



Loreto (IBVM) South Asia Province

reaching out...



March
Newsletter
2023



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The season of Lent has come around again and the Church calls us to a metanoia or change of heart in preparation for the great feast of Easter. This time I have taken a few quotes from the Bhagawad Gita which portray the Ignatian and Mary Ward values of detachment, love of friend and foe, inner freedom, finding God in all things and doing all for the greater glory of God to help us reflect on our journey as IBVM women.

'Being steadfast in Yoga, perform actions abandoning attachment, remaining unconcerned as regards success and failure. This evenness of mind is known as Yoga.' (II: 48)

'She whose mind is not shaken by adversity, who does not hanker after happiness, who has become free from affection, fear and wrath, is indeed a person of steady wisdom.' (II: 56)

'Whose happiness is within, whose relaxation is within, whose light is within, that Yogi alone gains absolute freedom.' (V: 24)

'When there is no attachment, either to sense objects, or to actions, having renounced everything, then is one said to have attained concentration.' (VI: 4)

'Whose heart is filled with satisfaction by wisdom and realization, and is changeless, whose senses are conquered, and to whom a lump of earth, a stone and a piece of gold are the same; that Yogi is called steadfast.' (VI: 8)

'She attains excellence who looks with equal regard upon well-wishers, friends, foes, neutrals, arbiters, the hateful, relatives and upon the righteous and the unrighteous alike.' (VI: 9)

'She who sees Me in all things and sees all things in Me, she never becomes separated from Me nor do I become separated from her.' (VI: 30)

'Whatever you do, whatever you eat, whatever you offer in sacrifice, whatever you give away, whatever austerity you practice, do that as an offering unto Me.' (IX: 27)

'Alike in pleasure and pain, the same to agreeable and disagreeable, the same in censure and praise, the same in honour and disgrace, the same to friend and foe, is said to have gone beyond.' (XIV: 24-25)



Mary De Souza

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Congratulations

Dear Sisters,
A Nirmala & Josephine Buch

25 years of Religious Life



God Bless You

Wisdom Corner



Maeve Hughes

Wisdom - what is Wisdom? Can it be cornered" No, no, no!

**Psalm 50 gives us a wealth of insight into this gift of God;
for Wisdom is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

Wisdom is the Word of God

and the Word of God becomes flesh and dwells among us...

Dwells within us, dwells in all human flesh!

**Dwells not only in the flesh of a beautiful Babe of Bethlehem,
but dwells in all flesh, our flesh, yours and mine.**

**This is who we really are, the children of God, born in time as Jesus was,
God is made flesh for all time and this we shall see and experience
in fullness in the mystery of eternity.**

The mystery of God made man, God made flesh,

Emmanuel, God with us, God among us God in us.

**Our loving Father God enriches us with His
wisdom, with his gifts of hope, charity, joy and peace.**

**All these gifts come to us in Jesus, and Jesus comes into our
world through our beautiful Mother Mary.**

How beautiful are God's ways, how tender His care of His children,

**How wise is our God in the reckless generosity of his patience,
forgiveness and tender mercy.**

Wisdom, God's wisdom in its infinite depth and breadth,

God's gift of wisdom to each of his children in the limits

**of our human understanding, yet this gift sets us apart from all His other earthly
creatures, gives us enough wisdom to be humble and grateful.**

Humility, forgiveness, gratitude -

**these are the gifts God gives us to prepare us for the gift of Wisdom and Love... “
and the Word was made flesh and dwells among us”.**

Ignatian Corner



I love Ignatius' teachings, principles, values and his spirituality, which help me to know Jesus and imitate His way of life.

Priyanka Soreng I have gained a great and deep experience of God by following the spirituality of St. Ignatius, especially during my thirty days retreat. I experienced God's unconditional love and being a precious child of God and I also was able to build up my relationship with God and with others.

The experience of the thirty days retreat still helps me to be a better person.

One of the life experiences of St. Ignatius which gives me inspiration in my life is, when his father was teaching him how to fight as a soldier when he was very small. When he falls his father says, 'Get up my son, we are men of Loyola, we never look down.' Hearing his father's words he gets up and continues fighting.

This experience helps him and gives him the strength and courage to get up when he was hit by the cannonball.

He was able to trust himself to God and listen to His voice, remembering his father's words.

In the same way I too experience a deep relationship with God following his spirituality, especially when I face difficulties in my life.

With the grace of God I am able to move forward as a follower of Christ on my life's journey.

Mary Ward Corner



"The best way to bear troubles is to thank God for them." M.W.

Amia Tete

In this devastating world where corruption, gender discrimination, over population, poverty, ecological issues and migration are at its peak, we need a continuous divine churning to mould ourselves spiritually in order to respond to the needs of the present time.

This spiritual revolution could be spread only when we root ourselves in God, just like our Founder Venerable Mary Ward who was like a beacon of light. No matter how hard the times were, she held high values because within her was the fire of God and His cause. It is this fire which shines till now. God was always at the centre of her life and her desire to find and do God's will was the constant focus. Mary Ward offered an audacious vision of what women could and would do in religious life. She was a woman of deep faith and stamina who always rose above the storm in search of light no matter how hard the situation was. Venerable Mary Ward has been my inspiration in the hardships of my religious commitment. It is not easy to face challenges but receiving grace from God in every situation has helped me through. He is my strength. I can't run away but the best way to bear troubles is to thank God. Venerable Mary Ward, personification of compassion and empathy, taught us through her life to be a cheerful giver and to serve God's loved ones at all times. I have encountered and made honest efforts to share the warmth of love and care by visiting people in my ministry wherever I have been missioned. This always reminds me of Venerable Mary Ward's maxim "Be always glad and joyful, for God loves a cheerful giver." This initiation filled my heart with satisfaction and gratitude. I know God's presence in my life and deep down in my heart I feel such joy and a sense of being loved. He has always been my guide in religious life through various people in times of ordinary and extraordinary experiences.

All of us were reminded of the fact that we must keep our hearts open and share the love of God with the world. We need to be true to ourselves so that we may bring justice to this world. The life of Venerable Mary Ward has always inspired each one of us to imbibe the virtue of compassion. When trials come our way, the best way to bear troubles is to thank God for them.

May venerable Mary Ward be our mother and guide along the road of life.



Mrs Dutt

A two-day certificate program on, **"AI and Coding: Inclusive Computer Science Education for Creative Computing"**,

was organised by the Loreto Education office in Kolkata, for Computer Teachers of Classes V- VIII on 9th and 10th February, 2023. The Resource person was Mr. Vasudevan Natarajan of SuperTeacher Edu Reforms Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Vasudevan skilfully demonstrated how the following can be integrated holistically into the curriculum to make the lessons lively and interesting-

- 1. Effective AI curriculum in middle school**
- 2. Upgrading teachers' pedagogy**
- 3. Effective evaluation and assessment techniques for students**
- 4. Use of AI concepts in all subjects.**

Twenty-one Computer teachers from sixteen Loreto schools across India attended the workshop which focused on hands-on training for the participants.



Update from Gyanalaya



Akblin Tirkey

*O*n the occasion of the feast day of St. John Berchmans, an outing was organized for all the Junior sisters in Kolkatta.

The Juniors gathered in Gyanalaya on Sunday, 27th November 2022, at 11:30 am. The day began with a short prayer, a feast day cake cutting, and a delicious lunch prepared by our sisters.



With "one in mind and heart" as a family, we visited the historical Belur Math, accompanied by Sr. Priyanka, Sr Edline, and Sr Sangeeta. Mr. Dipankar Basu, a former professor of St Xavier's College was our guide.

First, we visited the Dakshineswar Temple, where Sri Ramakrishna saw a vision of Mother Mary and Jesus. Mr. Dipankar Basu explained the history of 'the Christ experience of Sri Ramakrishna.' We then moved further to the monumental Belur Math, which evoked hallowed memories of Sarada Devi, Swami Vivekananda, and other renowned disciples of Ramakrishna.

In short, it was an informative, unique, and refreshing trip for all the Juniors because it enriched our fellowship and instilled in us the spirit of inter-religious dialogue.



We all liked and enjoyed the day and are very grateful to Srs. Sudha and Priyanka for making all the arrangements. We also express our sincere gratitude to Sr. Geraldine for generously giving us the Loreto House bus.



Marilla D'Souza

*T*he 23rd of January is an auspicious day for us Mary Ward women as we commemorate the birth anniversary of our Founder, Venerable Mary Ward. What better day than this - for us as religious to pronounce vows!

This being our first Profession in post-pandemic time, we were pleased that both Loreto Sisters and the families of our Sisters could be present at The Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Entally, Kolkata. Nature was on our side too! The weather was very pleasant, the garden lush with vibrant colours, and a bright morning greeted us.



It is unusual for us to have both First and Final Vows on the same day, at the same Eucharist. Two Sisters - Binita Surin from Simdega Diocese and Reshma Minj from Gumla Diocese, made their Final Profession, and four sisters - **Genevieve Nongtdu from Jowai Diocese, Janifa Kerketta from Raiganj Diocese, Puspa Rai from Darjeeling Diocese and Teresa Rai (from Sadam, Sikkim) Darjeeling Diocese** pronounced their first vows.

The Eucharistic celebration began with an entrance dance led by our young Loreto Sisters. The six Sisters to be professed joined the entrance procession. They were accompanied by the Province Leader, Sr. Sabrina Edwards, Temporary Professed Director, Sr. Sudha Arul, Novice Director, Sr. Bernadette Lepcha, and the leadership Team. An apt theme was, 'My soul is thirsting for the Living God'. Sisters at Final Profession choose a motto for life, yet a general theme applicable for all set the tone for the Liturgy. Our main celebrant for the day, Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy SJ, was joined by six concelebrants, a few of whom were familiar to our Sisters making profession. Fr. Jeyaraj effectively connected the homily to the life of Venerable Mary Ward and emphasized her readiness to do the will of God despite all odds. He also challenged us to examine the choices we make and their consonance with God's will.

After affirming their resolve, the sisters to be finally professed, prostrated before the altar invoking God's blessings upon them, while the Litany of Saints was sung by Sr Adrina Rai. Sensitive to the fact that most of the families were from different regions of the country, from the start, a meaningful yet brief commentary was given in English and Hindi. The Choir comprising of the students of Loreto Convent, Entally led by Fr. I C Jacob SDB sang melodiously in different languages. The Sisters professed their vows in English, Munda, and Hindi in the hands of Sr. Sabrina Edwards, IBVM Province Leader of the Loreto South Asian Province, delegated by Sr. Carmel Swords IBVM, the General Leader. This was then followed by a poignant moment when the Loreto Sisters came forward to greet the newly professed.

The festive Mass was followed by a meaningful felicitation program in the hall. The Sisters were greeted and garlanded while everyone sang "Congratulations!" The cake-cutting, followed by a sumptuous banquet in honour of the sisters, brought forth ripples of joy and gratitude in all those present.





My Experience

The Sabbatical Programme provided breathing space and a time of rejuvenation in my on-going faith journey as it gave me time to reflect, refresh and renew. Mount St. Anne is the lovely heartland of Ireland and the sabbatical programme conducted there had given me the opportunity to reflect on my life, to be refreshed with varied new experiences and to be renewed when I came across people with a variety of perspectives.

Pushpa Ekka

During our four weeks programme my connection with the Lord was deepened. There was a well centralized structured programme, rituals, daily prayer and liturgy through which I was constantly challenged and affirmed. I could step out of my comfort zone and face a new environment and enter a new phase of introspection and of revival.

All this gave me opportunities as well as empowered me to make very strong changes in my personal life.

This programme was scheduled in such a way so that there was time for introspection, reflection and also time for jubilation and celebration after a formal input by the Mount St. Anne team and invited contributors.

The various field trips to local places of significance such as Glendalough, Co. Wicklow and Solas Bhride Centre, Co. Kildare to explore the spirituality of St. Brigid gave me a new lease of life.



I am sincerely grateful and thankful to Sr. Sabrina and the entire team and all our sisters who constantly kept me in their prayer and prayed that my journey would take a new bend.





Shalini Rozario

My Sabbatical Experience at Colorado Springs

9th September - 9th December 2022

When Sr. Noelle came on Visitation of the Indian Province in 2018, she recommended this programme. I went ahead, but unfortunately; I did not get my visa and then Covid followed. Later, I too lost interest due to health reasons. But thanks to my friends for their encouragement, I decided to avail of it. I did not realize it would open up for me the flood gates of different experiences and an exposure to healing and transformation.

Rev. William J. Jarema – International Director – Mercy Centre is a well-known author and trained therapist and good at Spirituality. He has empowered and trained lay missionaries who have been running the Sabbatical Courses for the last 34 years. It was amazing to see lay people trained professionally and so committed. This for me was an unusual experience. His spirituality is based on the Mercy of God and the Cross. The centre is aptly known as “Mercy Centre”.

It is an International Course, available to people across the globe: a well-designed and comprehensive programme, which is geared to the personal empowerment and growth of the individual.



Colorado Springs is in the Rocky Mountains, which many of you may have heard of and is indeed a very beautiful place; a very impelling environment and conducive for personal prayer and the inner journey.

For me, I found Rev. William J. Jarema, the Director a very integrated, simple and unassuming person with vast knowledge and experience. He is much sought after for his therapy, healing ministry and for his expertise in different fields. Personally, I feel privileged to have sat through his sessions and feel blessed for his kindness and concern towards all. I wish some of you would have the opportunity to meet Fr. William

and avail of his expertise.

I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Noelle for offering me this sabbatical which was profound and life-giving. A special word of thanks to Srs. Sabrina, Anjuman and Sanjyoti for their help and support.



Updates from Bangladesh



Michalina Murmu

On the 20th December, we had a pre-Christmas celebration in Padrishibpur. The cardinal, new bishop, priests of the parish, the hostel girls and the whole community came together to celebrate the occasion.



Srs. Yvonne, Regina and Shova went for pastoral ministry on 24th of December to Mativanga village. The faithful were very happy to have our sisters visiting them and sharing the joy of Christmas with them.



In Padrishibpur we celebrated Sr. Yvonne's birthday on 14th January, along with our hostel girls. We had a special programme on the 22nd January, prior to Mary Ward's birthday, with the Friends of Mary Ward in Dhaka. A beautiful prayer service was led by Michalina and the input was given by Sr. Mary, who is in charge of the group.



On the 26th and 27th January our sisters from India came to Bangladesh for Sr. Linda's Final Profession. We were glad to have them with us since it has brought us closer and deepened our love for and commitment to the Bangladesh Mission.



The 30th January, the Final Profession of Sr. Linda Mrong was a very special day of great joy and many blessings. There were fifteen Loreto sisters present and since the celebration was held in Linda's home parish the whole village were able to attend. Fourteen priests concelebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Ponen, the Bishop of Mymensingh. We were all glad and grateful indeed for the wonderful hospitality and generosity of Linda's parents.



Madhabi Brahma

Ranchi Community

On 22nd December evening the religious and priests of our Parish gathered in our hall for a Christmas get-together and dinner. It was a happy time and our sisters and candidates gave of their best to make it so.



January 15-A great day! Maeve was 94 years old. Banisha and Anupa arrived from Gumla and all of us contributed our mite to bring her joy.

At 8.00am Fr. Ravi Xess SJ celebrated a beautiful Mass. After Mass we greeted Maeve. Madhu had made an artistic eco-friendly birthday board.

Ranchi Christians had organized a peaceful protest against the spreading persecution of Christians in the country. Punitha, Mann and the three pre-candidates joined it.

Asansol Community



Lily Grace Soreng

Christmas Celebration:

On 14th December 2022 we had a Christmas prayer service with teachers, support staff and the Ankur children. Games were organized for the support staff and children. Christmas gifts doubled our joy.



On 24th December, we had evening prayer together in the community and then the exchange of Christmas gifts. We enjoyed taking photos and selfies at the crib. Then we went to the night vigil Mass. Our joy of Christmas spilled into the following day.



Mary Ward feast day celebration:

On 26th January the community celebrated the feast of Mary Ward, since that was a school holiday. The parish priest, Fr. Linus and the Daughters of St. Anne Sisters joined us in our celebration. The day was spent enjoyably.



Mariam Ekka

Welcome:

Sr. Swati Lakra joined the Lolay community on 1st of December. We were very happy to have her in our midst. Sr. Reshma also joined the Lolay community on 9th of February and was welcomed by Sr. Mariam.

Lolay Community



Farewell:

On 30th of January THE FEAST OF MARY WARD we had a short prayer service. The prayer began with the beautiful gesture of the lighting of the candles by Sr. Leena. We had reflections and sharing on Mary Ward. On this special day Sr. Mariam arranged the prayer of thanksgiving for Sr. Leena for all that she has been for us in Lolay and we bade her farewell.





Anita Nayak

Birthday & Feast Day Celebrations:

The community was very happy to have a double celebration of Sr. Ablin's birthday on the 5th of December and feast day (Juniors' day) on the 27th of November 2022. We spent the evening with a special prayer service and an outing which brought us a lot of fun and enjoyment.

On the 23rd we celebrated again the birthdays of Sr. Sangeeta Surin and Sr. Anita Nayak. We gathered in Bowbazar and celebrated the evening with dinner. On 27th January we rejoiced in another gift of new life and celebrated Sr. Priyanka Topno's birthday. We had evening Mass and celebration with cake cutting and dinner.

Christmas Joy

The community participated in the parish feast and Christmas celebration with the people in the parish. The parish also organised food distribution for the poor in the area including the Rainbow children from Loreto Bow Bazar. The sisters from the community volunteered to serve the food.



The Name of Jesus

Sr. Grace CJ, being in the community, called for another celebration of their congregation feast day. We joined Grace for prayer and celebration.

Eternal Life

It was with deep sadness that we heard of the loss of Sr. Balika's mother on 20th January. The funeral took place the next day in her home town and so the community decided to be present with Sr. Balika and the family in prayer and support.

Mary Ward Celebration

To celebrate the feast of our founder, Venerable Mary Ward we, the 52C Community, Bowbazar and Sealdah Communities came together in celebration. All the religious priests, brothers and sisters from nearby, together with the Rainbow collaborators were invited to Sealdah for prayer and a fellowship meal. The gathering was welcomed by Sr. Beatrice and a dance by the Rainbow children. The prayer service was led by the Friends of Mary Ward.



Delhi Community



Sr. Mariana Bage

On 18th December 2022, the cluster meeting took place at Loreto Convent Delhi. Sisters from Lucknow joined us along with Sr. A Anitha. We spent our day in prayer, reflection and sharing in the group. We also had other activities which brought us joy.



On 20th Dec. 2022, Sr. Mariana and her prison ministry group members together with Auxiliary Bishop, Deepak Valerian Tauro celebrated the Christmas programme with all the Catholic inmates of Jail no.1 followed by the Eucharist. The inmates were in high spirits after receiving Holy Communion.

After that, cake was distributed to all the inmates as a token of love from us.

On 21st Dec. 2022, the parishioners of St. Paul's Church, Delhi came for Carol Singing to us and we offered them a hot cup of soup and snacks.



On 23rd Jan. 2023, we were invited by the CJ sisters of Delhi Mayur Vihar to celebrate the birth anniversary of our foundress, Venerable Mary Ward. **"The circles of women around us weave invisible nets of love that carry us when we're weak and sing with us when we are strong."** - Sark

On 30th Jan. 2023, we, Loreto Shimla, Lucknow and Delhi communities gathered in Delhi along with the parish priest, assistant priest and the Patrician Brothers to celebrate the Feast of Mary Ward.





Sr. Stephanie Rodrigues

We had a Senior Sister, in Lucknow, Mother Madeleine D'Artri, Italian by birth. She would walk around the Community room and the adjoining verandahs, hands on her hips, exclaiming, "**Who says life is dull?**" That is so true of living at Entally... never a dull moment, what with the boarders and now the Rainbows on the campus.

We begin our news with the month of November honouring the Holy Souls in our Masses and a visit to the Cemetery in Sealdah.. As we entered with the boarders, they made headway to Sr. Celine's grave ... prayed there and sang her favourite hymns particularly those by Don Moen. All miss her very much at Entally especially on Sundays at Mass.

November also seemed to be the month for "**Welcomes**"

- Sr. Monica Suchiang from GC. '22'
- Srs Stephanie and Ponnamma from Lucknow after the Jubilee celebration.
- Sr. Josephine Burh from the Superiors' Meeting in Shillong.

November generally ends with the Corpus Christi Procession at St. Xavier's. This year Mr. Derek Fernandes trained our Senior boarders to sing in the Choir. Sr. Stephanie accompanied them. The rest of the boarders walked in procession with our Srs. Madhuri and Rajni.

Nov.26, was Junior Sisters' Day... a red letter day at Entally. Our Srs. Madhuri , Rajni and Rosita joined the rest of their colleagues for a trip to Belur Math where they interacted with the monks who reside there.

"Who says Life is dull"!!!

December, again no dull moments! We welcomed Sr. Shalini who returned from her sabbatical in Colorado. Preparation for Christmas began ... The Sisters were involved in the Advent Mass for the families of our students. The Liturgy was celebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr. E. Anthony sdb from Auxilium Church. Later all were served refreshments. It was an excellent opportunity to meet the families.

Christmas was also an occasion for building relationships through the exchange of gifts at the staff level and later in the Community on Christmas Evening after the special prayer service round the crib.

The Christmas Liturgy was in our Chapel for all from Don Bosco, Nitika. The Chapel was beautifully decorated. Needless to add, our Sister Sacristans Madhuri, Rajni and Rosita were worked off their feet. It was another occasion for interaction with the laity, as all, after Mass shared coffee and cake, beautifully arranged by Sr. Josephine.

Sr. Monica Suchiang organized a party inviting all who donated food during Covid times. We were happy to use the occasion to thank them for their generosity. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza was also present. During the event there was a video show of all the work done by KWMSC which was most impressive.

December ended with all the community moving to Loreto House for the Province Assembly, which later brought us into January as we celebrated Institute Day on the 1st of the month.

"Who says life is dull?"

The Community in the first week of January drove to Sonar Bangla, a resort, for a Community Picnic, an occasion for fun and togetherness.

6th January another occasion for togetherness: Sr. Josephine invited the whole Staff of KWMSC for lunch in our community room. It was much enjoyed as it was a first time experience at Entally.

Later, on the 12th Sr Madhuri joined the Sisters and those in-charge of the Rainbows to go to Bhopal for a meeting. While there, she heard of her father's serious condition. She went home immediately. Unfortunately he did not survive while she was with him. May his soul rest in peace.

The next big event in Entally was the Professions: Temporary Professions and Final Professions. It was a very grand celebration, well-practiced, solemn and reverent. Fr. Jayaraj SJ in his homily began on a soft note but later developed in strong language the words "We are called to service not status." Our boarders were in the Choir trained by Fr. I. C. Jacob sdb. They were excellent, singing round all the languages. Fr. Jacob's accompaniment brought a certain richness to the service.

January had its share of celebrations for the Community... Sr. Monica's and Sr. Shalini's birthdays. Republic Day and Mary Ward's days.

A visit from Sr. Antoinette with her sister and brother-in-law and later Don Bosco's feast brought the month to an end. The Sisters went to Don Bosco, Park Circus for their feast day celebration.

Was there a dull moment at Entally?



Loreto Residence



Miri Phawa

December 2022 has been a wonderful month for us. We were delighted that in the second week of December, the Principal, teachers and children from Entally entertained the community with well-chosen and beautifully sung Christmas carols.

A few days later, Sr. Clara, teachers and children from Elliot Road entertained the community with Christmas carols, rollicking Christmas songs and gifts from Santa for each one of us, personally made by the children themselves- knitted scarves and handmade soap. Our support staff also received their hand knitted scarves and other goodies.



A few days later we had a day of recollection conducted by Fr. Richard, cssr. who gave us an inspiring talk on Mary our Mother based on the Angelus. On the same day we were happy to welcome Sr. Miri to our community.

We had mixed feelings when we came to know of Sr. Powlin's appointment as Community Leader of Loreto House. We were truly sorry to lose her and also Sr. Sarita who was transferred to Panighatta.

But life goes on, so we celebrated our Support Staff Christmas Tree on the 22nd December. We had a wonderful time with games, lunch and dancing, all held outside, in our backyard!



Then Christmas Eve came along: we had a Christmas Vigil Prayer service, gift giving and carol singing.

On Christmas day our extended communities from Bowbazar and Sealdah sang Christmas carols for the community in 52C.

Srs. Sabrina and A. Anitha also joined us for lunch. All got a surprise gift under Santa's hats!! It was indeed a fun loving day.

Well, all good things come to an end...so we had a thanksgiving prayer service for Srs. Powlin and Sarita. The next day Sr. Powlin left us to join her new community in Loreto House.

Then on the 28th December Monisha Khoksi, our candidate from Bangladesh re-joined our community to continue her English classes. We were happy to welcome her.

The New Year began well, with a big influx of our Sisters who had come for the Province Assembly. They came to visit our wisdom figures at 52C which gave much joy to all. Sr. Sarita then left us for her new mission in Panighatta. Srs. Rani Hembram and Miri had a joint birthday celebration on the 15th January. Srs. Powlin and Matilda joined us for it.

On the 30th we celebrated Mary Ward's feast with a special Mass and were delighted with a visit from Srs. Baiada and Priyanka Dungdung who came to say goodbye and to seek prayerful support and blessings from all for their mission in South Sudan.

We said 'goodbye' to our two Sisters from the Eastern African Province, who had been part of our community for the past four months. The great news is, Sr. Angeline returned to Kenya declared free from her illness.

Loreto Residence is a place of many comings and goings! At times it is difficult to keep a count on how many are enjoying our hospitality!



Anu Anet Lepcha

Christmas Celebration with Staff

On 20th December 2022 Christmas was celebrated with the staff. We began with a short prayer led by Sr. Ganga about the meaning of Christmas. There were some exciting games where all the teachers happily participated. Then the joy of Christmas was shared through gifts and with a good lunch.



Christmas Celebration with Hostel Girls

On 25th December 2022 Christmas was celebrated with the hostel girls. After the Holy Mass everyone gathered for a short prayer led by Sr. Anet who shared the message of Jesus being born in a simple crib in humility. It was followed by games and gifts were distributed and everyone enjoyed a meal prepared by the sisters and the girls.



Silver Jubilee of Loreto Dharan Nepal

Loreto Education Development Centre, Dharan, Nepal was established on the 9th April, 1996. That was certainly a 'red-letter day' in the annals of 'Loreto History' in India and Nepal. This new institution, named 'LORETO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTRE' is a branch of the South Asian Province of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM).

The Loreto Education Development Centre serves as a multi-purpose outreach base that works to facilitate the education of women and children as well as to promote community development in the Dharan region. The Nepal Mission of the Loreto sisters was initially opened by the late Sr. Christine Gurung in Okhrey in 1992 as a Community Health Centre when Sr. Monica Affonso was Provincial.



On 15th Of January 2023 the Silver Jubilee of Loreto Dharan was celebrated with grateful hearts. The main guest for this great occasion was Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Simick, the Vicar Apostolic of Nepal. The Province Leader, Sr. Sabrina Edwards and her team were present along with 17 Loreto Sisters. Priests, sisters, parishioners, benefactors, teachers, staff, government officials, students and neighbours witnessed this joyous day. It began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Bishop Paul Simick. He shared the Word of God meaningfully and he said how God has been so good to continue his mission through the Loreto Sisters over the last 25 years in Dharan, Nepal. He congratulated all the Loreto Sisters and wished them God's blessings for their future endeavours. After the Holy Mass there was a felicitation programme: all who have rendered their service to Loreto Dharan were appreciated and given a token of love. This was followed by a cultural programme prepared by the hostel girls, Self-help Group mothers and the tuition children. A delicious meal was shared and everyone enjoyed the day.

Over the years the mission has grown to encompass several developmental activities addressing the areas of education and vocational training, health and nutrition, sustainability and skill development, right's awareness, women's empowerment and human trafficking prevention.

We thank God for all His bountiful blessings and for these achievements over the years to fulfil His mission through Loreto.



Lucknow Community



Jiwanti Tete

Christmas Celebration

On 19th December we joined for the Christmas carols with the parish youth. On 24th December, we had a prayer service at 6:00 p.m. We sang some carols and Christmas gifts were exchanged with our Christmas friends. We enjoyed each other's company. On 25th December, we had visitors from the neighbourhood right through the day. It was an enriching experience as all shared the joy and love of the Child Jesus.



Outing

On 6th January, the community went to visit the Lucknow Zoo. On 7th January we visited the Imambara.

Feast day Celebration

On 30th January we celebrated the feast of Mary Ward. The day began with the Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Donald De Souza. The school children put up a programme. It set the mood of celebration for the day. The programme was rich and beautiful and all enjoyed and appreciated it. In the evening, we invited priests and sisters and some lay friends too for a prayer service followed by a fellowship meal. It was a lovely day for all of us.

Panighatta Community



Ranjita Kerketta

We started the Christmas celebration with carol singing along with the parish youth. We joined them in hymn practice for Christmas and all came to share the joy of Christmas with us.

On Christmas day the sisters went to different substations for Mass and met the people. Sr. Sarita Horo joined as a new community member on 3rd January.



Mary Ward'Feast day was celebrated in the Community on 30th of January with the Holy Eucharist and in the evening some parishioners were invited to listen to Sr. Su-shila Kerketta who shared the life of Mary Ward with us. All were happy and interested. This was followed by a fellowship dinner.

On 5th of February the parishioners of Panighatta thanked and appreciated Sr. Swati Lakra for the service she rendered to the people here and wished her good luck for her new mission.



Loreto House Community



Adriana Rai

The Annual Kolkata Christmas Festival was held in the month of December at Park Street, Kolkata which was organised by the Department of Tourism of the Government of West Bengal. Various bands and choir groups performed at Allen Park. The Loreto House Sisters were fortunate to take part in the English choir headed by Sr. Molly Francis.



Sr. Phyllis completed 50 years of her religious life in the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On 17th of January 2023, we celebrated fifty golden years of her dedicated service. The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Saju SJ. The Mass was followed by felicitation. Many of our sisters from Kolkata and her friends and well-wishers joined her in giving thanks to the Lord.



On the following day, there was a 'missioning Mass' offered, asking for special grace for Sr. Geraldine Moktan, who has been chosen as a General Consultor. Fr. Patrick Lepcha SDB presided over the Mass.



At the end of January, we went for a community picnic to a magnificent place called Falta in West Bengal. The exquisite location and the exceptional views are the main attraction of Falta and that gave us tremendous joy, happiness and relaxation. We spent all day together while admiring the beauty of the location.



“Mission is at the heart of who we are, and love is the driving force that urges us on.”

Constitution 2.1.

Keeping these words in their hearts, our sisters Baiadamary and Priyanka Dungdung have given themselves for the service in South Sudan. In the evening of 29th January, we had a ‘missioning prayer’ service for their future endeavours.



Mary Ward Feast was celebrated with a Holy Mass in the morning. In the evening, we had a welcoming prayer service for Sr Igora Pinto to the Province after finishing her mission as a General Consultor.



Sr Aithien and Sr Jwan from the Australian Province had come to visit us on 12th January. We were glad to welcome them and listen to their inspiring stories.

A special prayer service was held on 13th February for the installation of our new community leader of Loreto House, Sr Powlin. With great joy and best wishes the community prayed for her as she takes charge to lead the community for the next few years.





Rajni Lugun



Laughter-the best medicine!

A little boy was in a bus eating a chocolate, then he took another one and then another...

A man next to him said: "Do you know that too much chocolate will damage your teeth."

The boy replied: "My grandfather lived for 132 years."

The man asked: "Was it because of eating chocolate?"

The boy replied: "No, he was always minding his own business!!!"

Sheela: Did you pass in your exam?

John: Our whole class passed but our teacher failed.

Sheela: How?

John: She is still teaching the same class.



Teacher: Behind every successful man there is a woman. What do we learn from this?

Students: We should stop wasting time in studying and find a woman.

A few days back a boy was hurt by a lorry. He survived luckily. After he recovered from injury, his friend asked him to go for a walk. But the boy refused to go out.

So his friend asked him, "Why? Don't you like to go out?"

The boy replied "No. because behind the lorry it was written:

'THANK YOU, SEE YOU AGAIN.'

Happy Birthdays



Happy Feasdays



March Birthdays

Sr. Euphemia Fernandes	10th
Sr. Balika Pal	12th
Sr. Claire MacFarland	22nd
Sr. Geraldine Moktan	26th
Sr. Valeria Mundu	27th



April Birthdays

Sr. Priyanka Soreng	4th
Sr. Marilla D'Souza	5th
Sr. Binista Kerketta	13th
Sr. Baishakhi Mondal	21st
Sr. Baiadamary Lyngkhoi	25th
Sr. Eithne McDonald	26th
Sr. Mable P Rudum	29th

April Feastday

Sr. Consuelo Murphy	26th
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May Birthdays

Sr. Elizabeth D'Souza	31st
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Sr. Elizabeth D'Souza	2nd
Sr. Monica Rozario	4th
Sr. Anita Maria Braganza	7th
Sr. Binita Surin	10th
Sr. Gloria Lakra	13th
Sr. Nirmala Toppo	15th
Sr. Nirmala Minj	16th
Sr. Biviyana Lepcha	17th
Sr. Teresa McGlinchey	18th
Sr. Bernadette Lepcha	20th
Sr. Mini Priyanka Dungdung	20th
Sr. Sarita Horo	26th