



LORETO (IBVM) SOUTH ASIA PROVINCE

reaching out...



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

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Dear Sisters,

I have just returned from the General Congregation in Spain. I would love to share a bit of the experience with each one of you.

Right from the beginning we worked at becoming a community of equals rising above our differences, and we noticed how we changed to a discerning community – actively listening to one another and intentionally speaking. We also committed ourselves to speaking our truth, no matter what the cost.

The Province Report sharing was a real eye-opener to us and gave us a reason to celebrate our connection, diversity and unity. The General Leadership report, together with the Finance, Archives, JPIC, UN, Mission – Courage to Move, Formation and the Cause of Mary Ward feedback gave us the reality of the universal, global picture.

The Becoming One process was a deep, reflective experience for all of us present. We were asked to reflect on what in the spirit of Mary Ward and the Gospels have been the anchor of our personal journeys and to get in touch with the roots of our vocation and the IBVM story. A lot of time was given to prayer, reflection and spiritual conversation. We came up with our consolations and desolations, or rather, our concerns in connection with Becoming One. Everyone was listened to with reverence and respect and everything was taken into account and owned. I trust the next leadership team and each one of us to take concrete steps, slowly but surely, to working towards really becoming one, which all of us deeply want. Basically we all want to be one Mary Ward family.

The Election process was our next focus and again a quiet, prayerful atmosphere prevailed. Those elected are -

Carmel Swords – General (now at the moment the Provincial of Ireland)

Kate Myers – Vicar General (at the moment on the Leadership Team in England)

Natalie Houlihan – Council member (at the moment on the Australian Provincial Team)

Mary Kamotho – Council member (working now in the mission in Lukulu in South Africa)

Geraldine Moktan – Council member (now community leader in Loreto House, Kolkata, India)

The calls for the next eight years emerged from the deep sharing of the various groups:

- Become one

- Listen and respond to the Cry of the Poor

- Listen and respond to the Cry of the Earth

- Take our place as women at the heart of the Church

There was also time for fun and relaxation at the end of each day. We went on an outing together to Montserrat and Sundays were free days.

Looking back at our time together in Manresa I have deep gratitude to God and to how the Spirit led us. The bond of communion among us was very tangible and evident. Having five CJs among us was a great blessing. Veronica Fuhrmann, the new CJ General was a very deep, spiritual, down-to-earth presence in the group.

The six of us who went for this GC will be sharing with you in person at the Province days our personal journey during those specially graced days. We are looking forward to meeting you. Love and best wishes and an assurance of prayer,

Mary De Souza



We have...

1. Message from PLT Sr Sabrina
 2. Wisdom Corner Ms Grace Williams
 3. Ignatian Corner Sr Mini Priyanka Dung Dung
 4. Mary Ward Corner Sr Anita Lakra
 5. SA Archive Sr Molly & Ms Nilina
 6. Temporary Professed Sisters' Corner Srs Binita, Linda, Reshma and Dipika
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1. Panighatta Sr Maxima
 2. Lolay Sr Mariam
 3. Delhi Sr Mariana
 4. Bangladesh Sr Aruna
 5. Loreto Residence Sr Sarita
 6. Darjeeling Sr Arockia
 7. Entally Sr Madhuri
-
8. Shillong Sr Mable
 9. Ranchi Sr Mann Veronica
 10. Loreto House Sr Valeria
 11. Champasari Sr Mini Priyanka
 12. Bow Bazar Sr Sangeeta
 13. Sadam Sr Phyllis

14. Laughter the best medicine Sr Rosita

15. Birthdays and Feastdays

Message from PLT Sr Sabrina



We are here already at the end of another year 2022... with another advent season... another Christmas round the corner. The year 2022 began with a bang for all of us with our Province Congregation in Entally... omicron virus spreading among us and the questions and concerns around "Becoming One". The year has passed... the virus is under some sort of control... and we have voted unanimously for "Becoming One". We may still have unanswered questions regarding the virus... the future of our planet... how "Becoming One" will change us... yet true to our vocation and the spirit of Mary Ward we have forged ahead in faith, hope and love. That's what matters... that's what is important... and all of us have journeyed living this faith in action during 2022... personally, as province and as Institute.

As we begin another new liturgical calendar... another Advent/Christmas... another new year... we are grateful for all that has been, knowing that

"our hope is in God alone who called the Institute into being, and it is God we trust to carry it forward and keep it true."

(7.1 Constitutions Vol II)

On behalf of the Province Leadership Team, I wish you all a soul filled Christmas. During this special season of Advent let us take the time to "pause", to allow God to reveal God's self in the small insignificant and ordinary events of our day like God did at the first Christmas. May we in turn be the presence of God in our communities, places of ministry and families as Love, Hope and Faith.



Wisdom Corner

Ms Grace Williams

Along The Way...

Life is full of learning and this is mostly due to our daily life experiences. These experiences are based on our surrounding environments from where we learn new things every day. I was fortunate enough to have parents who taught me that life is not a Bed Of Roses.

At every step there are challenges and new learnings. This helped me to move on in my journey. Coming from a simple family, I have learnt that Humility is the key word. One of my favorite verses from the Bible is

'Be completely humble and gentle, be patient bearing with one another! Eph. 4:2.

At this juncture I would like to praise and thank God Almighty not only for giving me a good home and family but for the Education and values that I have imbibed from Loreto.

L-O-R-E-T-O A place where I have **Learnt** many things through the various **Opportunities** that I got to grow. The **Recognition** (Me as a person). **Encouragement** from sisters, colleagues, friends and students, has **Transformed** me not only for myself but for **Others**.

Being with children for 38 years has taught me many things. Children are a precious gift of God. The greatest value that I have learnt from them is Forgiveness. No matter how much scolding or punishment they get, at the end of the day they turn to you again with smiling faces. Their laughter and tears speak volumes. Loreto Entally, where I taught for 33 years has been a second home for me. Every day was a new beginning. I would like to end with the words of Mary Ward

**'SHOW YOURSELF AT ALL TIMES GLAD AND JOYFUL
FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.'**



Ignatian Corner

Mini Priyanka Dung Dung

When I read the life of St. Ignatius, I was struck by the phrase "finding God in everything". The goal of the spiritual life, as Ignatius conceived it, is to "choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me". We are to choose to freely unite ourselves with God. It means that we are to join with God in active work in the world. Ignatian spirituality teaches me to discern the footprints of God in the present moment in the relationships, feelings, and challenges that I'm experiencing each day.

I found it very helpful and meaningful making my examination of conscience each day. It makes me more aware of myself and to come closer to God. I have made my 30 day's retreat and make my annual eight day's retreat. I am inspired by the Principle and Foundation of the Spiritual Exercises. God created human beings and blessed them. When I reflect about this, I feel God has created human beings to praise him and to serve him. God has great love for us, and we are called by God to worship and love him. Ignatian Spiritual Exercises makes me aware of the need for discerning in all the situations and to find God in everything which comes into my life. Finding God in all things is an invitation to experience God's presence in my daily life which will help me to come closer to God and abide in God.



Mary Ward Corner

Anita Lakra

I have come to follow Christ through this Institute. I feel most grateful to our founder Mary Ward and I am growing deeper in my love for her. She has been an immense inspiration to me as she has said,

"*Women in time to come will do much*"

Today women are doing marvellous work in society and bringing about change in every field.

Mary Ward has worked miracles in my life and mission. Many difficulties and hardships made me depressed and I lost hope in life. The Catholic Church was persecuted and Mary Ward and her family suffered a lot in her lifetime. Her dreams were shattered but she never lost her faith in God. She was constantly in tune with God. In her early childhood Mary Ward had deep faith in Jesus and the name of Jesus was her first and last word.

In my childhood I too have experienced similar difficulties for my faith. My mother was a great inspiration to me to go to Jesus for everything. Every First Friday we went for Mass and every evening the family prayer made us grow strong in our faith in Christ. The Maoists used to come to our house at night in a group and the family had to feed them. As a child I remember living in fear. Our parents never allowed us to come in front of the Maosits. We hid in fear. God's Providence protected us from wild bears and many severe accidents also. I praise and thank Him for his unconditional Love. Prayer has become a sword in my life as I pray Psalm 91 everyday with deep faith.

After my first vows, I lost my mother. As I was in great grief of losing her, God took my sister to his heavenly abode also. I was depressed and felt like leaving religious life. Sr. Philomena and the community members were a pillar of support in my life at that time of deep sorrow. I thank God for all the Mary Ward women in my life whose love, care and support have helped me to continue to serve His people and work for his kingdom.



*Thank you
to the outgoing Institute Leadership Team*

*Welcome
to the new Institute Leadership Team*



Loretto Convent, Darjeeling

8th December 1890

My dear Reverend Mother

I have to entreat your kind forgiveness for the delay in answering your valued letters with certain communications accompanying.

As far as I am concerned, I feel desirous for the reunion of all the Houses of our Institute under one Head for I think it should be the best means of preserving true religious discipline, but being only a local Superior I don't see how I can cooperate in the matter excepting by offering up my poor prayers for its success.

You don't seem to be aware dear Reverend Mother of the changes that have taken place over this mission within the last few years. In 1887 the Hierarchy was established here and in consequence many changes were introduced, for example Darjeeling was separated from the Patna vicariate and is now under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Calcutta. The only Loretto Convent in India separated from Calcutta is the one at Lucknow, for I make no account of a small filiation from that House at Saugor which for want of self support is about to be closed.

It will soon be a year from the milestone Province Congregation of 2021 when the Loreto sisters of South Asia were presented with the proposition of Becoming One with the Congregation of Jesus.

Since then the year of 2022 has brought many joys of sharing and togetherness, including participation of the IBVM sisters in the General Congregation of the CJ sisters over August and September and the IBVM petition to the General Congregation of the Congregation Jesu.

But the exploration of union and its implications extends far back into the 19th century. In this issue of the South Asia Province newsletter we present a glimpse of the deliberations and exchanges characterizing the debate surrounding union in the 1890s, more than a century ago.

In 1890 the Superior of the house at York sent a questionnaire to all the major superiors of the Institute. It outlined a structure for a unified Institute with a Generalate in Rome, and with separate provinces retaining a certain degree of autonomy.

It seems most houses responded between the months of July and September of that year. We present to you here a letter from the Bar Convent archives. Written by M. Stanislaus Hart, Superior of the convent in Darjeeling, and dated 8 December 1890, the letter apologises for the late response, and then proceeds to put forth her views on the question of union. Could it be that M. Stanislaus Hart was writing in response to the questionnaire sent out from York earlier that year?

Note: The recipient of the letter from M. Stanislaus Hart was probably M. Loyola Giles, Superior of the Bar Convent from 1883 to 1891.

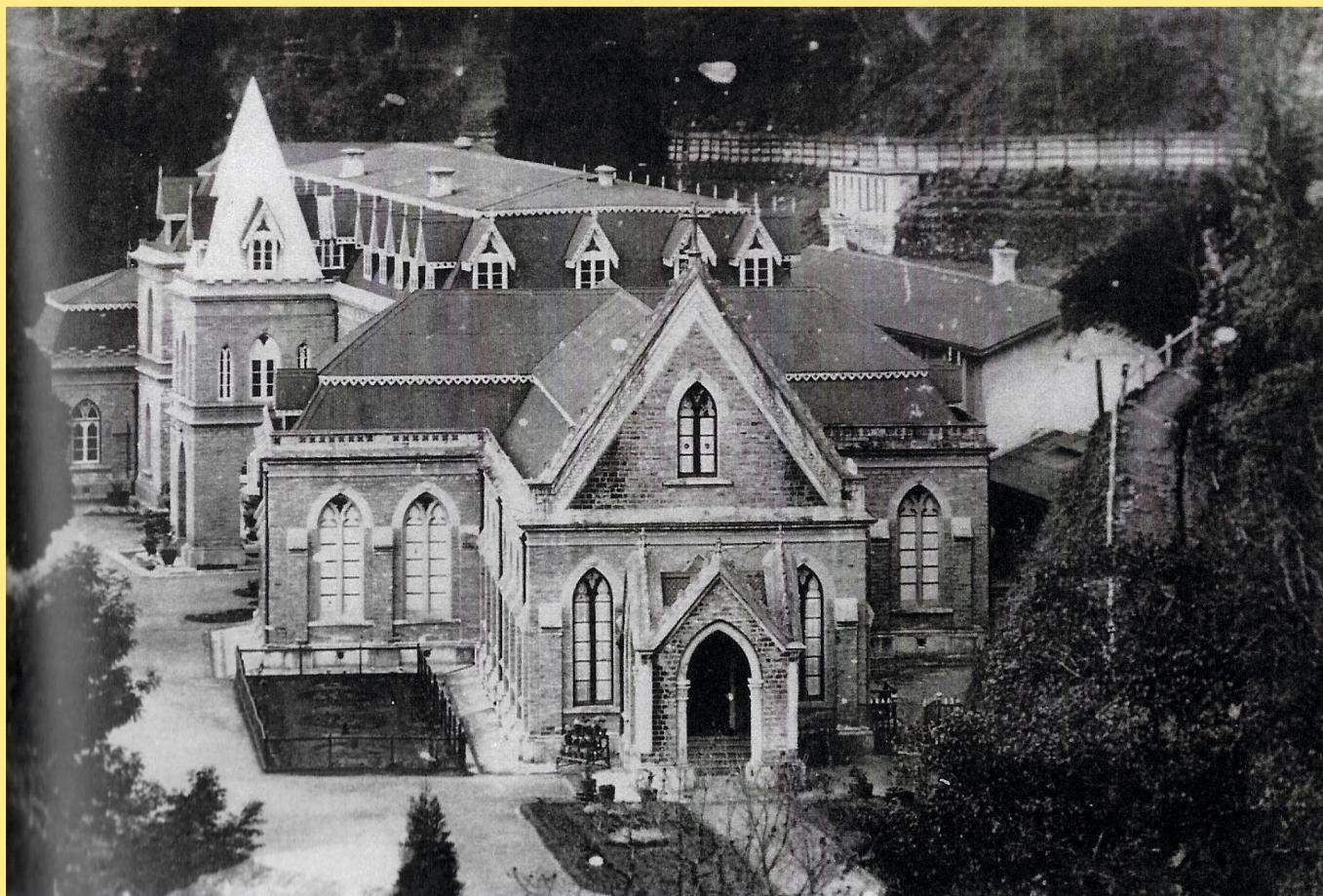
The Superioress of the Convent at Lucknow feels much her isolated position and wishes to be united to Calcutta but her Bishop won't give his consent. He being a Capuchin does not wish to be connected in any way with the Jesuits of Calcutta. Of course if thediscussions end with the approval of the Holy See, the Bishop would have to yield and this would give such satisfaction to the Superioress of the Convent at Lucknow. There are three German Houses of our Institute at Allahabad, Patna and Nynee [sic] Tal, a Hill Station under the jurisdiction of the Capuchin Bishop I have already alluded to. These Houses are supplied with members from Nymphenburg, with whom we are on very friendly terms, one of their members Mother Mary Seraphina having joined us about 20 years ago. In 1882 it was rumoured that the German Houses wished to be united to us but our Provincial at the time would not give her consent. I don't know all the particulars of this affair as I was up here at the time, and could not obtain them. You will be glad to hear that we have a House at Chota Nagpore for the education of Natives only. You will find in the messages of July 1890 an account of the extraordinary conversion of the inhabitants, the

In union of prayers, I remain dear Reverend Mother & our affectionate sister in JC

M. Stanislaus Hart

Bar Convent Archive reference no. IIC.3

Mary Wright, Mary Ward's Institute: *The Struggle for Identity*, p. 144.



Church of Immaculate Conception & Loreto Convent, Darjeeling c. 1890
(Image courtesy Annals of Loreto Convent, Darjeeling)

Archive News, 1 December 2022

Temporary Professed Sisters' Corner



The past four months in Sannyasa and Prerana, Mount St Joseph, Bengaluru were a special time for me. I felt privileged and grateful for this opportunity to attend the courses in Bengaluru during these four months to prepare for my final profession. What I have learned in Prerana will help me in my future life and mission. The course touched upon various topics related to a different religious life in today's challenging world. The courses made me realize that my priority as a religious is to live life with Gospel values and keep deepening my faith in God so that I can give others the love of Christ through my attitude.

For me, these courses were a special time to go back into my past, and I know that I will make them a part of my life; to strengthen my vocation and relive the experiences and accept them as a learning. I feel these courses have made me faithful to God, strengthened, shaped, and moulded me to live life anew and see things in a new way with positive eyes and a positive heart. It also has made me a reflective person in my day-to-day life. Also, I found my true self and now believe in myself and God. It has helped me to live an inclusive life and to be fruitful. It has made me a more positive person, and I see positivity in others as they are, as God has created all human beings in His image and likeness. So I can say it was a fruitful course, and I am grateful to the Institute for giving me this beautiful opportunity to be a part of it. -**Sr. Binita**



*M*y experience in Sanyasa and Prerana was enriching, and I enjoyed learning different topics for my personal growth. I found them all related to my personal life and community living. I appreciate getting the chance to know myself better. Some courses challenged me as a person to grow in different areas and also inspired me in my religious life. My life is like a Rainbow with different colours. The rainbow symbolizes my emotions like joy, hope, happiness, sorrow, sadness, and peace. These will always be there in my life but I need to become aware of my emotions as I have learned to deal with them. My vocation is a gift from God, and I need to nurture it no matter what may come in my life. I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to know more about myself. -**Sr. Linda**



*T*his journey has been a period of deeper discernment and preparation for my final commitment as a religious sister. This course has helped me to grow in different areas of my life and in a deeper relationship with Christ. It has been a moment of transformation that is transforming my life daily. In my experience of being with different congregations and sisters, I have learned that as human beings, we live and grow by relating to ourselves, others, and eventually, God.

At the same time, I feel proud and humbled at being given the opportunity to attend this course in Prerana. This experience gave me great joy and made me more humble and grateful before God. It has helped me understand God's deep love for me and to find out my life's purpose. Through this experience, I have been invited to be more open, compassionate, generous, loving, and patient with myself and others.

The greatest joy I have experienced is that though we were from different congregations, places, cultures, and traditions, we all were United in heart and mind and open to each other. I learned a lot from others' sharing. I feel these courses on: A new way of being Religious, Growing in intimacy through prayer, Covenantal spirituality, Psycho – sexual integration, Psycho-spiritual integration, the workshop on the Inner Child, and Discernment: a way of life, have helped me to discover my true self.

As I look back on my three months stay in Prerana, I would say it was a peak moment for me. I can feel a lot of transformation has taken place within me. Being with other companions and listening to their vocation stories have also helped me look at my own vocation journey, become aware of my interior movement and strengthen my vocation daily. - **Sr. Reshma**

My experience of Jesus Youth in Bangkok

Sr Dipika



Jesus Youth is an International Catholic movement, approved by the Holy See. The movement evolved as an outcome of the Charismatic revival that spread across India in the mid-1970s. It had its beginning in Kerala, India and evolved as an active part of the Catholic Charismatic renewal of the state in the late 1970s. Jesus Youth is an International Catholic movement that challenges young people to live a meaningful, creative and a fulfilling life.



I was so grateful to get this opportunity to attend the Jesus Youth International Animators' programme in Bangkok. It was a wonderful experience for me. From Jesus Youth I learnt a lot, especially how to work with youth and how to deal with them. Each Animator's sharing helped me to know about Jesus Youth and how to lead the young generation in the faith. I have learnt how to build true lasting friendships with the youth. I have also learnt how to focus on evangelising young people and nurturing their missionary initiative. Jesus Youth offers a wide range of formation programmes and faith formation.



Panighatta Community

Sr Maxima

Visitors

On 28th and 29th October Srs. Anjuman and Sanjyoti had come for auditing. We were glad to have them with us. They also visited Sr. Sushila's house.

Ministry

We go for house visiting. People are very welcoming and happy to see us in the village. We too are happy to visit them. We visited a widow who lives alone. She was very happy. We go for Mass to the substation and after that we go house visiting. The Youth Convention was held in the Diocese and Sr. Ranjita took part. The youth, especially the Panighatta youth, were happy to see sister.



Nature Corner

During the holidays we go to help people in their fields and we do our own gardening as well which helps us to be one with nature and leads us to God.



Updates from Lolay Sr Mariam

Gratitude towards Miss Veronica Lepcha (CDW)

On the 25th of September we celebrated Miss Veronica Lepcha's 30 years of service in the Society, along with the Loreto sisters. She has completed 30 years as a community development worker. Two sisters, Bernadette and Mariam joined in the celebration in Doone Hall. She is the first one to begin the community developmental work in Lolay. She is thankful to the Loreto sisters and the Society. She is continuing her work still and is very active, with the support of the Sisters.



Visitors

On the 8th of October Sr. Leena's family, her elder sister and her brother-in-law, nephew and his wife, niece and nephew arrived in Lolay. We were happy to have them in our midst for a few days. They visited many places and enjoyed themselves a lot. Coming from the plains to a hill station was a great experience for them.



Delhi Community Sr Mariana

The Auxiliary Bishop Deepak Valerian Tauro did the pastoral visit on 23rd of Oct in St. Paul's Church, the parish and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation and Communion to a big number of Children.

Bishop visited our community with the parish priests and had lunch with us. He gave us his blessings and best wishes for our mission.



On All Souls Day, we the community went to the cemetery in Khan Market to pray for our Sister Cecilia Pereira.

We had a Mass offered by Bishop Anil Couto and had the blessing of her grave.





Bangladesh Community

Sr Aruna

On 2nd October Sr. Yvonne and Sr. Aruna went along with the school teachers for a tour to Rangamati, Chitagon. It was an enriching experience being together and having some quality time with the staff. Our journey to reach the place was by boat so it was very relaxing. The teachers sang, played music and some even danced with joy. We visited many places. The teachers were very happy to get this opportunity.

From 5th October to 9th October, Sr. Edelin Kujur and Aruna Kujur attended the BCSM (Bangladesh Catholic Student Movement) 25th AGM at Caritas, Barishal. Sr. Edelin Kujur was a resource person from CBCB center and gave a session on Talita Kum and Sr. Aruna was there as a religious representative at the program.

On 14th October Mary Ward Social Centre (Mayer Doya) in Loreto Padrisibpur, was revived with 5 mothers. We called Fr. Vincent, our parish priest and Fr. Khokon, our assistant parish priest for the blessing. The program started with a short prayer conducted by Sr. Yvonne and Fr. Vincent gave a reflection on the reading and at the end a few of us shared our feelings. The program ended with snacks. On this day too, Sr. Archana and our candidate Monisha attended the Jesus Youth programme in Tejgaun Parish, Dhaka.

There was a religious gathering in Tumilia Parish on 15th October. There Sr. Edelin was called to conduct a session on Talita Kum for the religious of the Tumilia mission. Her sharing was greatly appreciated.

Vocation Sunday was celebrated on 23rd October in Padrisibpur Parish. Other religious congregations were also present. They shared the stories of their congregations with the participants. From our congregation Sr. Shova shared about our congregation.

We had another opportunity to share our Institute story on 26th October with the post SSC students, gathered in Gournodi Parish. Sr. Aruna presented our congregation story, our work and mission. Sr. Shova too shared her vocation story with the youth.

Sr. Regina has been running her mobile clinic service in different villages along with her support staff. She's been very generous and kind to the people and the people love her.

From 29th October to 9th November Sr. Dipika attended the post-SSC program in Uttrail, Maimunsingh Diocese and gave voluntary service. She was involved with the youth and they enjoyed her company.





Loreto Residence Sr Sarita

In solidarity with war torn Ukraine we joined the Province in a day of prayer for peace. In the evening Sr. Beatrice took us through a very powerful prayerful service, as we gathered round a table, draped with colours of the Ukraine flag and covered with pictures of war and its effects.

Each one took a picture, reflected on it and prayed about it.

Independence Day, flag hosting was held in front of the house where the whole house was gathered. The support staff were given gifts of colourful umbrellas and the makings of a grand 'nasta'.

On 23rd August the Community was riveted to TV watching IBVM GLT submit a petition to CJ General Cong. asking for canonical fusion to CJ, which later was unanimously approved by the CJ GC.

Birthdays and Feastdays are celebrated with Mass, the favourite dish of the person. (which we all share). Our bedridden sisters get special attention- on Sr. Cyril's birthday the community gathered in her room, sang while presenting a bouquet and large greeting card with gifts from her friends. Earlier, for her 90th birthday Sr. Maria's family had arranged for cake, wine and flowers and all enjoyed a grand tea party with her.



On Our Lady's Birthday we celebrated Sr. Claire's platinum jubilee with the Eucharistic sacrifice. The highlight of the evening was the tea in Mary Ward Cafe.

We celebrated Sr. Beatrice's birthday with the Eucharist, followed by a grand lunch at which all the communities of Kolkata were present. It was an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon.



Visitation

The opening ceremony was at 11.A.M. – a prayer service and sharing of feelings and expectations. Sr. Sabrina explained the reason for visitation then shared province news.

After three happy days we had the closing ceremony.



We welcomed many visitors to our community, among them were Sr. Mann, enroute to her brother's wedding in Australia and Sr. Maeve on her way to Ireland for her holiday.

Sr. Mary D' Souza came with a candidate, Monisha from Bangladesh for a couple of months. The majority however come for health care. At present Sr. Gloria is here recuperating from an operation. Sr. Maloti comes from time to time to follow up her treatment.



From Kenya we have Sr. Angeline, who is being treated for her illness and her companion, Sr. Mary, both of whom bring life and cheer to our community.

The 8 days retreat directed by Fr. John Paul Lobo SJ was a time of peace and renewal for all of us.

On the feast of Diwali, the whole house gathered around a beautifully coloured alpana, where we had a meaningful prayer service on the theme, "CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD".





Darjeeling Community

Sr Arockia

The Loreto Darjeeling Community as well as the school had a memorable month filled with joy and excitement. It was a month to cherish and be grateful to God for His seen and unseen blessings and His guiding hand which had led Loreto Convent Darjeeling to achieve a milestone in the history of the Institute.



On 16th September, 2022, the hills of West Bengal resonated with songs of gratitude and thanksgiving for having successfully accomplished 175 years of God's mission in the field of education, a noble task that had begun 175 years ago with the arrival of the Loreto Sisters in Darjeeling.

The day began with a beautiful Mass followed by a cultural program that traced their arduous journey, fraught with danger, from the plains to the hills. However, the steadfast faith of the committed band of nuns who had undertaken this journey and dedicated their lives to their mission, inspired many who came for the celebration. The programme effectively communicated the rich legacy of the Loreto Sisters and their contribution in bringing quality education to the hills. The audience that comprised of people from different communities, well-wishers, Parish members, dignitaries, teachers and students from our mission schools were very appreciative.

The celebration did not end there for on the 17th September the regional CRI of North Bengal gathered in our school Concert Hall to felicitate Bishop Stephen Lepcha on his Jubilee. He is the Shepherd who guides and is happy in the Vineyard of the Lord.

The next day we had the Loreto Darjeeling Society AGM followed by the birthday celebration of Sr. Beatrice with sisters from different Communities being present.

In the month of October we had the CJ sisters from Allahabad Province joining the community - they came on the 10th October and stayed for 3 days. Their stay with us was an enriching one, where we shared details of our life and work as missionaries with each other.

Our Bishop's Jubilee was celebrated once more by the Cathedral Parish on the 23rd October with lots of activities and the felicitation program made the whole day a happy and communitarian one. We also had the family members of Sr. Sunila - young and vibrant youth, visiting us on the eve of Diwali. They stayed with us and from here travelled to Gangtok and many other places of tourist interest.

It has truly been a season of a myriad joys and festivities, of remembrance and renewal.



Entally Community

Sr Maduri



First Communion: On the 25th September 2022, 11 boarding girls received their First Holy Communion in the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel. They received God's blessings and grace. On that day their parents and families were also present and with great gratitude they left for their homes.



Celebrations: We all went to celebrate Sister Beatrice's birthday at Loreto Residence. On the 24th October we celebrated Diwali with the hostel girls. The Rainbow children invited the community to celebrate Diwali with them. We started with prayer and sang beautiful songs. We lit diyas around the house and school.

Retreat: On 2nd October Sr. Carmella and Sr. Ponnamma began their annual retreat. They had a very good experience.



Shillong Community

Sr Mable

"God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go." - Tony Evans

So well said by Tony Evans an American Christian Pastor. God met me and is leading me where He wants me to be. As I entered Shillong I received a phone call from Br. Simon, a Salesian Brother who invited me to come for Nepali Mass. God was waiting for me here in Shillong. So, from here my journey with the Lord and the members of Nepali Catholic Community dawned. Two Sundays of the month the faithful gather together in Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and the remaining Sundays we visit the families of the members to share and pray together. Like every day begins with the warmth of new sunrays, every Sunday instills me with new insights. The faith of the catholic members and their hospitality towards us inspire me a lot and I come back to my community refreshed and renewed for a new week. I am looking forward to have more experiences of God and Faith and I know that God will take me where He wants me to go.

Children's Day Celebration

We celebrated children's day 2022 with great joy. There was so much excitement in the air as the entire Loreto Shillong crew comprising of the principal, teachers, sisters, office staff and support staff were ready to create a magical experience for the children with an array of stage performances. The community felt happy to put in their bit to make the children feel special.



Ranchi Community

Sr Mann Veronica



In August our novice, Puspa arrived for her two months community experience. Manjula and Rajni left after Mass for Simdega to bring the candidate, Shreya Kiro.

There has been a big influx of sisters. The whole community was present for the Annual Governing Body Meeting. Sr. Sabrina Edwards and Sr. Anitha Sahaya arrived first and later in the evening Banisha and Anupa arrived from Gumla. Automatically the atmosphere was filled with joy.

On that day it was also the feast of St John Vianney, Patron of Parish Priests. Bishop's House invited all the priests and religious to dinner. All the sisters, except Maeve, Christopher, Tina, Gloria and Madhu went for the celebration.

The Government has issued a directive that the National Flag is to be hoisted on the 13th and must remain for three days to celebrate the 75th year of Independence. The Community joined the Staff and students of the school for the ceremony and then attended the Prayer Service and a cultural show organized by the LTS.

We had a beautiful Mass for Rajni and in the evening we had a prayer service for her followed by a celebration.



Sr Bernadette our Director of Novices came from Jharna after her retreat to meet our sisters and the novice, Puspa. She was delighted to meet her.

We have had a wonderful day with not a minute to spare for Teachers' Day. We made our way to the School hall for Mass. The Teachers and children were waiting. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi celebrated the Mass which was meaningful and his sermon was appreciated by all. We went back to the children for their show for the Teachers. All the teachers and sisters enjoyed the programme. Then in the evening we had a prayer service and another little show by our novice, Puspa, and candidates Christi, Archana and Shreya. We were happy to see them.

On 29th of September we had a farewell Mass for Puspa, our novice celebrated by Fr. Alex. It was a very meaningful Mass and after that we had a farewell and get-together with the candidates. Puspa Rai, our novice who has been with us for the last two months for Community experience returned with Sr. Christopher to Kolkata.

On 1st of October Madhu celebrated her birthday. Banisha and Anupa arrived, so there was a joint birthday celebration for Madhu, Anupa and Shreya. We had a Mass for them celebrated by Fr. Alex, brother of Sr. Punitha. It was a very creative and meaningful Mass and we had a birthday celebration in the evening.

On 2nd of November, All Souls Day we had a beautiful Mass. The Community left after lunch to pray at our sisters' graves, in Mandar and then in the cemetery in Doranda Parish.





Loreto House Sr Valeria

Teacher's day program

On 5th September, the Hostel girls prepared a beautiful liturgy for the Mass and wished the sisters after the Mass.

In the evening the young sisters of Loreto House showed their gratitude by conducting a small program for the community. The sisters are like teachers for the young ones. All were present for the program. Everyone appreciated and enjoyed it.

Paschal Ministry

Sr Antoinette prepared Mrinalni for her First Holy Communion. She is a hostel girl. She received her first communion in Loreto House chapel. Father Michael was the main celebrant. Her mother was present for the Mass. She is very grateful to Sr Antoinette.

Later under the guidance of Sr Antoinette- Mrinalini and Amanda received their Confirmation at Prabhu Jesu Girja along with 19 other candidates. Srs Anotinette, Matilda and all the hostel girls particataed in the Eucharistic celebration on 13th November.

Sr Sanjyoti prepared a young couple for marriage.

On 9th November the Asst. parish priest baptised the bride and the child and blessed the marriage.



Retreat

From 2nd to 10th October Loreto House organised a retreat. Srs. Christopher, Barbara, Agnes and two C.J. sisters Sr. Rachna and Sr. Vibha joined us. Fr. Sudhakar was the retreat director. Everyone experienced God's presence during the retreat.

Birthdays

We had many birthday celebrations of Srs. Sabrina, Sushila, Flora and the candidate, Sharon. We had a prayer service and recreation. Loreto Elliot Road community joined us for the celebration.

Deepawali

Deepawali is the festival of lights; we, the Loreto House members celebrated Deepawali with a special prayer service and lit lights around the house. It was a beautiful sight.



Champasari Community

Sr Mini Priyanka Dung Dung



Visitors

On 2nd September 2022 Srs. Prabha and Lily CJ from Patna Province and two gentlemen came for an eye doctors' meeting in Siliguri. We welcomed them to the Champasari community and had a happy time with them.



In September Srs. Marilla, Lynette and Stephanie visited Loreto Champasari too. Sr. Lynette gave gifts to Manita and Angela, our cooks. They were delighted. We were happy to have the sisters with us.

Retreat

On the 1st October Srs. Abhay and Binista came from Darjeeling and had their annual retreat in Loreto Champasari guided by Fr. Paulose SJ.



Bow Bazar Community

Sr Sangeeta

Birthday

We celebrated the birthdays of Srs Jeba and Ablin thanking God for their gift of life. It was a delightful celebration, coming together of both the houses- Sealdah and Bowbazar.

Festival of Light

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden".

-Matthew 5:14

It was a joyful occasion on 24th September when Diwali the Festival of light was celebrated in both LBB and Sealdah with the Rainbow children. The children performed cultural dances and conducted a few games and everyone was part of it.



Visitors

We were glad to have the CJ Srs. Ancy and Sr. Pragya visit us. It was a time of togetherness and joy.

Visit

The Bawbazar community had visited Br. Mc Carthy who left for Ireland forever. Many of us have been at his sessions and classes in our early stage of formation in the novitiate. It was a time to be grateful and thank him as he left India due to visa issues. May God bless him in his future life and mission.



Shimla Community Sr Miri

On the 9th and 10th September 2022 Sr. Sudha visited Loreto Shimla to meet Sr. Miri, who is a temporary professed sister. We were glad to have Sr. Sudha with us for two days. Her cheerful presence brought joy and happiness to the community.

We celebrated Girl Child Day on 8th September in St. Michael's Cathedral, Shimla on the feast day of Mother Mary.

On 27th September 2022 we had a farewell for Sr. Pushpa, community leader of Shimla as she completed her 6 years in Shimla and was leaving for her sabbatical in Ireland. We had Holy Mass in the morning celebrated by Fr. T. Raj followed by breakfast.



On 28th September 2022 we welcomed Sr. Apolina, the new community leader of Shimla to our community. Her cheerful heart brings pleasant memories to the community.

On 1st October 2022 we celebrated Sr. Tressia's Feast Day. We had a special Mass followed by breakfast.



Sadam Jubilee Sr Phyllis

"I will sing forever of the mercies of the Lord"

What an awe inspiring Jubilee Eucharistic Celebration of Loreto School Sadam on 12th November 2022! Bishop Stephen Lepcha a "People's Bishop" was the main celebrant, with nine priests con-celebrating, in the presence of a multitude of parishioners, past and present students and teachers, parents, Sr. Sabrina our Province Leader, our Loreto sisters from Darjeeling, Champasari, Lolay, Ranchi, Loreto House, CJ sisters, F.C sisters and our Sadam community. It was a joy to have Sister Agnes' sister, Rebecca and her husband. What a SHOW of solidarity.

Bishop Stephen Lepcha could not stop thanking the Loreto sisters for their dedicated service in Sadam during these past 25 years. One could see the Loreto standard in the entertainment that followed. Action songs from Nursery and K.G, Nepali dances and songs from Classes I - V. The solo singers for "We are the world" were amazing. Thanks goes to Sr. Agnes and the teachers.



We the pioneers of Loreto Sadam had the privilege of meeting our first three pupils Ashish Pradhan, Santos Gurung and Kishan Kumar who are now well placed in life, and so are the rest of our past pupils. The echoes of joy and gratitude of the past pupils and parents as they met the sisters who worked in Sadam was very moving.

Our Chief Guest, Mrs. Farwanti Tamang, MLA of our area, was impressed with the all-round development of our children, whom she saw on stage. She agreed to come and stay for a short while for the programme, due to her heavy schedule, but stayed on till the end.

Hats off to Srs. Agnes, Barbara and our Parish Priest, Father Fredrick Dewan for the meticulous planning and the involvement of the parishioners. Fr. Fredrick was seen helping the group that were busy cleaning the drains. What an example of a Synodal Church!

Sr. Madhu as usual had the altar looking beautiful, Sr. Barbara with the choir, Sr. Rina setting up the altar and our dear Sr. Sushila played the role of Martha in the house. A day to remember.

What more could we ask for, from the Lord, who never deserted us during these past 25 years. Jesus say Amen.



**Loreto School Sadam
Past pupils**



**First three pupils
Ashish Pradhan,
Santos Gurung and
Kishan Kumar**



Pioneers of Loreto Sadam





Laughter is the best medicine

Sr Rosita

Ant - Will you marry me?

Needle - Oh stupid, don't you see your body and my body?

Ant - So what, we'll be a good couple.

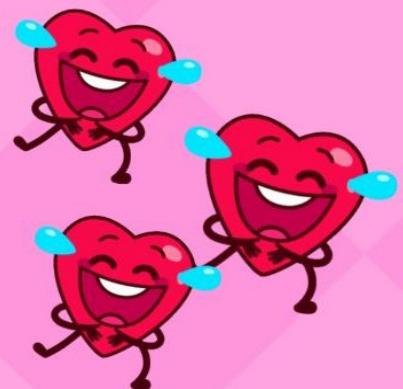
Needle - Can't be, because I am stronger than you.

Ant - No, we are the same.

Needle - How? I don't believe it.

Ant - This is what the doctor tells every patient before giving an injection.

Don't be afraid, it will hurt a little, like an ant bite.



The teacher asked his students: How did you feel when you learnt about Electricity?

Student: Ma'am, totally shocked.



Why did the kid bring a ladder to School?
Because the Kid wanted to go to High School.



Mother - Clean yourself.

Teacher - Save Water.

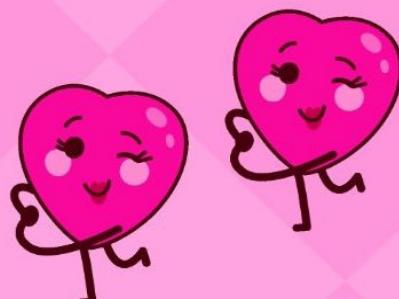
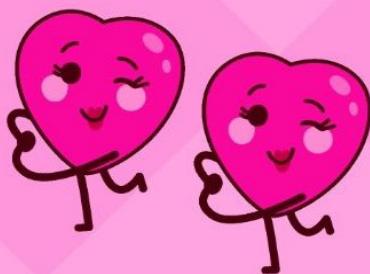
Earth - Give me water.

Grandmother - Stop crying. Keep your tears for your Farewell.



Father: Son, did you give fresh water to your pet goldfish?

Son: Nope. They are yet to finish the water that I gave to them last week!



BIRTHDAYS & FEASTDAYS

December Birthdays

Sr. Edelin Pompa Kujur	1st Dec
Sr. Edline Toppo	1st Dec
Sr. Priyanka Dungdung	12th Dec
Sr. Jiwanti Tete	13th Dec
Sr. Rina Ekka	19th Dec
Sr. Anjuman Gidh	21th Dec
Sr. Stephanie Rodrigues	26th Dec
Sr. Benedicta Gomes	26th Dec

December Feastdays

Sr. Phyllis Morris	8th Dec
Sr. Tina Farias	29th Dec

January Birthdays

Sr. Jeney. V	2nd Jan
Sr. Agnes Bhutia	5th Jan
Sr. Banisha Sohkhet	8th Jan
Sr. Molly Francis	9th Jan
Sr. Machelina Murmu	9th Jan
Sr. Phyllis Morris	12th Jan
Sr. Preety Pratima Minj	12th Jan
Sr. Yvonne Gomes	14th Jan
Sr. Rani R Hembram	15th Jan
Sr. Maeve Hughes	15th Jan
Sr. Miri Phawa	15th Jan
Sr. Sunila Toppo	19th Jan
Sr. Monica Suchiang	23rd Jan
Sr. Anita Nayak	23rd Jan
Sr. Sangeeta Surin	23rd Jan
Sr. Helen Borneo	25th Jan
Sr. Shalini Rozario	26th Jan
Sr. Priyanka Topno	27th Jan
Sr. Ganga Jyoti Bardewa	28th Jan

February Birthdays

Sr. Leena Lakra	5th Feb
Sr. Carmella Coelho	11th Feb
Sr. Mariam Ekka	16th Feb
Sr. Maria Bastian	19th Feb
Sr. Igora Pinto	22nd Feb
Sr. Maxima Toppo	26th Feb
Sr. Josephine Burh	28th Feb
Sr. Swati Lakra	28th Feb
Sr. Manjula Lomga	28th Feb
Sr. Dipika Mrong	28th Feb

February Feastdays

Sr. Lourdes Noronha	11th Feb
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