



Loreto (IBVM) reaching out...



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Dear God, enlighten what's dark in me... strengthen what's weak in me... mend what's broken in me... bind what's bruised in me... heal what's sick in me... and lastly... revive whatever peace and love has died in me.

This past one and a half year has been a difficult time for many. Some have lost loved ones or have experienced the effects of this pandemic either in having contracted the disease or trying to cope with the challenges of the indefinite lockdown. We, as a Province have had to come to terms with a certain helplessness in the face of death and trying to be of help to the sick and vulnerable poor and those on the margins of society. The uncertainty of this time and the prolonged curbs on movement and social interaction can be quite depressing. This has been a time when we have realized what is it that really matters and to let go of the inessentials. When we replace 'why is this happening?' with 'what is this trying to teach us?' everything shifts.

God uses broken things beautifully. Broken clouds pour rain, broken crops yield seed, broken seeds give life to new plants. So when you feel broken rest assured that God is planning to utilize you for something great.



Sr Mary De Souza

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Message from the PLT

Sr Sabrina

Dear Sisters and Friends,

A very Happy Teacher's Day to all from the Province Leadership Team!

We thank all of you, who in these days of the pandemic, have had to adapt to new ways of teaching and learning. Thank you for leading the way, showing the way and continuing our commitment towards the education of our children.

**Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers,
not methods and techniques.**

**The teacher is the heart of the educational system.
- Sidney Hook**

We are proud of the contribution of Loreto Education in India and South Asia for the past 179 years. We stand on the shoulders of our sisters who pioneered schools, colleges and teacher training for girls and young women. We have ventured into giving access to education to those on the margins through our Development Centres and Rainbow Homes. As we commemorate the Teresa Ball Bi Centenary Year, let us recommit ourselves to our vocation and mission with "the single-hearted commitment of love...holding ourselves open to undertake in obedience whatever is for the greater glory of God and the good of our neighbour." (Constitutions Vol II 2.5)

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery"
- Mark Van Doren



MARY WARD CORNER

Sr A Nirmala

It has been an enriching journey for me to realize the difference between Religiosity and Spirituality. The whole process of realization is a freeing experience. I have searched for God everywhere. I have attended various charismatic retreats, Zen meditations, ashramic experiences etc... In all these, I realized that I was running away from myself and the truth. I am aware now that God is labouring in everything and everywhere. In all struggles and adventures, I feel/am blessed to have Mary Ward as a source of inspiration and Model. I have identified myself with her as a woman who constantly searches for the Divine.

Mary Ward's Spirituality of referring all to God leads me to complete inner freedom and faith in God's providence.

The maxim of doing everything solely out of great love and not out of fear has given infinite meaning to my life.

Living Mary Ward's Spirituality enables me to understand that to be spiritual means to be a human person constantly becoming aware of my strengths and fragility.

Wisdom Corner

Sr Yvonne



We are living in a world of noise, fear, disturbances. When we were being formed in our mother's womb we remained in total silence yet we knew or could feel every feeling and thought of our mothers. How was that possible? Then we made our grand entry into this world of noise by making a loud cry. We became used to noise. Slowly as we grew up we got accustomed to a lot of external noise and when in silence our internal noise of many kinds continued. In our long training and life experience we have learnt to silence that internal noise by practicing various methods. So in my long experience of life I have realized that both external and internal silence is a must to be in tune with the Divine within. What has been helpful in this process is yoga, pranayama and meditation: taking care of body mind and spirit. It's a lifelong process, to be continued till the end of our journey on this planet. In this state of silence and solitude one gains self-knowledge and is thus able to understand others.

Silence is a state of being, an attitude. In static and dynamic states silence is retained as an attitude. It's dynamic. Silence trusts, hopes and loves. When in trust it remains without judging and reflects on everything that it trusts. When in hope it does not despair. Hope faces anxiety with courage. When in love, silence is a symbol of presence rather than absence. Ultimately silence is God himself in the human heart. In silence it is possible to be in the present moment, to be mindful of all one does and to be in a state of Christ- Consciousness throughout the day.

I am so grateful to God and proud of my Mary Ward family for all that I have received and continue to receive daily. All for His greater glory and praise.



Ignatian Corner

Novices: Genevieve, Teresa, Pushpa & Janifa

St. Ignatius has definitely given the world the greatest gift i.e. the Ignatian Spirituality. We, the First year Novices are here to share our living out of this spirituality.

Finding God in all things; this enlightened us to encounter God not only in prayer, but most importantly in our ordinary living such as responsibilities, community, nature and even the books we read.

The daily practice of the Examen of Consciousness has helped us see how God has been at work throughout the day. It also helps us to evaluate ourselves and be aware of the areas in which we need to improve which has led us away from the presence of God.

The expectation prior to joining religious life was "to be the best", "to be the first", yet the word MAGIS spiritually invites us to "do the more, the better for the greater glory of God". It helps us to accept ourselves, give more and better for the glory of God and not try to be best or first for one's own glory.

Discernment is a tool in recognizing the working of the good and the evil spirit. With this tool we become aware of false consolation such as a desire to pray while studying, etc. The good spirit never pulls down oneself or the other whereas it gives hope and encourages. The challenge here is the tendency to discern according to one's benefit and satisfaction.

Meditation and contemplation helps us experience intimacy with God and a time to encounter God. The spiritual talk with the Novice Mistress helps us to come out from our times of desolation. We become what we contemplate: there is a desire to inculcate in us the grace we received in prayer.

As first year Novices in spite of our struggles in prayer, we gain inner joy and energy when we persevere and take responsibility for our spiritual growth.

My Experience



Sr Subhashini

I started my experience of Pastoral Ministry saying this –Jesus Himself has set us an example of pastoral work. Mary Ward too visited the sick and prayed, encouraged and supported people to be strong in the Catholic faith.



I experienced that doing Pastoral work is an opportunity to love, be kind, compassionate, caring, available, open and accepting, to listen with the heart and build relationships.



The outcome of Pastoral Ministry I feel is that relationships with people become closer and deeper. Trust and openness increases.



The Pastoral ministry has definitely helped me to be rooted and put my trust in God and surrender myself to His complete protection from wild animals while walking back home, as we know elephants, tigers and leopards move around in the Panighatta area. I have realized that taking risks is very important in mission work.

For me this work is a great source of deep joy, love, energy and satisfaction. Pastoral ministry is life giving for me and Love is the driving force for it.



Updates from Education Ministry

Ms Dutt

Sister Molly joined the Loreto Education office and her main area of focus will be primary education. She has organised refresher sessions for teachers of Classes Nursery – I as a follow- up to the webinar on ECCE conducted by Dr. Swati Popat Vats.

Sister Phyllis, Catechetics coordinator, ensured that faith- formation was emphasized in the pandemic and is guiding teachers in formulating a curriculum on World Religion.

The digital platform helped in organizing programmes for promoting the emotional well- being of all stakeholders. There was a felt need to address the anxiety of parents of primary students and the Kolkata Principals formulated the “Ami Shunchhi” programme for these parents from Loreto schools who could contact specialists volunteering with the project.

Excel Consultants were engaged to conduct an online assessment of 3 Loreto Principals; Father Paul Fernandes, Director, XLRI is conducting an ongoing certificate course for 30 Loreto Principals and Sisters on School Leadership; Ms. Sonali Lahiri was invited to conduct staff orientations on the Mary Ward Schools’ Compass; Sister Nirmala motivated schools to donate smart ‘phones for the many students unable to attend class due to the digital divide; Sr. A. Nirmala and K. Dutt have been in touch with Mr. Paul Ould, Director, Loreto Education Board, Australia for fine-tuning of our own programmes and processes; cyber security remains a matter of grave concern and Child Protection Manuals were prepared for all our Hostels.

A centralized data- base of all the mainstream Loreto schools is being finalized and a webinar on the Loreto Child Protection Policy by Advocate Deep Kabir has been planned in October 2021.

In this Bicentenary year of Teresa Ball's arrival in Dublin, the archive will bring you glimpses of the early years of the India Mission. In this edition of the newsletter we bring you the first surviving letter to M. Teresa Ball, about the sisters bound for India, written by Rev. H. Backhaus prior to boarding the ship at Portsmouth.

London 25th Aug. 1841

My dearest Revd. Mother

How deeply I was affected by the unhappy circumstances which deprived me of the great consolation a parting interview with you would have given me, I cannot express. My heart bleeds at the very thought of being now forever separated from you whom I so much and greatly esteem, without your lips having lisped me the last parting fare-well, without your hand having given me the last shake of friendship, until we meet again in the land, where we part no more! Often I am urged to return once more and tell you my last, my grateful adieu, but you know my dear Madam, where I am, I am bound. I see even in this how true it is what the scripture says, "nothing is perfect under earth." Through your unchangeable kindness were all negotiations at dear Loretto-house ever prosperous, smooth, and agreeable, but the want of a parting-scene leaves my heart full of bitterness. But perhaps we did not part nor need to do so; for your goodness, and my never-ending thankfulness, will keep the best part of us, our souls, together. May God, to whose entire service you have devoted yourself, grant you whatever can augment your welfare and your merits. This is certain, that my whole attention shall be turned upon making those happy, whom under God you have entrusted to my solicitude.

Our voyage from Dublin to Liverpool was very prosperous. At the very verge of our starting from Kingstown we received Miss Hart, whom I had no heart to refuse a passage, after having heard it was yours and Mother Delphina's wish she may accompany us.

At Liverpool awaited our arrival a most sumptuous yet cheap breakfast, ordered by our friendly East Indian gentleman Mr. Lackerstein. We arrived in Liverpool at $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 a.m. and left again on the rail-road, (after having joined Misses Shanly, and McDonogh) for London at $\frac{1}{4}$ 8 o'clock a.m. arriving in this metropolis after a steam-drive of 9 hours and 55 minutes. We drove immediately to Bermondzey Convent, where your spiritual daughters were received with every mark of attention by the good Mrs. Agnew.

This morning all our luggage from Dublin and yet more from hence (provided for us by a friend of mine) went down the river to Gravesend in charge of our servant James. The "Scotia" sails today; but we won't join her till the 31st inst. at Portsmouth. So a letter from you, will reach and delight us, especially me, whom you must comfort.

All our company is in good spirits and most anxious to be on board ship where they intend beginning with great fervour. As much as practicable, they will make a Convent of their three cabins. Our luggage's freight from Dublin was £8 and somewhat more. I never saw the like of it as it seemed to sink nearly a boat. My expenditure till now has been about £70. What it will be till fairly settled on board, I don't know. My best greetings to you and your kind Community. You know, dearest Madame, I am yours most affectionately in Xst.

H. Backhaus Dr. (Rev.)

P.S. All our zealous postulants bade me tender to you their most respectful compliments.
Excuse the unbecoming aspect of my letter by my exceedingly great hurry.

TB/IND/6/1

A5

London. 23rd Aug. 1841.

My dearst Revd Mother.

How deeply I was affected by the unhappy circumstance, which deprived me of the great consolation, a parting interview with you, would have given me, I cannot express. My heart bleeds at the very thought of being now for ever separated from you whom I so much and justly esteem, without your lips having bidding me the last parting fare-well, without your hand having given me the last shake of friendship, until we meet again in the land, where we part no more. Often I am urged to return once more, and tell you my last, my grateful adieu, but you know, my dear Madam, where I am, I am bound. I see even in this how true it is what the Scripture says, "nothing is perfect under earth." Through your unchangeable kindness were all my negotiations at dear Loretto-house ever prosperous, smooth, and agreeable; but the want of a parting-scene, leaves my heart full of bitterness. But perhaps we did not part, nor need to do so; for your goodness, and my never-ending thankfulness, will keep the best part of us, our souls together.

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Scan of original letter and transcript
reproduced here courtesy Archive of the
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dublin.
Institute Archive reference TB/IND/6/1.

Prayer service for all our dear departed sisters and family members

Sr Biviyana



On 26th July 2021 the Spiritual Ministry Team organised a prayer service for all the departed family members and relatives of our sisters. Lily Grace welcomed the gathering which consisted of our sisters' family members and we were fortunate to have had Late Sr. Joan's family from Ireland too. Introduction was given by Vimala. The hymn "You raise me up" was sung by our Novices. The word of God was shared by Michalina followed by intercessory prayer in different languages by Vimala, Isilda, Lily Grace and Biviyana. Anet Lepcha sang "This is my prayer". The ppt was prepared by Anet and Lily Grace. We ended the prayer service with Sr. Sabrina Edwards thanking everyone.

Imitating JESUS CHRIST: THE PASTOR

Sr Vimala



A webinar was organised by the Pastoral Spirituality Team on 23rd July 2021 at 10:45 to 12:45 pm. The resource person was Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha (Darjeeling Diocese).

The session began with a short prayer asking God's grace and blessings upon Bishop and the sisters present. Sr. Mable welcomed Bishop with a virtual bouquet presented by Sr. Matilda. Bishop began the session by saying that our Holy Father Pope Francis is the best example of a good pastor who imitates Christ and is so down to earth and concerned for people.

He said that a messenger has to become the message. There are many examples in our church of people who preach by their way of living more than their words. St. Teresa of Kolkata did not preach but looking at her work, her message reached the people. He said that consecrated people are a blessing for the people. When we go to visit people we help and share our lives and comfort them by our presence.

In order to help people we do not need money or wealth we just need to have the confidence and trust in God and be present to them.

He also emphasized that Pastoral Ministry must be part of Education. He quoted the Holy Father saying that no one is perfect, but what is important is that we journey with the people we minister to.



Spiritual Accompaniment



Sr Mable

We must “make present the fragrance of Christ’s closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this ‘art of accompaniment, ‘which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other”. (Joy of the Gospel 169)

The Vocational Accompaniment was the theme for the session the Province Vocation Promotion Team had on 16th July evening with Fr. Patrick Lepcha SDB the youth director of the Salesian Province of Kolkata.

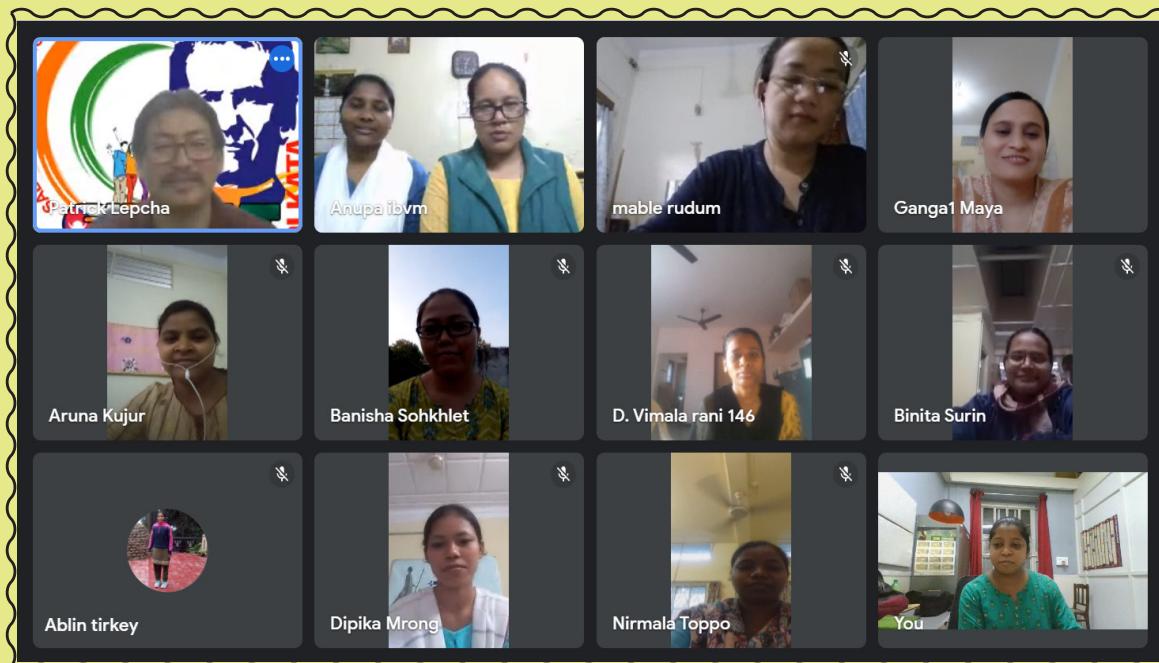
In order to promote religious life it is very important to know the young minds and be with them whenever we get any opportunity whether in parishes or in our Institutions. Our vow formula says ... I will devote myself to the apostolic mission of the Institute especially in the service of youth... We all have pronounced it during our First and Perpetual professions. So, it is our bounden duty to work for the integral development of youth through formation, fellowship and action. Fr. Patrick emphasized the point:

Good youth ministers take the youth from where they are to what they can become. The youth ministry is about enabling the young to bring out the best in them.

Youth do not care how much you know, they want to know how much you care. We have gained a lot from this session and are enthusiastic to work for the youth and help them to realize their potential and experience the love of Christ.

I would like to end with the very beautiful words from Embracing Our Students' Messed-Upness by Ryan M. Blanck-

Youth ministry can get very messy. It involves loving the unlovely and investing time and energy into the seemingly hopeless cases. It takes a willingness to get dirty and hold the hands of the broken as we gently lead them to the One who is in the business of cleaning up messes and healing deep, hidden wounds.





175 years of the Setting Out of the Loreto Sisters from Loreto House to Darjeeling

(information taken from 'First the Blade' by M.M. Colmcille)

Sr Antoinette

10th August 1846 was the date that the Loreto Sisters first set out from

Kolkata for Darjeeling. What makes this trip extraordinary is that there were no trains at that time, and the Sisters had to travel by barge for 49 days up the Hooghly and then the Ganges, and then climb the hill for 11 days by 'palkis' to Darjeeling, travelling through thick forests inhabited by tigers and bears. Another extraordinary aspect was that this would be the first Religious Congregation to arrive in Darjeeling, and the Sisters were obliged to take a Chaplain with them, so that Holy Mass could be offered for the first time in the hills of Darjeeling.

It needed tremendous trust, courage and daring to undertake such a trip, with foreknowledge of the loneliness and lack of basic necessities that would be their lot in the destined place, but the Loreto Sisters of that time were not lacking in these and other qualities needed to be pioneers – in Darjeeling, and in so many other places where Loreto established itself in the beginning.

The Darjeeling pioneers were **Sr. Teresa Mons - the Superior, Sr. Gabriel Doyle - a Lay Sister, accompanied by a recently professed Choir Sister, a postulant and a little orphan girl.** Perhaps the little orphan girl was included in the party to ensure that they had at least 1 pupil, since their commission by His Grace, the Rev. Archbishop Carew was to establish a "Branch School of Loreto House" in Darjeeling and instruct the Catholics among the military and their families stationed there. The Chaplain who accompanied the Sisters was Rev. Fr. Mc Girr. There was a tearful farewell at Loreto House. The future was so uncertain, but a dying Loreto postulant had assured them that the new mission was "destined for a glorious future".

The Monsoon season was in full swing, and mosquitoes and other pests infested the river banks and the forest. The sisters were dressed in black habits which made them swelter in the heat, when the rains abated. But obedience and commitment stood them in good stead, and the Sisters finally arrived at Kissangunge on 28th September 1846, which marked the end of their river trip.

Mr. Perry, the District Magistrate, had got ready 6 'palkis' and a 74 'coolies'. This number was necessary as the Sisters were carrying as much as they could for a new start in a new district - for its first Christian School, its first Church and Convent. It is interesting to note that they considered a piano as an essential item to carry! Choir and music would be essential for a school and a Parish Church! The 'palkis' was described as a "commodious coffin, with sliding panels on the sides." Many were the adventures of the sisters on this ride up the hill. Ofcourse, they encountered tigers, and on one occasion, the coolies fled, abandoning the Sisters to their fate. Thanks be to God that this particular tiger was not interested in having the Loreto Sisters for supper!

Their first sight of Darjeeling, on 10th October 1846, with the ranges of mountains, dominated by the magnificent Everest and the 'snowy view', must surely have lifted the hearts and minds of the sisters to God in thanksgiving and praise for bringing them safely to this Paradise home. The journey was over, but the mission for 'God and his Glory' still lay ahead of them!



Loreto House Community

Srs Adrina & Priyanka D

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

The outbreak of the Second Wave, greatly affected the people of our country. The pandemic continually restricted us in various ways. Our concern and care for our affected brothers and sisters were immense, but our life continued with courage, hope and prayer. We as a community, continued to have daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to combat the pandemic though our prayers. We participated in the online Masses, following the protocol, in our big hall. Our sisters had come up with creative ideas of Prayer Services that were really meaningful. Keeping the guidelines of COVID, we have been seeking new ways and adapting to the situation.

We were sad to hear of the demise of Sr. Jacinta Morris, sister of Sr. Phyllis Morris. On 31st May, we prayed the rosary with special prayers for the repose of the soul of Sr. Jacinta. Sisters from the Provincialate joined us in prayer.



As Mother Teresa says, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." During the second wave of the pandemic, every single member of our community lent a helping hand by preparing packets of salad for the needy from 1st to 3rd of June for KMWSC's work of distribution. Some of our sisters went to the Sunderbans to reach out to the needy with the KMWSC staff.



Birthdays are a good time to celebrate life. On 8th June we celebrated Sr. Matilda's birthday. In the evening we bid farewell to Sr. Soria. There was a meaningful prayer service followed by a cultural programme by the sisters, to show our gratitude to Sr. Soria and for the blessings she brought to our community. We welcomed Sr. Sanjyoti on 26th June. We are indeed glad to have her with us. On 5th July, our Novice, Rohita joined us for her community experience. On 6th July we had a Thanksgiving Mass for Sr. Jeba who moved to her new community. On that day we officially welcomed Sr. Sanjyoti and Rohita.

Visitation is a time of blessings for each one of us in the community. On 19th July Srs. Sabrina, Beatrice and Priyanka began visitation in Loreto House. It started with a meaningful prayer service and a call to look deep into ourselves.

On 4th of August, the feast of St. John Mary Vianney, the parish priest had invited the community for dinner. We also celebrated Sr. Adrina's birthday.



Loreto House Community

"This is not a goodbye, but a Thank You"

On 15th of August, Independence Day of India, we celebrated Sr. Marion's birthday and a farewell to our four Temporary Professed sisters, Ablin, Anet, Lily and Manjula. In the evening we had a small cultural programme to express our gratitude to the four of them. It started with the cutting of the cake, followed by tea, games and a prayer service. We were joined by the sisters from the Provincialate and Elliot Road.



Sr Rosita

Shillong Community

We had a beautiful and meaningful prayer service (June 24th) for Sr. Mary De Souza conducted by Srs. Anupa, Miri and Rosita. After that we had a delicious farewell dinner with the Community members. Last but not the least, after dinner we had a Ludo game for the last time with Sr. Mary. It was a good game with a lot of excitement.

The domestic staff joined work after two months of complete lockdown on the 28th of June, coming to school in two groups.

July 7th was a memorable day for the us. Sr. Soria Nongtdu was installed on this beautiful day. It took place online since the Provincial and her team couldn't come due to the pandemic. The prayer service was meaningful and prayerful prepared by Sr. Euphemia. The theme for the prayer was "Christ is our Light". All the community members took part including Michalina who was in Dhaka. During the prayer service Sr. Soria made a promise. After the service a grand celebration took place followed by dinner.

Four girls returned to the hostel on the 13th July to write their exams. They were with us for a month. It was lovely to have them back. It gave us lots of joy and happiness. Every day they took part in the Communion service and on Sunday they did the readings. They accompanied Sr. Soria in gardening.

We celebrated the 19th July to mark Sr. Mercia's 74th birthday. We had a wonderful Communion service conducted by Sr. Euphemia to thank God for the gift of Sr. Mercia to our community and all that she is doing for the school here. The whole day was a celebration. We ended our day with the evening prayer prepared by Sr. Soria followed by a delicious dinner.

Sr. Mercia invited the Community on the 26th July to make a video for Independence Day along with the teachers and domestic staff for the 15th of August. Sr. Soria hoisted the flag and the E-care person took a video and photographs.



Ranchi Community

Sr Rina

At the end of May, Srs. Tina, Gloria, Jiwanti, and Rajni made their annual retreat online with their respective retreat directors. Srs. Maeve, Christopher, Rina and Banisha made their Triduum privately.

World Environment Day:

'Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world'



On 5th June - World Environment Day the community put their hands together to do something green. Nirmala and Rajni went to the nursery to fetch some plants and our sisters, especially our seniors planted saplings.

We attended a webinar on June 17th organized by IBVM and CJ Sisters on Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. It was an inspiring presentation of our efforts world-wide to care for Mother Earth and of the varied efforts to undo some of the harm and restore a little of the wealth we have squandered.



July 21st - Srs. Maeve, Nirmala, Jiwanti and Rajni made the long journey of about three and a half hours to Samtoli to visit Fr. Vinod who is hospitalized there in the Ursuline Hospital Santa Martha. Fr. Vinod who was paralyzed by a stroke on January 11th this year, was looking well and showing considerable recovery of the use of his limbs. The Sisters spent some time chatting, sharing news and jokes and expressed their satisfaction at finding him in such good spirits and so hopeful of a full recovery.

Birthdays & Feastdays:

We joyfully took part in the celebration of the lives of Gloria, Nirmala and Rajni on their birthdays in the months of May and June. Sr. Christopher celebrated her feast day on July 25th. To make this day memorable we launched out for lunch to a restaurant.

August 7th, Mass was offered in the Cathedral by our Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishop and eight Priests for our community, for the repose of the souls of Srs. Joan and Alma. Each Congregation has been invited in turn so that Mass could be offered for the repose of the souls of their sisters whom they had lost in these sad times. This was a beautiful and unifying gesture by our Bishops.

Response to Covid:

June 3rd, A Vaccination camp here at Loreto Ranchi was arranged by a friend in Government specifically for our staff both teaching and non-teaching and drew a good response. There were several from St Xavier's School and a number of neighbors availed of the opportunity for vaccinations.

Sisters Maeve, Christopher and Tina have had both their shots. The rest are awaiting their second dose. We have been in lockdown throughout the months of May and mid-June. The overall numbers of Corona virus cases and deaths have been on the decline but there are increasing cases of the Delta Variant and Black Fungus.



Ranchi Community

Gumla:

The contract in Gumla was renewed with Banisha as Principal and Rina as Coordinator together with Miss Franciska Nag. Teachers and students are still attending online classes from home.

In the months of May and June Covid cases rose considerably. The Gumla community mourned the loss of Fr. Anil. Five of the Jesuit community members were affected but have recovered.

On June 15th the Gumla Diocese mourned the death of Rev. Bishop Paul Lakra who had been ailing due to Post-Covid complications. May his soul rest in peace.

Gumla is a fertile ground with an abundance of seasonal fruits, vegetables and there are also innumerable pets!



Sr M Priyanka

Shimla Community

We celebrated Priyanka Dungdung's birthday on May 20, 2021. The day began with the Holy Mass and ended with a beautiful prayer service followed by a fellowship meal. Loreto Tara Hall Shimla was the premise for the vaccination of the staff of various schools on June 12, 2021.

Srs. Pushpa, Mariam and Priyanka began their eight day's retreat on June 18, 2021. Fr. Kurian S.J from Calcutta gave them online direction and each one of them had a beautiful experience of God's love as they spent time with the Lord. Madhuri began her online eight day's retreat with Fr. Kurien on August 1, 2021.

We celebrated Sr. Pushpa's birthday on June 29, 2021. The day began with the Holy Eucharist and we prayed for her, her family and friends. We had a picnic to Gabberpul where we enjoyed swimming.

Sr. Goretti visited her brother in Lucknow on July 1, 2021 since her brother was very sick. We got the sad news of the passing away of Mr. Binay, Sr. Goretti's brother on July 2, 2021. The family of Sr. Goretti was consoled as they reached on time to say their final goodbye to him. May he rest in peace. We offered Mass and prayed that the family will be comforted as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

Loreto Tara Hall had an online prayer service for all those who died due to COVID19 and with other sicknesses. The community, staff, students and their families took part in this beautiful and meaningful prayer service.

Mariam and Madhuri visited Kullu and Manali as they finished their B.A examination prior to their departure to the communities they were transferred. We had a farewell Mass for Sr. Mariam on July, 29, 2021 and we will have the farewell Mass for Sr. Madhuri on August 11, 2021. We thank and praise God for their cheerful and lively presence during their three years in Loreto Shimla community. We wish them all the best for their apostolates in Lolay and Entally respectively.



We were happy to attend the marriage ceremony of Priyadarshini Sebastian, daughter of Mrs. Priyanka, Loreto staff in the St. Michael's Cathedral in Shimla on July 15, 2021.



The roof of Gonzaga block is under repairs due to leakage. We have removed three layers of concrete and are waiting for sunshine to complete the job. We seem to have rain every day since July.

Loreto Residence



Sr. Claire

We have now become familiar with the new way of participating in Institute functions. On 1st May we joined the online Rosary organized by our Province to beg for an end to the pandemic. It was a happy and emotional evening, interacting with friends across the country and world. On subsequent Saturdays throughout the month of May our community gathered round the statue of Mary in the foyer. Sisters took it in turn to conduct the Rosary with hymns and reflection for each decade. Meanwhile we continue the Holy Hour for this special intention. We also responded to the clarion call for prayer and fasting all over India on 7th of May.

Sr. Joan was admitted to Lifeline Hospital with a brain haemorrhage where she showed some signs of awareness. She was discharged after a few days. Over the next week she deteriorated and left us on the 8th of June for her heavenly home very peacefully as we were singing the Hail Mary. The following day the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by our faithful Fr. Franklin, “a real Mass” that she had been ardently longing for. As many as were allowed, came for the celebration. It was very moving and joyful with flowers, singing and a eulogy read by Sr. Marilla. The Mass and funeral were online so that family and friends could participate. Tributes to Sr. Joan have been pouring in since then. Because of her positive attitude to life her ready response to inquiry about her health was invariably, “On top of the world.”



On 21st of June the community participated in the Mass celebrating the Final Vows ceremony of our six Sisters. Two days later they joined us for tea. It was a happy gathering with lots of sharing and good feelings. On 26th June we were happy to join the online Rosary for the souls of sisters' relatives lost to Covid. On 27th June at 11.00 am all of us collected to listen to the online webinar about the union of the CJs and IBVM: Getting to know each other.

Sr. Stephanie's surgery which had been deferred due to Covid took place 9th of July. She is still recuperating in her room but is present for the Holy Eucharist in the gallery each day, sometimes surprising us with appropriate hymns from bluetooth speaker.

We are still grieving over our very dear Sr. Alma RIP who passed over to her heavenly Home 13th of July in Tata Hospital. She had been so alive, active and helpful to us “oldies” that we all seemed to forget her basic illness. After Easter she was struck with Covid and though declared negative in Bellevue Nursing Home, its effects remained and aggravated the cancer. From then onwards she declined, suffering greatly. In the end her going to the Lord was a relief. On that night Sr. Anima Kujur, her companion from village and Novitiate, arrived and the following morning her sister and three relatives, among them a priest. The Requiem Mass was celebrated by Fr. Deepak from Baruipur Diocese and two other priests. Eulogies were prepared and read by Srs. Nirmala Minj and Josephine Burh. Fr. Deepak gave a spirited homily on Alma's fidelity to her vocation and on how she had inspired him in his priestly ministry.



A few days later with warm hearts we welcomed Sr. Celine to our community and more recently Sr. Isilda. Our singing at Mass is now enlivened with the sound of music.

On 31st of July we celebrated St. Ignatius' “cannonball” experience after 500 years - Holy Mass, Holy Hour of prayer and thanksgiving and petitions for all Institutes which follow Jesuit rules and constitutions, and for a happy end to our efforts to become one Institute with the CJs.

Loreto Residence

Since both houses were free of Covid, the two communities, Entally and Loreto Residence joined in a celebratory lunch prepared and served in the Mary Ward Cafe.

15th August: Assumption and Independence Day

75 years of Birth of Indian Freedom. We rose to the occasion. Tricolour decorations not only in Chapel and dining room but out of doors, mounted on pillars, poles, palm leaves and tree trunks. In this festive atmosphere we had the flag hoisting, National Anthem and hymns accompanied by Sr. Celine. Our support staff who had prepared the decor, now dressed for the occasion, took an active part.

Our extended community, Loreto Bowbazar, arrived with musical instruments. We had a joyful Eucharistic celebration with hymns in all languages. Mindful of our Bicentenary we left the chapel with lighted candles to set the world ablaze with Christ's love; thence to the dining room for a fellowship meal. A memorable day!



Loreto Bowbazar Community



Sr Aruna

On 6th of July 2021 we had a short prayer service for Malti Lomga as she journeyed back to her home. We welcomed Sr. Jeba to our community .The prayer service was started by the lighting of candles and we all prayed for their life and mission ahead . After the prayer service we had a fellowship meal together.

On 29th of June 2021 we had a get together in Bowbazar for a thanksgiving prayer service for Sr. Ranjita Kerketta as she moved out to Panighata, Siliguri for her new mission. We also welcomed Sr. Isilda to the community. The evening prayer service was conducted by Sr. Anita Nayak. Then we all had a farewell dinner meal with Sr. Ranjita and then the Sealdah community returned home.



On 14th July 2021 was a very sad day when Sr. Alma Toppo was called by the Creator. We the community of Loreto Bowbazar and Sealdah joined for the funeral Mass and for the burial service of our dear Sister Alma.

On 8th of August we had a Thanksgiving Mass for Sr. Badarilin as she will be moving to her new mission in Sadam. We had a pre-birthday celebration for her too. Fr. Jijo SDB came to celebrate the Mass which was followed by a delicious dinner together.



Bowbazar Community

On 15th of August 2021 it was another joyful day when we, the Bowbazar community joined our bigger community in 52C for the Assumption of our Lady and Independence Day celebration. The celebration started with the Holy Mass. Fr. Franklin the director of Seva Kendra was the celebrant. The hymns were sung in vernacular languages to the accompaniment of the harmonium and tabla. After the Eucharistic celebration we had a special lunch which was prepared by the community. We enjoyed the afternoon with our sisters in 52C Residence.



Sr Swati

Welcome

On 7th July Loreto School Panighatta welcomed their new Principal, Sr. Ranjita Kerketta and Sr. Swati Lakra. A prayer service was conducted by the teachers. Sr. Amia had a great role in organizing this beautiful programme.

Panighatta Community

Thanksgiving

On 11th July the school organized a very meaningful prayer service for Sr. Amia. Students of Panighatta expressed their gratitude to Sr. Amia with their songs and dances which were performed online. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It makes sense of our past, brings peace and creates a vision for the future. Delicious lunch was prepared by the Teachers and support staff.

On 12th July the community had a short thanksgiving prayer service for Sr. Amia followed by dinner. The sisters from Champasari were present with us. A thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us.



Dharan Community



Sr Ganga

"God be praised for the wonders He performs through the thick and thin of everyday life."

Loreto Dharan organized sessions on "Call" on the 9th and 10th June 2021 for the hostel girls. Sr. Ganga was the resource person. Thirteen girls were present for the sessions. The students were from classes 6 to 12. The session was started with a Hindi bhajan followed by a short prayer. The first day's session was about the married life, single life and religious life

and the second day the topic was "God's call" focusing on Samuel, Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, Peter and Mary.

They were grace-filled days. Sr. Ganga herself shared her vocation story. The girls were touched by her story and out of curiosity they asked many questions about religious life. The sessions were very interactive and meaningful. The group was very happy and grateful. A peaceful and prayerful environment was created.



Saddam Community



Sr Binita

Communication with God: During this pandemic we have been attending online Masses at 7 am. through the Redemptorist Media Centre.

To be with God: We have our Community prayer regularly and intentions are offered especially for this pandemic, and for the world and for those who are in need.

Spent time with God: June 19th to 27th the Community made an online 8 days' retreat under the guidance of Fr. John Kennedy. It was very good, inspiring and enriching. Then on 28th of June 2021, Fr. Fredrick the Parish Priest came to celebrate the Holy Mass for us.

Meeting: On 16th of July 2021 an online meeting was held for the Vocation promoters from 5-6 p.m. The spokesperson was Fr. Patrick Lepcha from SDB. After the meeting the Vocation promoters felt we needed to welcome the youth a little more on various occasions for them to get to know us a little better.



Vaccination: On 24th of July we went to Namchi for Binita's vaccination and stayed with the CJ. community in Namchi for two nights. We were very grateful to them for their hospitality, love and care. We enjoyed our stay with them. They dropped us back home in their car.



Sr Binista

Elliot Road Community

On 6th of June Elliot Day School organized vaccination for all those who are in any way related to the school. Srs. Balika and Clara took their first dose. Some of our Loreto Sisters from other communities also came to take the vaccine.

On 24th June Srs. Clara, Balika and the staff went to the Sundarbans to distribute ration to 50 families who have been affected by the Yash cyclone. The people were very grateful.

We had visitation from 19th to 23rd July. Sr. Beatrice visited the school and we were delighted to have the team with us for lunch in our community. We felt very blessed with their presence in Elliot Road.



Champasari Community

Sr Dipika

Installation Prayer

It was a great day for Champasari Community when we got Sr. Shakuntala Kujur as our Community Leader. On 11th July we had prepared an online prayer service for the installation of Sr. Shakuntala. The PLT members, Panighatta and Dharan communities joined us. We began with welcoming the PLT members and all those who were present, and then the prayer service followed. Sr. Shakuntala said the concluding prayer. Then the Provincial gave a short speech after which everyone congratulated Sr. Shakuntala. Then together we said a prayer of blessing for Sr. Shakuntala. In the community we had a small cultural programme. When she cut the cake we sang a song congratulating her and had a delicious meal.



Birthday celebrations

Last month we celebrated two Sisters gift of life in our community (Sr. Shakuntala and Sr. Mariana). On Sr. Shakuntala's birthday two CJ sisters arrived. They just dropped in and happily joined us in the celebration. We had lunch together. In the evening we had invited Fr. Arun from our parish for the Eucharistic celebration and he made it very meaningful. After the Mass we had a meal together.

On Sr. Mariana's birthday we had Mass in the morning. Sr. Geraldine was also with us which brought us great joy. We enjoyed her company for a few days.

Trichy Community

Sr Vimala



Sr. Edelin left Trichy Community on 7th May to be with her mother and to continue her new ministry. We wished her all the best.

During the months of June and July all three student sisters were preparing for their exams. Nithya joined the community on 28th June after her final vows. We welcomed her warmly to our community and wish her well for her studies.

For the most part of three months there was a lockdown and churches were closed. Our parish church was re-opened on 25th July with a newly erected altar which was blessed by Emeritus Bishop Soosaimanikkam (Sivagangai Diocese). The sisters were actively involved throughout the ceremony with the parishioners.



Lucknow Community

Sr Anita L



We were happy to welcome our new Community Leader Sr. Amia, and we had a Thanksgiving Prayer service for the gifts of Sr. Benedicta and Maxima who left us on transfer.



Sr Antoinette

Change of Principal: Fond farewells were given in March to Sr. Sarita Horo, who had served as Principal in Loreto St. Vincent's School for the past one year. Beside the farewells from the School and the Novitiate, there was a surprise farewell given by the Parish priests. They appreciated the fact that whenever they appealed to Sr. Sarita, she always responded with generosity and graciousness.

From 1st April 2021, Miss Grace Williams took over as Principal. Grace had been in the Entally Boarding all her student years, had then become a Teacher in the School and later a Junior School Coordinator. She was also one of the co-founders of the Friends of Mary Ward when it first started in Kolkata. Her many years of experience will now serve her in good stead as Principal. Already she has worked hard to ensure that every child has a mobile for online classes and that food rations are distributed every month. So far our Kolkata schools, the KMWSC (Social Service Centre) and the Provincialate have done much to reach out to the poor children of St. Vincent's School.

New Staff Member: Mr. Mallay Halder joined the school on 1st April 2021, as Group D Staff, replacing Mr. Manoj that many would remember. Molloy proves to be young and energetic and we are happy to get such a good replacement.

New member in the Community: Sr. Mary De Souza joined the Mukulika community on 25th June 2021. She is actually on transfer to Bangladesh, and is awaiting her travel arrangements to be completed, but we are assuring her that she will remain with us for many months to come! Mary has already made herself useful in many ways, but especially in upgrading the Annals, the Birthday and Deceased Sisters' books.

Birthday Bash! Since it was coming to the end of a long lockdown in Kolkata we were able to celebrate Sr. Antoinette's birthday on 22nd July, with a Eucharistic Celebration by the Parish Priests, along with our Novitiate community, at 11.30 a.m., followed by lunch. Our joy was doubled as it had been a long while since we had met one another!

Mukulika Community



Entally Community



Sr Marilla

The last three months for us at Entally have been quite engaging, despite the lockdown. We had our fair share of ups and downs...The virus visited us (both sisters and staff) on more than one occasion. Thank God we have adequate facilities for quarantine , in this huge campus. Praise God all recovered!

We at Entally are privileged to share our premises with Gyanalaya, KMWSC and be neighbours to our sisters at Loreto Residence. Hence, we readily assisted Sr. Beatrice when we lost our sisters – Sr. Joan Smyth and Sr. Alma Toppo during lockdown. Sr. Mann Veronica lost both parents while she was in preparation for Final Vows and we shared in her grief... Sr. Edelin Kujur too was with us in quarantine, before she lost her dear mother. The second wave of the pandemic has been difficult - especially in times of loss. Sr. Ponnamma barely joined the community when she lost dear ones. I believe that sharing grief with another is an experience of grace.

Since our last communication with you, ours has been a lively community – thanks to the comings and goings of our two batches of sisters preparing for their final profession. It was a joy to celebrate Sr. Monica Suchiang's Silver Jubilee, in the community, on the 11th June and were privileged to host the Final Profession of our sisters on the 21st June – following all the protocol during lockdown. I think we at Entally brought luck to the Province Leadership Team! Srs. Sabrina and Beatrice successfully completed Visitation, without a hitch from 28th June to 3rd July!



I am aware that you have heard about 'KMWSC Cares' from the previous newsletter. I must add here that the momentum gathered much interest & involvement by the younger members of our community offering steady support to the KMWSC Staff. Srs. Flora and Geraldine too accompanied the food distribution. We thank God for this opportunity to not only offer support to Sr. Monica but to respond to the pandemic in a proactive way.

Birthday/Feastday celebrations add life to the community. Of special mention were: 31st July combined lunch for the communities of Loreto Residence and Entally at the KMWSC cafe. I'm sure our novice, Sheetal Tirkey, on Community experience, will remember this birthday celebrated at Entally. Sr. Geraldine's nephew, Nathan Moktan (who was in Kolkata for medical reasons) celebrated his 10th birthday with us.



We were particularly glad when daily Mass resumed and the Salesian priests returned...We wear mask in public spaces and follow the norms of distancing. We have Mass on weekdays in the community room and with the few boarders and resident staff in the chapel downstairs on Sundays. Our numbers of children in the boarding have gradually increased, as cases of Covid in the state have reduced. Much has been done to assist the children to follow the online classes provided by the school. Not only is the facility for wifi improved, but every student on the premises has a mobile too.



For those who have lived in Entally, this is not unusual... It is the monsoon season, and with torrential rains the tank overflowed on more than one occasion! It was amusing to see the residential staff busy collecting the little fish that were swimming in the drain!!! During the lockdown, movement of sisters on transfer has been slow, the last being Madhuri Lakra who joined the community on the 16th of August. The last bit of news was the successful gathering of the sisters of Entally and Loreto Residence to sing the Magnificat in Latin for the prayer service of the Province on the 18th August, to celebrate the Teresa Ball Bicentenary Jubilee.

Delhi Community



Sr Greta

Thanking God for the Gift of Vocation

On the 18th July a Thanksgiving Mass was organized to celebrate Greta's Final Vows. It was a small gathering of 20 guests which included Greta's family, friends, two Jesuits from ISI, Patrician brothers and two priests from our parish. After the Eucharist the guests were treated to a sumptuous meal. Everyone felt at home and enjoyed the hospitality of the community. It was truly a wonderful day and brought a lot of joy to all of us.



Acknowledgement from the Editorial Team



Thank you Sr Prabina
for all the support you have
rendered to the Editorial Team.
Wish you all the best.



Hearty Welcome Sr Lily
to the Editorial Team.
Wish you all the best.



We are looking for a new name for our Newsletter.
Kindly mail us by 10th September 2021.

southanewsletter@gmail.com

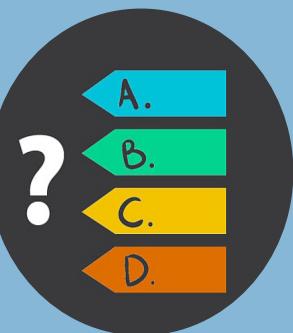


ROCK YOUR BRAINS

1. A man started walking west. He turned right, then right again and finally turned left. Towards which direction was he walking now?



- a. North
- b. South
- c. West
- d. East



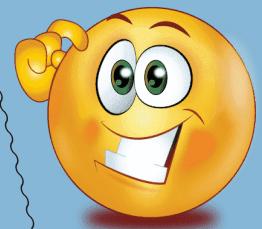
2. Essential part of the Book

- a. Education
- b. Pictures
- c. Pages
- d. Knowledge



3. Pointing towards a man, a woman said, "His mother is the only daughter of my mother." How is the woman related to the man?

- a. Mother
- b. Grandmother
- c. Sister
- d. Daughter



4. Which number should come next in the series, 48, 24, 12... ?

- a. 8
- b. 6
- c. 4
- d. 2

5. In the following question, select the odd word pair from the given alternatives.

- a. Error: Accurate
- b. Careless: casual
- c. Strength: lethargy
- d. Gloomy: cheerful

Please send your correct answers to
southanewsletter@gmail.com
as fast as you can and win a gift.



Birthdays & Feastdays

September Birthdays

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 9th | Sr Anu Anet |
| 10th | Sr Shanta |
| 11th | Sr Ponnamma |
| 15th..... | Sr Mary |
| 18th..... | Sr Beatrice |
| 21st | Sr Anita Lakra |
| 22nd | Sr Prabina |
| 23rd | Sr Tina |
| 23rd | Sr Linda |
| 27th | Sr Tressia |
| 30th | Sr Anupa |

September Feastdays

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 14th..... | Sr Lynette |
| 24th | Sr Maeve |
| 24th | Sr Mercia |

October Birthdays

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1st | Sr Madhabi |
| 1st | Sr Anima |
| 1st | Sr Sudha |
| 3rd | Sr Jeba |
| 6th | Sr Punitha |
| 8th | Sr Angela |
| 10th | Sr Arockia M |
| 14th | Sr Cecily |
| 14th | Sr Regina |
| 16th | Sr Soria |
| 16th | Sr Subhashini |
| 21st | Sr Lourdes |
| 26th | Sr Isilda |
| 27th | Sr Aruna |
| 27th | Sr Sabrina |
| 27th | Sr Madhuri |

October Feastdays

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1st | Sr Tressia |
| 2nd | Sr Angela |

November Birthdays

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 4th | Sr Sushila K |
| 5th | Sr Flora |
| 5th | Sr Ablin |
| 7th | Sr Consuelo |
| 8th | Sr Lily |
| 12th | Sr Sushila T |
| 12th | Sr Ranjita |
| 22nd | Sr A Nirmala |
| 23rd | Sr Celine |
| 28th | Sr Rosita |
| 30th | Sr Christopher |
| 30th | Sr Amia |

November Feastdays

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 22nd | Sr Cecily |
|------------|-----------|

