 at Loreto House, Kolkata. The members shared on the treasures and concerns they were holding from the Province Days. Based on the sharing, the Agenda for the meeting was drawn up.



1. Clarification of Roles –in Formation/Community.
2. Interpersonal Relationships
3. Evaluation of Ministries
4. Concern for the Elderly
5. Finance.

Constitution No. 6.87 was read on the role of the Community Leader. All were advised to take the necessary steps to care for themselves.

On the 2nd day 'Evaluation of Ministries' was taken up, and the reports on Trichy, Satarda, Umphyrnai and Loreto St. Vincent's Thakurpukur were discussed.

The last topic of the Agenda was taken up: Finance. The proposals given by Sr. Moira Cunning, Provincial Bursar, were read and passed.

There being no other matters to discuss, the Community Leaders' meeting closed at 12 noon with a Prayer and a Vote of Thanks to the two Facilitators Srs. Barbara Murphy and Beatrice Stuart.

Temporary Professed gathering was attended by thirty - two of our Temporary professed sisters from 7th October evening to 10th October 2010 at Loreto Convent Entally. Sr. David Delany of St Joseph of Chambery Congregation was the resource person. Sister David Delaney was the first directress of the Inter congregational Juniorate Programme in Bhopal. At present she has been freed by her Congregation to serve on a National level and reaches out to many congregations for courses. Our sisters who have attended the nine months course in Bhopal or Mater Dei in Goa have often suggested that she be requested to come for our junior's Gathering and at last this dream became a reality.

Some of the points that touched our sisters were:

My vocation was born in the womb of God and now I need to be Alive, Alert and Awake in the mission God has given me....Junior sisters in the twenty first century must have souls on fire with a burning desire for the love of Jesus and remain rooted in His love....We must learn to be our own best friends.....She emphasized the importance of Transparency, Accountability, Responsibility and Honesty.... If we cannot be wholeheartedly committed to living our Religious commitment then we need to rethink whether we are in the right place.

However she also reminded us that new beginnings are always possible and encouraged all of us to start again to give of our best. Our sisters were very appreciative of Sister David's whole hearted 'giving' during the three days.

Loreto Asansol organized an Inter-Loreto Basketball Tournament from the 19th to the 21st



September 2011. Invitations were sent to various Loreto schools but only five schools responded positively. At the opening ceremony on the 19th September the statue of Mary Ward was garlanded and a light was lit to reinforce that Loreto is one family and that we had come together to be led by her light. representative from each school put some soil brought from their own school into an empty urn. Sr. Christopher D'Souza was the chief guest. Loreto Asansol and Loreto Dharamtalla emerged winners. On the 21st September Mr. Shamsi who is an eminent sportsperson was the chief guest. A sapling was planted in the soil that had been put into the urn on the first day. The final match was played and Loreto Dharamtalla was the winner. This occasional coming together of our schools will enhance the Loreto family spirit.

The Annual Meeting of the West Bengal and Sikkim

CBCI – CRI was held from the 25th Oct -28th October 2011. Some 75 people, including six bishops, attended the meeting at Our Lady of Happy Voyage Basilica, Bandel, 45 kilometers east of Kolkata. The theme of the convention was 'Working towards Justice, Peace and Reconciliation/ Harmony in the context of struggles of our people in West Bengal and Sikkim'.

The resource person was Most Rev. Archbishop Thomas Menaparambil of the Archdiocese of Guwahati.



On 23rd October 2011 the delegates to the Congregatio Jesu meeting in Loyola, Spain, elected **Sr. Jane Livesey CJ** from the English Province as **the new General Superior and General ssistants:**
Vicar General: Sr. Elena Gatica Romero CJ (Chile Province)
Sr. Elisabeth Kampe CJ (Middle European Province)
Sr. Prisca Vadakepoondikulam CJ (Patna Province / India)
Sr. Cecilia Yeom Jaeyoung CJ (Korean Province)

We offer them our prayerful good wishes in their ministry to foster the spiritual life of the members, and to promote the apostolic works, unity and development of the Congregatio Jesu.



Formation:-

Candidate **Raj Kishori Minj** discontinued her candidacy and has gone home on 9th September 2011.

1st year novice **Scholastica Xalxo** discontinued her novitiate programme and has gone home on 25th September 2011.

The temporary professed sisters **A.Mariyal Sharmila** and **A.Thivya** have discerned and come to a decision that religious life is not meant for them. They have left for home on the 16th and 27th October respectively and we hope and pray that the Lord may show them the way forward. Sharmila has just lost her brother. May his soul rest in peace.

Sr. Maloti Takur is attending Sumedha Sadhana from October 1st to November 2011 at Sumedha centre, Jeolikote (Nainital, Uttarakhand) as part of her tertianship along with Sr. Sushila Kerketta from the Darjeeling Region.

Sr. Molly Francis will be attending ***THE IGNATIAN CHARISM FOR THE WORLD OF TODAY, An International Immersion course on Ignatian Spirituality at Spirituality Centre, "The Cave of Saint Ignatius" in MANRESA, Spain from Monday 30th April (evening) to Sunday 10th June (morning), 2012.***

Sr.Eileen McConnon,ibvm arrived on the 19th October and is settling into Gyanalaya. She has begun taking classes with the Juniors.

Sr. Stephanie O'Brien,ibvm arrived on the 1st November and will be working with Agnes in the Novitiate and with the Formators.

Transfer:-

Sr. Celine Pinto from Loreto, Delhi will spend a month in Shimla. After her home holidays, she will keep Sr. Ursula Darcy company while Sr. Arockia Mary Dass attends the seminar for Temporary Professed in Bandel Retreat House. Sr. Celine Pinto will join the Loreto Entally community by the middle of January 2012.

Congratulations to Anjuman Gidh, who has passed her M.A. examinations.

DECEMBER

FEAST DAY	NAMES	B'DAY
	Sr. Edelin Pompa Kujur	1st Dec
8th Dec	Sr. Phyllis Morris	
	Sr. Magdalene Munro	9th Dec
10th Dec	Sr. Alma Toppo	
	Sr. Irene Ribeiro	16th Dec
	Sr. Rina Ekka	19th Dec
	Sr. Anjuman Gidh	21th Dec
	Sr. A Nirmala	22nd Nov
26th Dec	Sr. Stephanie Miketinac	
	Sr. Stephanie Rodrigues	26th Dec
	Sr. Benedicta Gomes	26th Dec
29th Dec	Sr. Tina Farias	

Itinerary

November 2011	3 rd – 6 th	CRI National Consultation – ‘Good Governance’
	7 th – 11 th	Kerala
	15 th – 18 th	Nav Sadhana, Varanasi
	20 th – 24 th	Nav Jyothi Niketan, Patna
December 2011	8 th – 12 th	Shillong
	13 th – 20 th	Retreat

I hope you have received your individual copies of the Norms for Community living which we decided upon at the Province Days/ Community Leaders’ meeting. United with you in love and prayer as we challenge ourselves to live them.

With this letter Srs. Mercia D’Souza, Molly Francis, Flora Anthony and Archana Gomes send their greetings to you.

M. Tressia T. Aricatt

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1st November 2011