

TWO HISTORIES ONE MAGNIFICAT

The Merger Mosaic

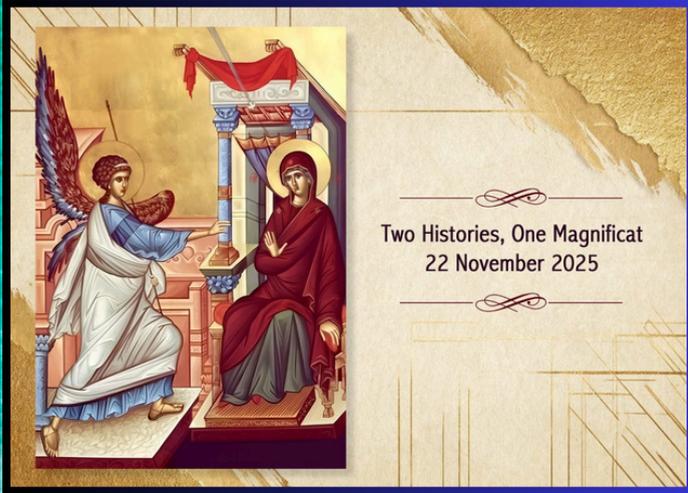


CONGREGATION OF JESUS
SOUTH ASIA PROVINCE



INVITATION CARD

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION



Two Histories, One Magnificat
22 November 2025

FRONT

TWO HISTORIES, ONE MAGNIFICAT

A CELEBRATION OF UNION IN MISSION AND SPIRIT

We joyfully invite you to celebrate the historic merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ). Guided by a shared Ignatian heritage, our distinct paths now unite in one sacred mission, a new Magnificat celebrating the past and instilling hope for the future — all for the greater glory of God.

Date & Time: 22 November 2025, at 10.30 a.m.

Venue: Loreto Entally, Kolkata.

Programme

1. Thanksgiving Eucharist presided by Most Rev. Elias Frank, beginning at 10.30 a.m.
2. Cultural Presentation and Fellowship Lunch to follow the Eucharistic celebration.

In joyful communion,
Together with all the sisters of South Asia Province, Sr. Monica Suchiang, Provincial.

RSVP: Ms Margaret King (Principal, Loreto Day School, Bow Bazar, Kolkata). Mobile: 9831413306.

BACK

MAGNIFICAT



Two Histories, One Magnificat

Our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord,
our spirits rejoice in God our Destiny.
He has nurtured two kindred paths of faith,
now joined in one Magnificat of praise.

The Almighty has done great things for us,
guiding our steps through seasons of grace.
He has set our courses upon the Ignatian path,
binding our stories with boundless love and mercy.

He lifts the one and strengthens the other,
making our hearts one in hope and grace.
He calls us to labour, never counting the cost,
to serve with joy and seek no reward.

He who began this good work in us
will bring it to completion and lead us onward,
that our lives may be poured out in love
for the greater glory of God.

4 November 2025.

My soul magnifies the Lord.
My soul (my soul) magnifies the Lord
And my spirit (my spirit) rejoices (rejoices) in God my saviour.

1. For, He who is mighty has done great things, and holy is His name,
From age to age his mercy is, on those who fear Him,
He fills the hungry with good things,
He helps those who serve Him.
Cho - My soul...

2. He scatters the proud and He lifts up the lowly,
He has shown strength with His arm.
For the Word became flesh and he dwelt among us,
No one has seen the Father but the Son has made Him known.
Cho - My soul...

3. The Words of the Lord are spirit and life,
Blessed are the people who hear them and keep them, when God speaks His Word
Let it be fulfilled in me for with the Lord nothing is impossible.

Cho - My soul (my soul) magnifies the Lord and
my spirit (my spirit) rejoices (rejoices) in God my saviour
My spirit (my spirit) rejoices (rejoices) In Jesus my Saviour.



BY SR. MONICA SUCHIANG C.I.

Foreward

With grateful hearts, we mark a historic moment in the journey of the Mary Ward family as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Congregatio Jesu come together in unity. Rooted in the vision of Mary Ward, this step gathers two historical journeys into a renewed expression of one shared mission.



Across centuries, both congregations have remained faithful to the same charism—serving God with courage, freedom, and generosity wherever the need is greatest. Though shaped by different paths in history, the spirit that guided their mission has always been one. The merger therefore invites us to recognise this shared heritage with gratitude and to look to the future with renewed hope.

The Psalmist's words capture the spirit of this moment: "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3). In thanksgiving, we acknowledge God's faithful presence guiding our journey and bringing our two histories into one Magnificat of praise.

This mission continues to be lived not only by sisters, but also by the many collaborators, educators, students, staff, and friends who share in the spirit of Mary Ward and carry forward this vision in their own contexts.

Communities across the South Asia Province marked this moment of unity in their own unique ways, gathering in celebration and thanksgiving. Two Histories, One Magnificat brings together glimpses of these celebrations and stands as a reminder of God's grace in our shared story.

As we move forward together, may the spirit of Mary Ward continue to guide us with faith, courage, and hope, as we carry this shared mission into the future.

M. Suchiang

Sr. Monica Suchiang C.I.,
Province Leader, South Asia
Congregation of Jesus

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KOLKATA MERGER CELEBRATION

Loreto Convent Entally | 22nd November, 2025

The Merger Celebration of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Congregation of Jesus was a moment of shared witnessing for the Loreto family, when history, memory and faith converged as the sisters stepped into a new chapter of their vocation. It was a deeply human and spiritual celebration in which the sisters embraced their transformation, carrying forward centuries of lived charism, sacrifice, and apostolic courage rooted in the vision of Mary Ward.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

On 22 November 2025, this significant moment unfolded at Loreto Convent Entally, where sisters, educators, students, alumnae, collaborators, and friends of Loreto gathered as one community. Under the theme “Two Histories, One Magnificat,” the Loreto people stood alongside the sisters in gratitude and hope, affirming unity, continuity, and renewed commitment to mission in the spirit of Mary Ward.

Sisters of the Loreto community, Principals and Staff of Loreto institutions across Kolkata, Students, Retired Teachers, Alumnae, Priests, Religious members from other congregations, dignitaries, and well-wishers—everyone’s presence honoured the celebration of togetherness even more. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by the Most Reverend Dr. Elias Frank, Archbishop of Calcutta, along with Bishop Shyamal Bose of Baruipur, Emeritus Bishop Salvatore Lobo and Rev. Fr. Moloy D’Costa, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

The day began in a prayerful and well-co-ordinated manner, beginning with the arrival and seating of guests while the entire ground echoed with soft instrumental music. Visual displays portraying Mary Ward, Teresa Ball and Delphine Hart set a reflective tone, inviting all present to contemplate the shared heritage and mission of the Mary Ward family. General instructions ensured a dignified and uninterrupted celebration, while QR codes placed across the venue allowed participants to explore the life, vision and mission of Mary Ward in greater depth. The gathering was formally addressed by Sister Monica Suchiang, Province Leader of the Congregation of Jesus, South Asia. In her address, she reflected on the historic unification that officially came into effect on 4 November 2025, fulfilling Mary Ward’s long-cherished desire for one Institute.

KOLKATA MERGER CELEBRATION



She highlighted how, despite historical, political, and ecclesial challenges that led to the development of two congregations, both the IBVM and CJ faithfully carried forward Mary Ward's charism across generations and continents. Drawing inspiration from Mary's visitation to Elizabeth, Sister Monica described the merger as a meeting of journeys that now flow together like rivers into one ocean of mission, gratitude, and praise. The reading of the Merger Decree and the solemn singing of the Magnificat marked this historic proclamation.

The Eucharistic Sacrifice formed the spiritual heart of the celebration. Accompanied by an entrance dance and psalmody, the bishops and priests processed to the altar as the assembly entered into prayer. The Liturgy of the Word, with readings from Isaiah and the Gospel of Luke, resonated deeply with the theme of renewal, hope, and God's faithful presence. In his homily, Archbishop Elias Frank reflected on God's attentiveness to the lowly and the unnoticed, drawing a moving parallel between Mary's Magnificat and the simple yet transformative power of being seen and loved. He emphasised that the merger was not merely an administrative act, but a spiritual milestone—an embodiment of unity, courage, and shared apostolic zeal.

A particularly sacred moment followed with the renewal of vows by the IBVM sisters, reaffirming their total commitment to God through the ardent counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The explanation and blessing of the Mary Ward Fleur-de-lis Cross further symbolised unity in Christ and fidelity to Mary Ward's spirit. As each sister received the emblem, the congregation witnessed a powerful sign of consecration, continuity, and new beginnings. The singing of the former Loreto anthem, "A Wonderful Mystery," added a deeply emotional and communal dimension to the liturgy.

The Eucharistic Celebration concluded with prayers, blessings, and a heartfelt vote of thanks acknowledging the leadership, organisers, institutions, volunteers, musicians, media teams, benefactors, and all who worked behind the scenes to make the day meaningful and memorable.

Following the liturgy, the celebration continued with a thoughtfully curated cultural programme that traced the journey of the Mary Ward sisters in India. Through dance, recitation, dramatization, and music, the programme depicted the social realities of women in earlier centuries, the struggles against oppressive customs, and the transformative role of education championed by pioneers such as Mary Ward, Teresa Ball, and Delphine Hart. The narrative culminated in the symbolic coming together of the IBVM and CJ, reflecting perseverance, faith, and eventual unity.

The release of the celebratory souvenir further enriched the occasion. Explained by Sister Monica Suchiang, the souvenir featured the image of Mary's visitation and a specially adapted hymn, "Two Histories, One Magnificat," capturing the spirit of gratitude, unity, and renewed commitment as one congregation. Addresses by the Archbishop and Sister Grace Mallick of the Patna Province echoed sentiments of joy, sacrifice, trust, and hope for the future, reaffirming Mary Ward's prophetic maxim: "Women in time to come will do much."

Representatives from The Times of India and The Telegraph were present to cover the celebration, documenting this historic milestone and helping to share the message of unity and renewed mission of the Congregation of Jesus with a wider public.

The celebration concluded with the blessing of the meal by Most Reverend Dr. Elias Frank, Archbishop of Calcutta, followed by a joyful meal catered by Mainland China. Soft melodies, including "Oh Joanna", accompanied by gentle dance and taps, created a warm and memorable atmosphere. In the Indian tradition of shared hospitality, the meal extended the spirit of the Eucharistic celebration, celebrating unity as one Loreto family. The Merger Celebration at Loreto Convent Entally honoured the past while embracing the future, standing as a living Magnificat and reaffirming the Congregation of Jesus' commitment to serve with faith, freedom, and joyful dedication for the greater glory of God.



From Our Story to the Headlines

THE HERALD



HINDUSTAN SAMACHAR - ENGLISH



THE TELEGRAPH



AJKAAL NEWSPAPER - ENGLISH



HINDUSTAN SAMACHAR - BENGALI



TIMES OF INDIA ONLINE

AJKAAL NEWSPAPER - BENGALI

Merger Celebration at Loreto Convent Shillong

5th November, 2025

The Community celebrated the “Becoming One”, Celebration in the School Hall on 5th of November’ 25. The backdrop with: “For all that Has Been Thanks for all that will be Yes” was beautifully decorated by Madhu and her team. The altar with flowers was tastefully done too.



Sr. Helen Borneo

The Mass was presided by Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh with 19 priests concelebrating. After the introduction Fr. Richard read the Decree and the archbishop gave a very inspiring homily.

The choir our hostel students sang the hymns melodiously prepared by Sisters Madhu, Mable and 3 Jesus Youth members who played the synthesizer, guitar and the clap box.

They sang with full gusto bringing joy to the 250 people who gathered there for the Holy Mass; teachers, staff, family members, parishioners and well-wishers.

There were 4 CJ Sisters from Patna and Delhi Provinces. After the Mass there was a fellowship dinner in the gym.



MERGER CELEBRATION AT
LORETO CONVENT SHILLONG



“Our Becoming One”

Celebration at Loreto Darjeeling

5th November 2025

On 5th November we, in Loreto Darjeeling joyfully celebrated the long-awaited merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) - the fulfilment of Mary Ward’s dream that “They May Become Completely One.”



Sr. Flora Anthony

We believe that we, in Darjeeling and Shillong were among the first to mark this momentous occasion, and our hearts were filled with gratitude and joy.

Joining us for this special day were our mission communities from Panighatta, Lolay and Champasari and the CJ sisters from Singla and Namchi. We were also delighted to welcome our neighbouring religious priests and sisters, as well as the families of our sisters from Darjeeling.

The celebration began with a Thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha, together with 15 concelebrating priests. In his homily Bishop Stephen spoke with deep emotion about the long and close association the Church of Darjeeling has had with the IBVM (Loreto) over the years.

He rejoiced that Mary Ward’s dream of unity had finally been realized through this merger. The Prabhat Tara children’s choir led by Sr. Barbara and accompanied by the JTI brothers added great beauty to the celebration with their lovely singing. We were especially blessed to have Sr. Teresa Mc Glinchy as our special guest. The bishop fondly remarked that “Sr. Teresa came from Ireland as an IBVM and will return as a CJ.”

Before the meal the children of Prabhat Tara delighted everyone with a lively fusion dance to welcome the guests. To add to our joy, it was also Sr. Flora’s birthday, and she was warmly greeted and felicitated by all present.

It was indeed a day, filled with joy, gratitude and togetherness - a memorable celebration of our “Becoming One” - as one Mary Ward family.

CELEBRATION AT LORETO DARJEELING



MERGER CELEBRATION

LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL, DELHI CANTONMENT

18TH NOVEMBER, 2025

To commemorate the merger of the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), Loreto Convent School, Delhi Cantt., organised a special Merger Assembly on 18 November 2025 at the Mary Ward Auditorium.



Sr. GRETA ROBERT

The programme highlighted the shared charism, mission, and enduring legacy of Venerable Mary Ward and her long cherished dream coming to fulfilment with the union of the two congregations.

On 19 November 2025, at 2:00 p.m. the sisters, Principal, and entire staff gathered in the Hart Hall for a prayerful celebration.

It was a meaningful and thought-provoking assembly that fostered a deep sense of unity and gratitude among students and staff alike.

Through moments of contemplation, visual presentations, and shared prayers, Sr. Igora Pinto and Sr. Greta offered glimpses of the Merger Celebrations held in Spain and reflected on the exemplary life and vision of Venerable Mary Ward.

The celebration concluded with a joyful and fraternal note with a high tea, providing an opportunity for everyone to interact and rejoice together. As a gesture of love and appreciation, the staff presented a hamper to the sisters, expressing their gratitude and respect.

LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL, DELHI CANTONMENT



THE CELEBRATION OF THE MERGER OF IBVM AND CJ SISTERS AT RANCHI

8th NOVEMBER, 2025

Loreto Convent, Ranchi joyfully celebrated the merger of the IBVM and CJ Sisters on November 8, 2025. The programme began with greetings and a welcome speech by Sr. Pushpa Ekka, the Community Leader.



Sr. ANTOINETTE RODRIGUES

This was followed by the lighting of candles by Srs. Pushpa, Shalini, and Antoinette.

Sr. Antoinette led the group in prayer which ended with the hymn - "Lead us on Mary Ward"

A card and sapling were presented to the Sisters, and a cake-cutting ceremony with a congratulatory song added to the joy. The event concluded with a lively dance in the quadrangle, celebrating unity.

RANCHI MERGER CELEBRATIONS



CANONICAL MERGER CELEBRATION OF IBVM AND CJ AT LUCKNOW

14TH NOVEMBER, 2025

Sunday, December 14, 2025, was an historic and grace-filled day for the Loreto institutions in Lucknow, marking the Canonical Merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ).



Sr. AMIA ANITA TETE

The celebration brought together IBVM and CJ Sisters from Lucknow and Kanpur, along with Christian parents, retired teachers, past pupils, benefactors, parish council members, teachers, students, and representatives of all four IBVM schools.

A video on the legacy of Venerable Mary Ward set the tone, followed by a vibrant entrance dance and procession of CJ Sisters and clergy.

The theme, “Two Histories, One Magnificat,” was beautifully explained in the welcome address by Sr. Sunila Toppo, highlighting the purpose and spirit of the merger. Sr. Amia A. Tete read out the Decree from the Holy Father, formally marking the canonical union. Readings, reflections, and symbolic prayers of the faithful reflected the shared heritage, mission, and global vision of Mary Ward’s charism.

The celebration concluded with group photographs, a festive cake-cutting ceremony with the Bishop and CJ Sisters, and the distribution of commemorative bookmarks. A fellowship meal followed, celebrating the enduring vision of Venerable Mary Ward.

A deeply moving moment followed the homily, when the Loreto Sisters pronounced their vows and received the new CJ crosses, symbolising unity and renewed commitment. The offertory procession involved representatives from all schools and communities, emphasizing collaboration, gratitude, and service. The collective effort of the four Loreto schools made the celebration prayerful, enriching, and truly memorable.

LUCKNOW MERGER CELEBRATION



REPORT ON THE MERGER THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION IN LORETO ASANSOL COMMUNITY

8th NOVEMBER, 2025

The Merger Thanksgiving Celebration was held on 8th November 2025 in the Asansol Community and was a day filled with grace, remembrance, and a deep sense of togetherness. The occasion brought together all those who, over the years, have formed, shaped, and strengthened the Loreto presence in Asansol.



Sr. INITHA PELAVENDRAN

The community was honoured by the presence of Bishop Emeritus Cyprian Monis, who presided over the Holy Eucharist along with eight concelebrating priests. Two sisters – Sr. Tara and Sr. Namrata – represented the Patna Province.

Religious friends, alumni, benefactors, students, teachers, support staff (past and present), and the family members of Sisters Helen and Edelin Kujur also joined the gathering, creating a community united in memory, mission, and gratitude.

The celebration began at 10:30 a.m. with the Holy Mass. The school children presented a graceful Entrance Dance, leading the congregation prayerfully into worship. During the Mass, Sr. Jency read the introduction, while Sr. Shalini proclaimed the First Reading.

A thoughtful and symbolic Offertory Procession took place during the Mass, capturing the spirit and history of the community's journey. The narration for the procession was read by Sr. Ponnamma and three teachers. The procession itself was carried out reverently by the sisters, teachers, students, support staff, and retired staff.

The Missionaries of Charity and the Daughters of St. Anne were also included, as they were part of the early IBVM history. At the end of the Holy Eucharist, Sr. Initha expressed heartfelt thanks to all present.

After the Mass, the community gathered for a short yet meaningful programme which the Ankur children began with a prayer dance, setting a gentle and reflective tone. This was followed by the drama titled “The Light Never Fades”, portraying the historic connection between Rathfarnham and York, prepared by Sr. Initha and two teachers, and performed beautifully by the students under the dedicated guidance of the staff.



CELEBRATING A HISTORIC MOMENT:

THE UNION OF IBVM AND CJ AT LORETO HOUSE CHAMPASARI

8TH NOVEMBER, 2025

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

To mark this milestone, Loreto House Champasari held a thanksgiving celebration on November 8, 2025. The event brought together 36 religious persons, including 16 nuns, CJ sisters from Darjeeling, Biratnagar, Dharan, and Panighatta, parish stakeholders, well-wishers, and friends—gathering approximately 150 people in total.

A FELLOWSHIP OF TOGETHERNESS

The commemoration began with a Thanksgiving Holy Mass celebrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Simick, accompanied by 12 priests from the Bagdogra Diocese. Their presence added great spiritual depth and significance to the occasion.

In his homily, Bishop Simick reflected on the prophetic courage of Mary Ward and emphasized the powerful witness that the unification of IBVM and CJ brings to the global Church. He highlighted that this merger strengthens not only the congregation's identity but also its ability to serve with a greater collaboration and clarity of purpose.

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

The celebration at Loreto House Champasari beautifully captured the essence of this historic union. More than a structural merger, it symbolizes a renewed commitment to mission, collaboration, and the global visibility of Mary Ward's legacy.

As one united Mary Ward family, the congregation steps into the future with renewed enthusiasm, strengthened by shared purpose and inspired by the vision of their courageous founder.

THE UNION OF IBVM AND CJ AT LORETO HOUSE CHAMPASARI



Eucharistic Celebration



*CJ and IBVM
Coming together
as One*

8th November, 2025
Loreto House,
Champasari, Siliguri



MERGER CELEBRATION
PANIGHATTA
6TH DECEMBER, 2025

The merger celebration in Panighatta was held on 6th December 2025 with the participation of our teaching and non-teaching staff, along with representatives from the five tea gardens that come under our parish.



Sr. Stephanie Rodrigues

Our Sisters from Darjeeling also joined us in support. Although we had expected around 100 participants, we were about 70 people in all. This was because this period coincided with the crop-harvesting season, and Saturday is the only day off for the tea garden workers.

The main celebrant of the Eucharist was Fr. Shajumon, the Jesuit Provincial of Darjeeling and Nepal. He was joined by two concelebrants, Fr. Santosh and Fr. Bipin. During the Mass, we renewed our vows and received our new CJ crosses from our Community Leader, Sr. Sushila Kerketta.

The entire service was conducted in Hindi. Our choir consisted mostly of non-Christian teachers, who sang with great enthusiasm and commitment. The purpose of our gathering was explained simply and beautifully by Fr. Shajumon, helping everyone to understand the significance of the merger.

After the Eucharistic celebration, we shared a fellowship meal with all those present.

MERGER CELEBRATION PANIGHATTA



MERGER CELEBRATION DHARAN 27TH NOVEMBER, 2025

Sr. Sushila Kerketta, our Community Leader came from Champasari, Siliguri, along with Ms. Monita for the Merger Celebration held on Thursday, 27th November in Loreto Dharan community.

The event began with Holy Mass at 5:00 pm, celebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr. Nirmal, along with two Salesian Priests and one Vincentian.

The SCN Sisters, parishioners, Council members, Staff, and hostel girls all took part wholeheartedly in the celebration.

We concluded with a short cultural program and a warm fellowship dinner, marking the occasion with joy and gratitude.



MERGER CELEBRATION BANGLADESH 28TH NOVEMBER, 2025

The Merger Celebration was held on November 28, 2025 in Barishal, at Padrishibpur, Loreto Convent and the Eucharistic Celebration was at Our Lady of Guidance Church.



SR. DIPIKA MRONG

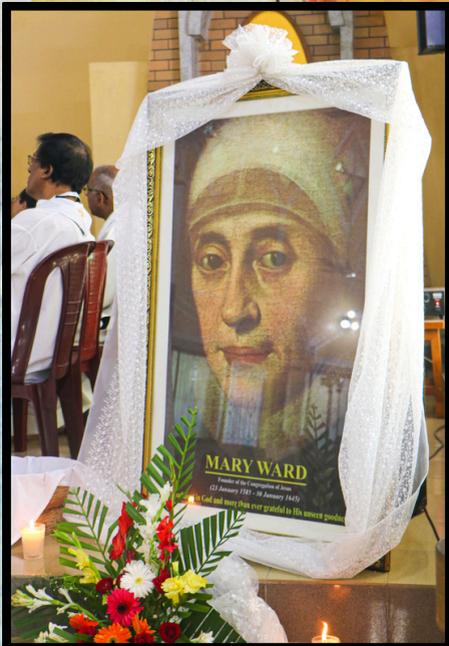
The Opening Ceremony was held in Loreto Convent, Padrishibpur, to commemorate the first journey of Mary Ward from England to St. Omer to join Religious Life which she desired ardently.

Then the mud of our CJ and IBVM ancestors which was given to us at the Province Assembly this year of our CJ and IBVM ancestors was placed inside the ship remembering the union of body, mind and soul.

After the blessing we went in procession towards the Church, joyfully singing the glory of God, for the Eucharistic Celebration. The CJ Sisters, which included two sisters from the Nepal Region, and the Clergy were ushered to the altar by the dancers to the devotional song of Rabindranath Tagore in Sanskrit, 'Samgacchadhvam', meaning - "May you move in harmony, speak in one voice; let your minds be in a spirit of oneness...".

The Mass was presided over by Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, C.S.C. and there were 11 concelebrants. Since it was in the Parish many parishioners were present. During the homily, the Cardinal explained how the Loreto Sisters had come to Bangladesh in 1845 to Chittagong and Dhaka.

He mentioned that the convents were named Bethlehem and Nazareth. He also shared his joy at our returning in 2005 to continue the Loreto mission. The sisters renewed their vows, and the four sisters working in Bangladesh received the CJ emblem from Sr. Agnes, the Provincial Consultor.



The choir consisted of the Diocesan seminarians, the Deepti hostel girls and our 5 Candidates. Sr. Linda, Sr. Dipika and Shishir (Seminarian) were the musicians. With our regular practices, the singing at Mass was beautiful.

A cultural programme followed in which our candidates presented a short history of the inception of our mission in Bangladesh. Other items of dance and song were included in the program.

The Catholic Star Media helped us to capture the celebration through photos, videos and advocacy to broadcast the CJ and IBVM Merger.

200 invitees were ushered to our convent for lunch. 400 snack boxes were prepared for the parishioners by our teachers of St. Alfred's School. There was a real family spirit right through the preparations and the celebration itself.

Our neighbours; the seminarians, parish priest and his assistant, together with the LHC sisters were a great support to us during these days. The people were amazed by our stories and our historical journey. Everyone appreciated and was touched by our meaningful celebration.

We thank God, the Creator immensely for all the blessings we have been receiving down the years. Our Merger Celebration in Bangladesh will remain a memory to cherish for a lifetime. May our Venerable Mary Ward bless us and all our missions throughout the whole world.

MERGER CELEBRATION

LOLAY

23RD NOVEMBER, 2025

Our merging with the Congregation of Jesus was celebrated on 23rd of November 2025 with the parishioners in the Parish church in Lolay. The Eucharist was celebrated, during which Sr. Subhashini informed the parishioners about the Loretos merging with the Congregation of Jesus.



Sr. SUBHASHINI SAKRA

The parish priest too spoke. He told the people that the sisters of Loreto would now be known as CJs and no longer Loretos. All schools and institutions of Loreto would still be known as Loreto though.

All were served tea and snacks which was greatly appreciated.



REFLECTION ON THE IBVM AND C.J. MERGER

As I reflect on the merger of IBVM and CJ, I find myself looking inward. This union is not only about structures or history; it speaks to my own journey of belonging. It asks me where I stand in this shared story of Mary Ward. Am I truly living the unity that this merger represents?

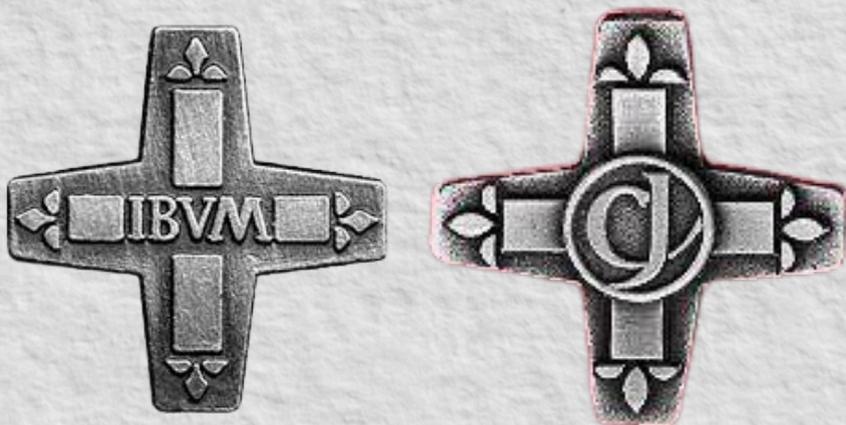


Sr. BALIKA

Knowing that both the congregations come from the same vision reminds me that unity has always been the heart of our identity. Yet unity is not automatic. It requires humility, openness, and willingness to let go of preferences and familiar ways. I realize that the merger challenges me personally – to embrace change with trust, to welcome different perspectives, and to deepen my commitment to our common mission.

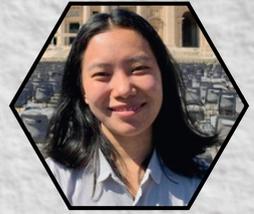
This moment invites me to renew my own affirmation. It is easy to speak about global mission, but the real question for me is how I will contribute towards it in my daily life. Do my words and actions build communion? Do I carry Mary Ward's courage and freedom in the way I serve?

The merger feels like a call to deeper authenticity. It reminds me that I am part of something greater than myself, yet personally responsible for keeping the charism alive. In this unity, I see both a gift and a challenge – one that begins within my own heart.



GOD IS FAR GREATER THAN OUR LIMITED PLANS!

What an intense and powerful journey it has been for me since 2019, when the official letter regarding the Union/Merger was released. Letting go of Loreto was not easy at all. I have loved it deeply and have been rooted in it since childhood, and officially being part of the Loreto Institute since 2013 as a candidate, altogether nearly 20 years. To leave that part of myself was extremely painful and truly heartbreaking.



Sr. ANU ANET SEPCHA

In the beginning, I felt lost. I cried, questioned, and at times the process felt overwhelmingly heavy. Yet, through it all, I experienced how God works in His own ways. Gradually, He helped me see the larger mission and Mary Ward's final wish: "that they may become completely ONE." That one statement became deeply liberating for me. It helped me surrender my inner conflicts and make peace with myself.

I truly see this as God's grace. Alongside that, grace led me to deep reflection; giving myself time and space, working through my own biases and prejudices, challenging my perceptions and comfort zones, revisiting my life time and again. This honest processing has helped me navigate the transition.

Today, (4.11.2025) as I embark on this journey as a CJ member, I feel grateful and hopeful about what is unfolding. At times, I still wrestle with the unknown of what it means to be ONE, yet I choose to trust Jesus and Mary Ward, because this journey has emerged from them. This sacred transition has taught me the importance of listening to the inner voice, the voice I believe is from God. Studying Counselling Psychology has further helped me understand the importance of processing every emotion to gain clarity and insight.

Becoming aware of our thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations allows us to live more wholesomely and healthily.

This letting go has been profoundly powerful for me, because it has reminded me that God is far greater than our limited plans.

MARY WARD live forever in our hearts.

MY EXPERIENCE OF MERGER

My personal experience with the merger was difficult. In the initial stages of the process, I felt disheartened, angry, depressed, anxious, and unhappy. I was deeply disturbed, not knowing what the future would look like or whether I would be able to adapt to a new environment, having been trained in a Loreto institution for many years.



Sr. ANUPA TOPPO

The pain became even more piercing when I reflected on letting go of the name "Loreto." Losing one's identity is always a very painful experience, and that was my human understanding of it.

As the days, weeks, months, and years passed, I prayed, reflected, and discerned. Slowly and gradually, I found solace and peace within myself as I recalled my first Call: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose in joining the Congregation? My spiritual journey helped me realize that whether I am "Loreto" or "CJ" does not matter; what matters is my wholehearted service to God and to humanity. With this thought, on July 31, 2025, I voted in favor of "Becoming One", trusting in the Lord and stepping out into an unseen future.

Finally, IBVM and CJ merged on November 4, 2025. I watched the ceremony online which took place in Spain, and it was an emotional and painful moment to let go. However, amidst those "desert feelings", there was a sense of peace in my heart. To share this spirit and inform all Dioceses where Loreto and CJ work, the merger was celebrated in every house/school.

Consequently, in Kolkata a grand merger celebration was held November 22, 2025. The theme, "Two Histories, One Magnificat", carried a powerful message and deep meaning for me. I felt peace and joy, and I was able to join the celebration wholeheartedly. And now I am trusting, believing and moving forward with my God.

LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL,
TARA HALL, SHIMLA

“THAT THEY MAY BECOME COMPLETELY ONE”

21ST NOVEMBER, 2025

Loreto Convent School, Tara Hall, Shimla celebrated a landmark chapter in history this Sunday as it hailed “That they may become completely one” global merger of the IBVM and CJ congregations.



MS. NEHA NEGI

On the crisp morning of December 21, 2025 Loreto Convent School, Tara Hall, Shimla, etched a momentous milestone in its storied legacy by commemorating the formal fusion of the IBVM and CJ congregations. Though ratified on a global scale earlier, the school’s meticulously orchestrated celebration breathed vibrant life into this long-nurtured dream of unity.

Under the sagacious guidance of the Secretary and the Community Leader Sr. Apolina, alongside Sr. Tressia, Sr. Anima, and the Principal, Ms. Reetu Khanna Sharma, whose visionary stewardship ignited the collective spirit, the event unfolded with profound grace.

Conceived by the visionary Sr. Apolina, the statue Our Lady materialized through the masterful artistry of sculptor Shubhroto and the supervision of site manager, Ms. Sheenam Karatria. This collaborative triumph epitomized shared piety and unwavering commitment to venerating the luminous heritage of Venerable Mary Ward.

The assembly then converged upon the hallowed Gonzaga Auditorium for a solemn Holy Mass. In his evocative homily, Bishop Dr. Sahaya Thatheus illuminated the merger’s transcendent significance—a celestial convergence fortifying the Mary Ward family’s sacred mandate of service, enlightenment, and empowerment.

The festivities commenced with the reverent inauguration and consecration of the new statue of the Virgin Mary, a poignant emblem of enduring devotion. This sacred rite was graced by His Lordship, Bishop Dr. Sahaya Thatheus, who invoked divine benedictions and wisdom for the harmonious odyssey ahead of the amalgamated congregations.

The celebrations peaked with a warm fellowship lunch, where clergy, guests, and the Mary Ward family gathered in joyful fellowship and heartfelt gratitude. This simple yet touching meal captured the heart of the merger: two cherished traditions of the Mary Ward family now united as one strong force, moving forward together in faith, hope and love.



Delhi Merger Celebration

27th November 2025

On Thursday, 27th November 2025, the Delhi community had a combined merger celebration at Loreto Convent. We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto, along with several priests, religious, brothers, members of the Friends of Mary Ward, and the families of Sisters Amia, Shanta, and Greta.



Mrs. Manjula Kumar

The evening began with a beautiful Eucharistic celebration in the Mary Ward Auditorium.

In her words of welcome, Sr. Deepa, Provincial of Delhi, warmly greeted the assembly and offered a brief history of the journey towards merger—highlighting the vision, prayer, and commitment that shaped this historic moment for both congregations.

In his homily, Archbishop Anil reminded the congregation that every true union is an act of the Holy Spirit, inviting us to recognise God's gentle yet powerful work in bringing communities together. He also appreciated the courage, openness, and fidelity of the Mary Ward women who have lovingly embraced this new chapter.

Following the Eucharist, the guests were treated to a delicious fellowship dinner, which created a warm and homely atmosphere.

Conversation, laughter, and shared memories made the evening truly special. Before departing, each guest received a small memento—a flask symbolising refreshment, unity and the shared mission—a reminder of the IBVM-CJ union and God's work of oneness in our midst.

It was an evening marked by gratitude, communion, and deep joy—one that will remain memorable for the Delhi community as we continue to walk forward together in the spirit of Mary Ward.

Delhi Merger Celebration



We must wait on God's time, who we must follow, not go before.
-Mary Ward



We are pleased to invite you to join us in celebrating the Merger of
The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM)
with
The Congregation of Jesus (CJ)

**Thursday, 27 November, 2025
6:00 PM**

Loreto Convent, Delhi Cantt.

HOLY EUCHARIST
Will be Presided over by
Most Rev. Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto.
Followed by a fellowship meal.

RSVP
9455103324
9007949806
deepcj@gmail.com
delhicj@loreto.in



WHERE IDENTITY BECOMES COMMUNION

A Witness to Unity

A merger, as defined in the Oxford Dictionary, is the union of two or more organisations into a single entity. When this word was repeatedly used by our then IBVM Sisters, it initially evoked images aligned with that definition. What unfolded, however, was far deeper and more profound.



MRS. NANDINI BHATTACHARJEE

My identity as Nandini has always been inseparable from Loreto. When generations of one's family have studied in the same institution, it ceases to be merely a school—you do not just belong to Loreto; you are Loreto. With this deep-rooted sense of belonging, the announcement in June 2025 that this would be the final Province Assembly as IBVM Sisters struck me with unexpected intensity.

Questions surfaced—would the IBVM Sisters, who had shaped my life, simply disappear, or would they emerge in a different form? These thoughts often left me teary-eyed. And if I, a lay person, felt this so deeply, I could only imagine what the Sisters themselves must have experienced—women whose lives were anchored in God and in the vision of our Foundress, Mary Ward.

On 4th November, we gathered to watch the live streaming of the Canonical Merger and the reading of the Decree. It was solemn and deeply moving. Watching our IBVM Sisters take their oath, alongside nearly 130 participants from five continents at Loyola, marking the merger of the last two branches founded by Mary Ward—the IBVM and the CJ—was a historic and grace-filled moment. History was unfolding before us.

As preparations for the Kolkata celebrations gained momentum, Sisters, Principals, and teams from all seven schools worked with remarkable dedication. Their collective effort culminated in celebrations that truly reflected unity of heart and purpose.

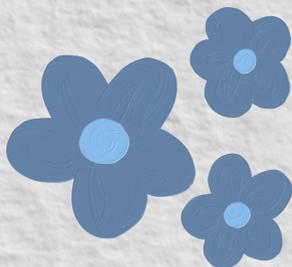
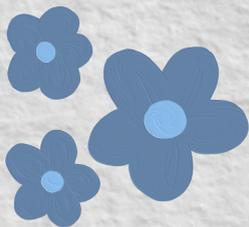
The Eucharistic celebration on 22nd November 2025, presided over by the Archbishop of Kolkata, along with the oath-taking and reading of the Decree, brought us into profound spiritual alignment. Two histories, One Magnificat.

The Thanksgiving Eucharist that followed carried forward our shared Ignatian heritage—two distinct journeys now united in one sacred mission, celebrating the past and embracing the future for the greater glory of God.

In a world fractured by conflict and division, this merger stood as a powerful witness to unity. To see Mary Ward’s dream—“that they may be completely one”—come to fruition was deeply overwhelming.

What touched me most was the inclusiveness of the Sisters, now known as the CJ Sisters. At every step, they ensured that staff and lay colleagues were not merely present, but truly part of the journey. Being involved as a lay person was a lived affirmation of respect, equality, and belonging.

Their magnanimity, spirit of fraternity, and sense of oneness were evident in action. Bringing together past and present employees under one roof, affirming their place within the Loreto family, and enabling them to embrace this amalgamation with hope and confidence was no small achievement. It was unity made visible—and deeply felt.



A DIFFERENT ROLE, THE SAME COMMITMENT: MY EXPERIENCE AT THE IBVM-CJ MERGER CELEBRATION

On 22nd November 2025, at Loreto Convent, Entally, I experienced Loreto in a completely new way. The merger celebration of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) was not just an official programme, it felt spiritual, meaningful, and emotional.



MR. SOURAV SAHA
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER,
LORETO SOUTH ASIA

As an HR professional, my work in Loreto usually revolves around people, their growth, concerns, policies, and overall well-being. But that day, my role was very different. I volunteered to manage the stage LED backdrop during the celebration.

At first, only four backdrops were planned for the entire programme. However, as the discussions continued, of which I became a part of within a week of joining, the plan grew bigger. Four became more than thirty carefully prepared backdrops, each matching a particular speech, prayer, performance, or moment on stage.

Because of this, I had to stay extremely alert throughout the programme. I wasn't just operating a screen, I had to listen carefully to every speech and follow the script. Certain words became my signals. A line about unity, the end of a reflection, or the music before the Eucharistic celebration, each required an immediate change on the screen. I had to constantly watch, listen, and anticipate what would happen next.

I also guided the camera crew during some important moments, for example asking them to zoom in on the LED screen during the video on Loreto's history. This was not part of my assigned duty, but sometimes helping where needed ensures the moment is presented properly.

There were a few small technical and network issues, which are natural in any live event. But what truly stood out was the spirit of togetherness. The choir sang beautifully, and the dances and performances showed the confidence and talent of the students, a glimpse of the future Loreto is building.

The day ended with a wonderful Chinese buffet and a quiet sense of satisfaction. I had stepped away from my regular HR responsibilities and contributed to something beyond administration, something meaningful and historic.

That day reminded me that whether we work behind a desk or behind a screen, sincere service makes every role important.

REFLECTION ON THE MERGER CELEBRATION AT LORETO CONVENT SHIMLA

The Merger Celebration has been a sacred moment of pause and discernment for the Loreto Convent Shimla community. It invited us to look back with gratitude, to stand attentively in the present, and to move forward with trust into the unfolding future of the Loreto mission. More than a structural change, the merger is an invitation to deepen our understanding of who we are and how we are called to serve in today's world.



MS. REETU SHARMA

Rooted in the vision of Mary Ward, Loreto has always responded courageously to the needs of the times. The merger calls us once again to that same spirit of faith and openness. For Loreto Shimla, it affirms that while our context and traditions are unique, we are not alone in our mission. We belong to a wider Loreto family, united by shared values and a common purpose, strengthened through collaboration and mutual support.

This moment has prompted quiet reflection within our school community. It has asked us to examine our readiness to embrace change with humility and hope, and to trust that God continues to guide the journey of Loreto. The celebration became a space of thanksgiving—for the faith-filled presence of the Sisters, for the dedication of our educators, and for the generations of students who have carried the Loreto spirit beyond our walls. It reminded us that the mission entrusted to us is living and dynamic, calling us to continual renewal.

For our students, the merger offers a deeper sense of belonging. It helps them recognise that they are part of a mission larger than themselves—one that transcends geography and time, and invites them to become persons of conscience, compassion, and courage. In this shared identity, they are encouraged to look beyond self-interest and to respond generously to the needs of others.

At the Province level, the merger stands as a quiet, yet powerful witness to unity in diversity. It strengthens our collective commitment to education as a ministry of hope and transformation. As Loreto Convent Shimla, we receive this moment with faith, trusting that as we walk together, God will continue to shape and sustain the Loreto mission for generations to come.

REFLECTIONS ON THE MERGER CELEBRATIONS OF IBVM AND CJ

The Merger of CJ (Congregatio Jesu) and IBVM (Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) was a historic and grace-filled moment in the life of the Institute founded by Mary Ward. For years, CJ and IBVM walked parallel paths, shaped by history and geography, yet united in the same vision – to serve the Church with freedom, courage, and fidelity to truth.



MS. GRACE WILLIAMS

In the beginning, when I heard of the merger, especially where the Loreto Sisters had to change from IBVM to CJ, it felt like we were going to lose our identity as Loreto. But of course, with a lot of talks and discussions, I realized that it was not like that.

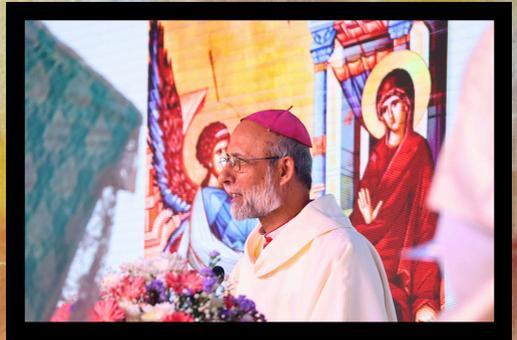
Different cultures, traditions, and experiences now form one global body, strengthening collaboration in education, social outreach, and spiritual ministry. It is a reminder that unity does not diminish uniqueness but harmonizes it for a greater purpose.

Throughout the celebrations, there was a deep sense of thanksgiving for the courageous women who paved the way before us. Their faith, resilience, and fidelity to God's call continue to inspire us. The Loreto Sisters felt a renewed responsibility to carry this legacy forward with creativity and courage, responding to the needs of our times just as Mary Ward did in hers.

As we witnessed the sisters in Kolkata renew their vows, it was a moment of profound grace and inspiration. It was both humbling and uplifting. The celebrations were a reaffirmation of purpose – to seek God in all things and to respond generously to the needs of the times.

The merger is not an end but a new beginning. It calls us to deepen collaboration, strengthen relationships, and walk more intentionally as companions in mission. The IBVM and CJ merger celebrations were thus both a thanksgiving for the past and a promise for the future.

Ultimately, the merger reflects trust in God's ongoing guidance. As Mary Ward believed deeply in "one heart and one mind in God," so too the merged Institute steps forward with renewed energy, committed to seeking justice, promoting freedom, and serving for the greater glory of God. It was indeed a sacred and grace-filled experience that will remain etched in our hearts.



FROM CURIOSITY TO WITNESS

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE KOLKATA MERGER CELEBRATION

I joined the Loreto Provincialate on 16 October 2025 after spending three years in the retail sector. As a student of communication, moving into a communications role at the Provincialate gave me a sense of purpose and inner peace that I had been searching for.



MRS. MOUSUBHA BHATTACHARYA
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
LORETO SOUTH ASIA

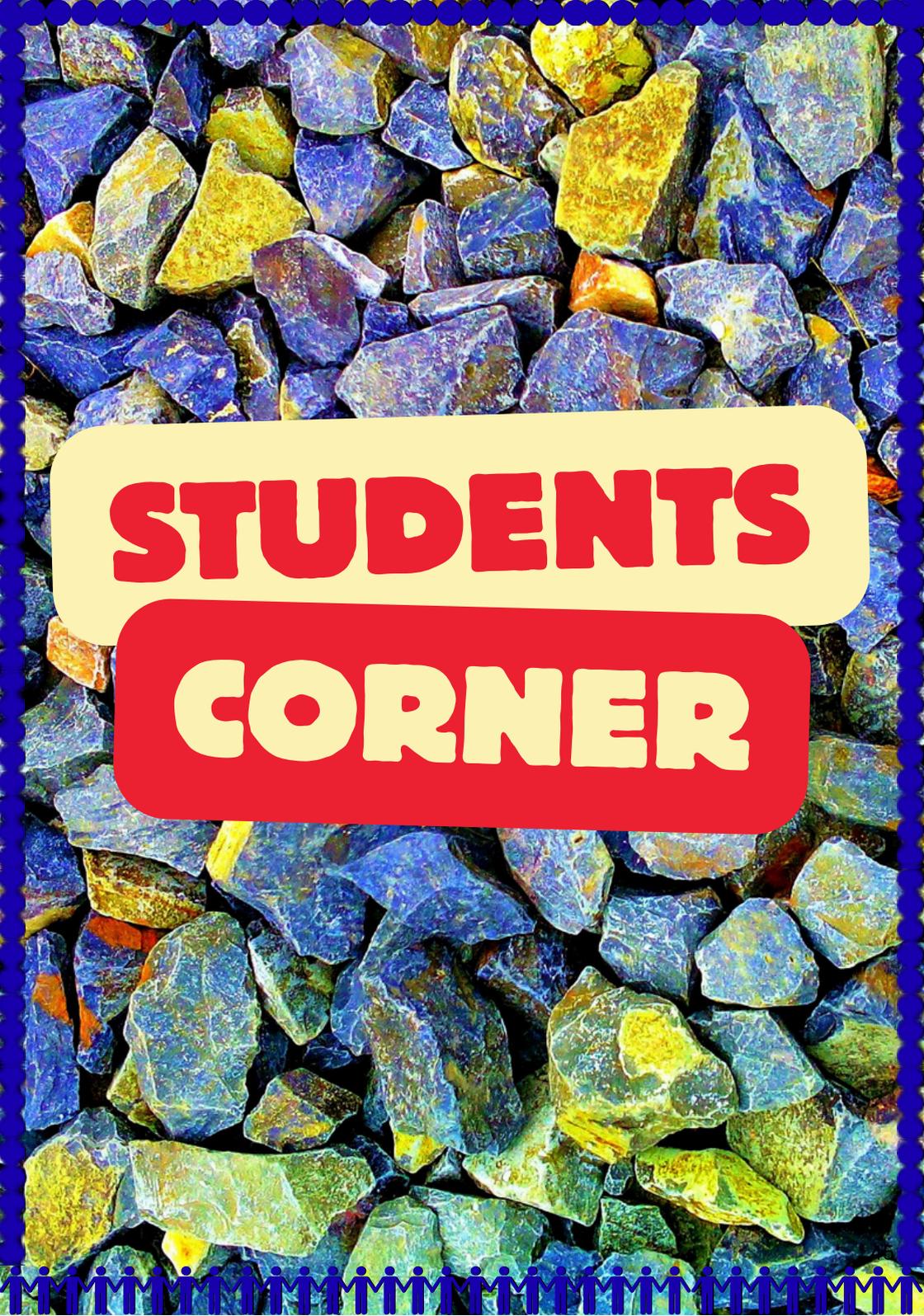
Being able to use my training in a meaningful environment felt like the right path, and the opportunity to contribute during the preparations for the Kolkata Merger Celebration became an added grace.

During my interview, I had first heard Mrs. Nandini Bhattacharjee (Director of Education Board) mention the upcoming merger on 22 November. At the time, I did not fully understand its significance, and she encouraged me to read about Mary Ward, Teresa Ball, and Delphine Hart. Learning about their lives gradually helped me appreciate the depth of the Loreto mission and the dedication of the sisters who continue this legacy today.

As part of the communications work surrounding the event, I reached out to reporters and newspapers to facilitate media coverage of the celebration and helped share the news of Sr. Monica, our Province Leader's participation in the main merger ceremony of the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) in Spain on 4 November 2025, which was broadcast live by the Congregatio Jesu.

When the Kolkata celebration finally took place, even though I was present in a professional capacity, I found myself deeply moved by the rituals, prayers, and the atmosphere of reverence that filled the gathering. For moments, I almost forgot that I was there to work and felt instead like a witness to something historic and sacred. The live singing by Loreto students, the prayerful spirit of the Eucharistic celebration, and the sense of unity among all present created an experience that was both humbling and inspiring.

It was not merely an event to document, but a moment that allowed me to see the living faith, commitment, and mission that continues to guide the Loreto family forward.



STUDENTS

CORNER



A UNITY, LONG UNDERSTOOD

I stood within that living hour of grace,
Where banners breathed and hopes found common place:
As a student shaped by lessons deep and true,
I watched two paths become a single view:
IBVM and CJ-names once said apart,
Yet never distant in their guiding heart.
Two streams that never truly ran apart,
Now named as one, yet always shared one heart.
I looked around-how happiness was clear,
In eager smiles and eyes devoid of fear;
No forced delight, no practised, hollow cheer,
But joy that blooms when unity is near.
For never were these institutes apart
In creed or cause or discipline of heart;
This merger was not change, but truth revealed,
A bond long felt, at last made firm and sealed:
A single voice, yet richer for its blend,
Where means and message seamlessly extend.
This joining felt not like a break or bend,
But like a truth remembered, not an end;
Let unity be kept as guiding light,
For shared belief is where we find our might.
In union lies the strength to rise and grow,
To face tomorrow armed with what we know:
If we, the students, carry this ahead,
Let it be lived, not merely heard or read;
For where one purpose binds both hand and mind,
Success will follow-steady, sure, and kind.



LORETO CONVENT ENTALLY
ROHINI SEN
IX(1)



Homecoming

For centuries they walked apart, yet carried the same flame,

Two branches of one hopeful dream, each known by different name.

Through distant lands and changing times, through silence, storm and sea,

They held one vision in their hearts, to serve with dignity.

From Saint-Omer's quiet, faithful start, that spark began to rise,

A woman dared to trust her call, beneath uncertain skies.

Her courage shaped a living path no borders could divide,

And though the roads grew separate, her spirit was their guide.

The Loreto voice, the CJ light, distinct, yet still the same,

In classrooms filled with restless hope, they kept alive her flame.

In whispered prayers and acts of care, in justice strong and clear,

They proved that love, though stretched by time, was never lost to fear.

Now the circle closes slow, as history bends its way,

Not just a change of written word but dawn of brighter day.

A homecoming of heart and soul, of mission intertwined,

One family beneath one sky, one purpose redefined.

No name can hold what they have built, no title can confine,

The strength of faith that carried them across the fault of time.

Together now they rise as one, with courage calm and sure,

To walk the road that Mary dreamed, united, strong and secure.



ADYA KALRA XI(A) LORETO CONVENT LUCKNOW





Harmony of Hearts: A Choir's Witness

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour...
--- Luke 1:46-56

Standing in the choir at Loreto Entally on 22nd November, 2025, I didn't feel like a student or a singer; I felt like a witness to history unfolding before my very eyes.

As sunlight hit the sprawling green fields of Loreto Entally, brightening the faces of nearly 2,000 sisters, guests, and students, it felt as if the Lord were present with us at that very moment.

We were there to celebrate the canonical merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and Congregacio Jesu (CJ). The event marked the fulfilment of Mary Ward's 400-year-old dream.

Participating in the choir provided me with a unique perspective. I observed a sea of blue and white as sisters from various parts of the South Asia province gathered together.

The theme for that day was "Two Histories, One Magnificat," and the choir began with a beautiful hymn. In a choir, different vocal types—Sopranos, Altos, Mezzos, Tenors—combine to create a harmonious whole.

That morning, as our voices united, it felt as if two branches of the family of Mary Ward were doing the same as they came together to create one beautiful song of praise.

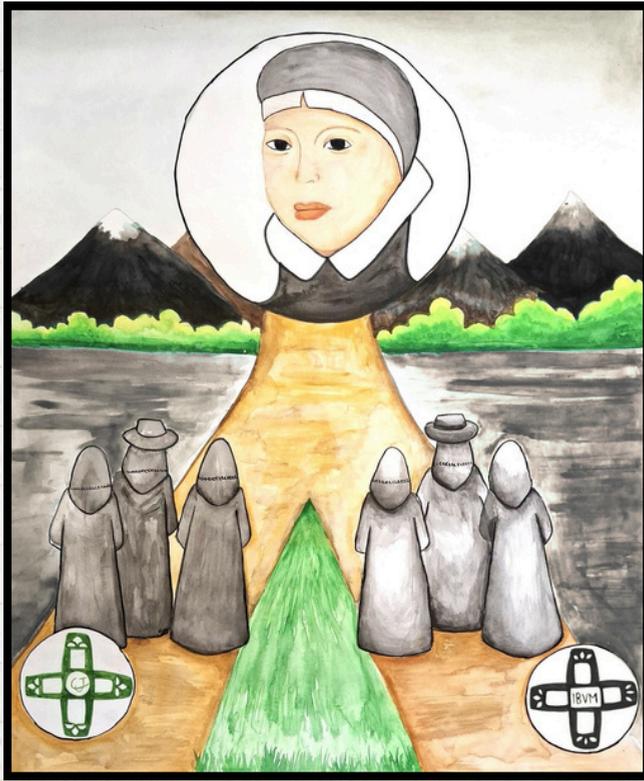
The most poignant moment for me was the Eucharistic celebration, when the sisters transitioned from the Loreto Cross to the CJ emblem. As we sang, the sisters pinned their new badges. It was a sacred and silent exchange that was filled with our music. Although the symbols of their institutions have changed, the aim of their mission remained steady like the baton of our conductor.

Moreover, Loreto Entally, with its rich historical roots and connection to Mother Teresa's early life, felt like the perfect "cradle" for this new beginning. I felt the weight of the past 184 years of Loreto in India, but also the electric energy of the future. The cultural program that followed was a riot of colour and joy, a celebration of the "Magis" spirit that defines us all.

As the final notes of our hymn resonated into the applause of the mass, I felt a profound sense of pride. We were singing a bridge between the past, present and future. The merger of IBVM and CJ was a union of hearts and minds.

AISHANI DAS
VIII(A)
LORETO DAY SCHOOL,
DHARAMTALA





LORETO CONVENT ASANSOL

URSA ADHIKARY
VII(A)

ARCHISA CHAKRABORTY
VII(B)



A Flame Across Time: From Mary Ward to Today

The merger of the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) is a historic moment for the Loreto family. Inspired by Mary Ward, both congregations have always shared the same spirit, mission, and values. Though separated by historical circumstances, they remained united in vision. The merger in the 21st century fulfils Mary Ward's dream of oneness.

A Brief History of the Merger

Mary Ward envisioned a world where girls would be educated with freedom, courage, and dignity. Over time, her followers became divided into different groups, later known as CJ and IBVM. Though they worked separately, they lived the same charism. With Mary Ward recognised as the common foundress, the long journey of separation finally led to unity through this merger.

Eucharistic Celebration

The celebration was held on 8 November 2025 at Loreto Convent Asansol. The Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Cyprian Monis, was solemn and prayerful. Through hymns and thanksgiving, we understood that this merger was not merely administrative but a deeply spiritual moment of unity.

Cultural Programme: The Light That Never Fades

Students presented a skit titled "The Light That Never Fades," tracing the journey from Mary Ward's vision to Teresa Ball's courageous mission of establishing Loreto at Rathfarnham after learning from the sisters in York. The play highlighted sacrifice, faith, and unity maintained across distance through letters and prayer.

Enacting Mary Ward and Teresa Ball helped us understand their courage, obedience, and trust in God. Acting together as sisters strengthened our sense of unity. The symbolic passing of a lit candle represented the legacy entrusted to us. A graceful dance to "You Raise Me Up" beautifully concluded the celebration.

Conclusion

The merger reminded us that Loreto is a living legacy. The light lit centuries ago continues to guide us, and it is now our responsibility to carry it forward.



SAMPURNA GANGULY
XI COMMERCE



RIDHIMA VANESSA GUPTA
XI COMMERCE

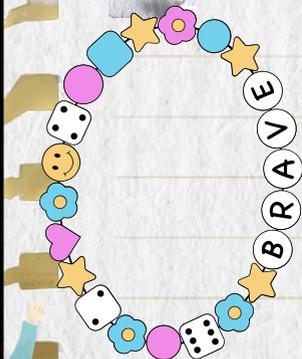
Metamorphosis of Me



I cracked the mirror, saw shadows fade.
Old habits peeled like winter skin.
Each breath a brushstroke, softer shade,
Choosing light over the dark I'd been.
Stumbling steps turned into stride
Mistakes turned compost for new roots.
Forgiveness whispered, pride set aside,
Growth humming in the cracks of doubts.
Now I stand—not perfect, just braver,
A version forged by choice, not fate.
The old me rests, the new one savours,
Every sunrise, every chance to be great.
Change isn't a sprint, it's a steady climb!

LORETO CONVENT
PANIGHATTA

SHARON LEPCHA
X



COLLECTED
ONLINE





A LEGACY UNITED

At first, when I heard about the merger of the CJ and IBVM Sisters, I didn't really grasp how important it was. To me, they had always simply been "the Loreto Sisters", the warm, gentle presence in our corridors, the ones who prayed with us in the chapel and constantly reminded us to "be more." It was only gradually that I understood that they belonged to two branches of the same spiritual family.

Being present at the event along with the Student Council, our teachers, and the guests made the moment feel even more significant. There was a sense that something historic was taking place. It wasn't dramatic or loud, but it carried a quiet depth. As the Sisters spoke about unity, a shared mission, and reconnecting with their original vision inspired by Mary Ward, I realised this was much more than a formal announcement; it was a return to their roots.

What moved me the most was the visible happiness among the Sisters. The occasion did not feel administrative; it felt deeply spiritual. There was an atmosphere filled with gratitude and hope. Watching Sisters from different countries and traditions stand together as one congregation truly felt like witnessing a long-awaited reunion.

The prayer service and the singing especially stayed with me. As we sang together, I felt a strong sense of unity within our entire school community. It made me understand that this merger was not merely an organisational decision, but a step towards renewed strength. Hearing that their mission of educating girls and empowering women would continue with even greater strength gave me a feeling of security. It reassured me that the values we learn every day are part of something far bigger and global.

For me, this merger represents unity, reconciliation, and the courage to move forward while remaining faithful to a common vision. It showed me that sometimes progress means coming back together. Knowing that the CJ and IBVM Sisters are now officially united inspires me deeply. It strengthens my belief that unity is possible even after long years of separation, and that faith can truly guide meaningful change.

More than anything, I feel proud. I feel that I am part of something historic, not simply reading about it in textbooks, but experiencing it within my own school community.

Preksha Srivastava

IX 'A'

LORETO CONVENT RANCHI





LORETO CONVENT RANCHI

SHANAYA GUPTA
IX (A)



NASIB KOYA
IX (A)

LORETO CONVENT, PANIGHATTA



A COMMUNION OF HEARTS AND MISSION

On 04 November 2025, the two branches of Mary Ward's Institute, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) formally united as one congregation, the Congregatio Jesu. The historic merger was solemnized during a Mass in Loyola, Spain, the birthplace of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. From that day, 1,880 sisters serving in over 40 countries began continuing the mission of Venerable Mary Ward as a single global congregation.

This union was not prompted by decline, but by a shared conviction that collaboration would more effectively advance Mary Ward's vision of educating women and serving all with sincerity, purity, joy, and truth. Founded in 1609, her apostolic institute, modelled on the Society of Jesus envisioned an active, non-cloistered community of women dedicated to God's compassion and service. Though later divided into two branches, both retained the same charism.

Their unification preserves their distinct histories while strengthening common values and mission. As Sister Carmel Swords CJ (former institute leader of IBVM) observed, "Together we are stronger. We move forward filled with gratitude and a desire to serve God's people in freedom and joy."

This merger not only preserves the legacy of their foundress, but also amplifies their shared commitment and resources, fostering deeper global solidarity. Consequently, the emergence of this unified sisterhood represents a significant strengthening of their capacity to fulfil Mary Ward's mission in contemporary contexts. The merged congregation is now better positioned to enhance its global impact on education and social justice, reinforcing its commitment to women and marginalised communities in contemporary society.

For us as students, this merger is a reminder that differences do not divide us, they strengthen us. It teaches us that when people come together with a common purpose, they create something more powerful and meaningful. It inspires us to live the values we learn in school, to be truthful, compassionate, confident and strong.

As we move forward under one name, we carry forward one spirit - united in faith, united in mission and united in hope for the future.

Vaani Jain
XI B





From Rehearsals to History A Moment I Will Always Treasure

On November 22, 2025, the city of Kolkata witnessed a historic event. Loreto Convent Entally served as the venue for a significant spiritual reunion. Following the recent global merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM - Loreto Sisters) and the Congregatio Jesu (CJ) in Spain, the South Asia Province gathered in Kolkata to formally celebrate their new unified identity.

Themed "Becoming One," the event marked the end of 416 years of separation. Both orders, founded by the English visionary Venerable Mary Ward in the 17th century, had been divided due to historical pressures. The celebration at Entally exemplified the realisation of Mary Ward's original vision—a single religious institute dedicated to women.

It was a great honour to participate in this historic union. A group of student from various Loreto schools across Kolkata performed a brief enactment depicting the long journey of IBVM. Through rehearsals, I learned that true sisterhood lies in unity. The collective effort of each girl was commendable.

The rehearsal sessions fostered a warm, familial atmosphere, enhanced by shared jokes and gentle corrections. Even the teachers contributed to creating a welcoming environment. Despite meeting only some attendees beforehand, by the final rehearsal, unfamiliar faces became like family—reflecting my love and commitment to the Loreto Institute.

Although we encountered mistakes and setbacks, each participant was motivated by a sincere desire to portray our story with excellence. This effort was driven not by obligation but by genuine dedication. As someone whose educational journey is deeply rooted in Loreto and its principles, I felt a profound connection to every scene of the performance.

It was more than a presentation; it was a tribute to those who shaped my path. Despite societal challenges such as patriarchy and misogyny, our spirit remains resilient. Our wings symbolise not only the ability to soar but also the aspirations of those who fought for us.

This experience has been truly enriching, and I sincerely hope the memories created during this remarkable event will become lifelong treasures.

**MABESHA DAS
IX (B)
LORETO DAY SCHOOL,
BOWBAZAR**



My Faith Experience at the Kolkata Merger Celebration
Loreto Convent, Entally

22 November 2025

Standing at the altar on the day of the Kolkata Merger Celebration—22nd November, a date forever etched in the heart of our Province—I found myself at a threshold moment where history, grace, and mission converged with astonishing power. As I received the vows of our 45 sisters and placed the new CJ emblem—the cross of our unified identity—around their necks, something profoundly transformative stirred within the deepest chambers of my spirit.



Sr. Monica Suchiang CJ

This was far more than a ceremony. It was a spiritual homecoming—a sacred watershed moment in our collective journey as women religious.

In that holy instant, I sensed with overwhelming clarity the mystery of God’s faithfulness: how the Divine Weaver gathers our personal journeys, our diverse histories, and even our differences into one radiant tapestry of mission. The merger of IBVM and CJ is not merely an administrative integration; it is a spiritual rebirth—a quiet Pentecost for our time. As I looked into the eyes of each sister renewing her “yes” to God, I felt the Spirit whisper with unmistakable tenderness: “This is holy ground.”

The weight of the CJ cross in my hands carried significance far beyond its physical form. It held our shared charism, the enduring Mary Ward heritage entrusted to us across centuries and the sacred responsibility given to us by the universal Church. Giving the emblem to each sister became an act of blessing—an anointing—sealing this new chapter in which we walk forward as one Mary Ward family, united in purpose and bound in love.

The quiet strength of each sister’s self-offering—spoken and unspoken—moved me deeply. Their commitment, steady and unwavering like mountains, awakened within me a renewed sense of responsibility, a tender maternal care, and a hope brighter than any darkness we may encounter. In those moments, I felt God drawing me personally into a deeper covenant:

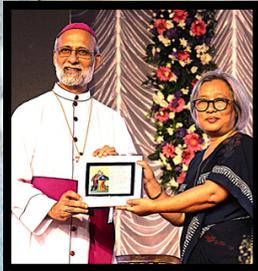
“Lead with courage that comes from Me.

Lead with tenderness that reflects My heart.

Lead with faith that sees beyond the visible.”

There was a moment—I cannot say exactly when—when tears filled my eyes. Not tears of sentiment, but of holy awe: awe at the mysterious ways God moves through our fragile, finite lives; awe at the unity before me—not uniformity, but

My Faith Experience at the Kolkata Merger Celebration Loreto Convent, Entally



harmony woven from our beautiful diversity; and awe in realizing that I was not merely presiding over a celebration, but participating in God's eternal dream for us—a dream conceived before time and now unfolding in ours.

This experience has deepened my conviction that our mission is alive, dynamic and continually shaped by the Spirit's gentle yet urgent promptings. It has strengthened my faith that we are being led into a future where our companionship, our service to the marginalized and our prophetic witness will shine with even greater clarity in a world hungering for authentic love.

A moment that touched me with particular tenderness was when I received my own emblem from one of our senior-most sisters. In that simple yet sacred gesture, I felt the weight and wonder of our lineage. I became deeply aware that who we are today is because of them—women who prayed, laboured, sacrificed, and carried the charism with unwavering fidelity through the decades. Their hands, weathered by years of loving service, placed the emblem in mine, and I felt as though they were handing over not just a symbol, but a legacy—one shaped by courage, endurance, and boundless faith.

In that moment, I understood with clarity and conviction:

Now it is our time:

Our time, as 21st-century CJ sisters, to write a new chapter of the Mary Ward story.

Our time to create a legacy that will speak to future generations.

Our time to carry forward the fire they kept burning and let it shine with renewed relevance, daring and compassion in a rapidly changing world.

Receiving the emblem was, for me, both a blessing and a commissioning—a reminder that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and that the future is now entrusted to our hands.

As I stepped down from the altar at the conclusion of the celebration, what lingered in my heart was not weariness but a quiet, unshakeable certainty:

*God is with us in this moment.
God walks ahead of us, preparing the way.*

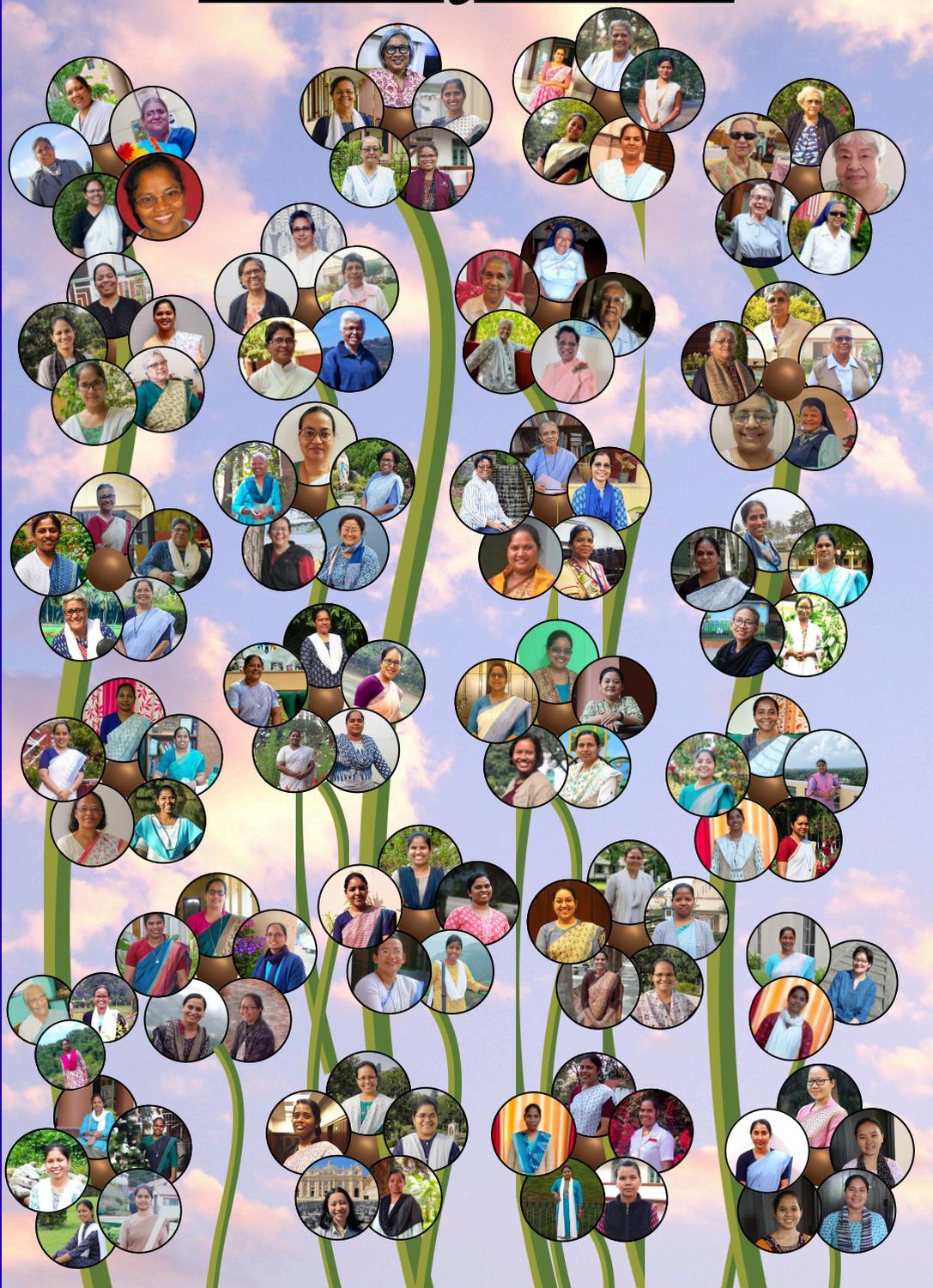
And God is working through us, transforming our “yes” into miracles beyond our imagining.

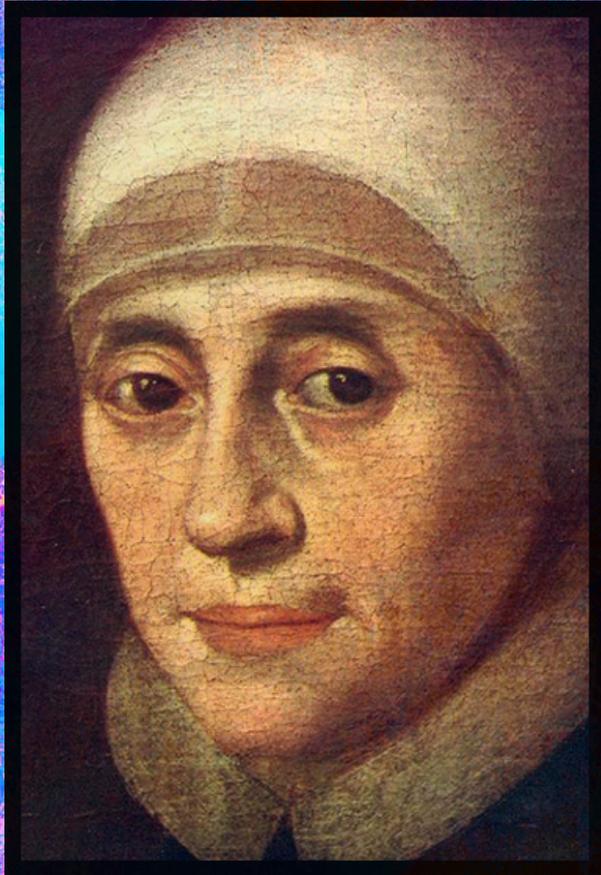
This is truly our kairos moment—and I am profoundly grateful to walk this sacred path with these remarkable women of faith.

The name Congregation of Jesus humbles and inspires me. It calls us to live ever more like Jesus—compassionate, courageous, just and loving.

As we embrace this new identity, we carry forward the enduring light of Mary Ward and the richness of our Ignatian heritage. May this new chapter lead us to greater fidelity to God's dream for us.

Our Family Members





**GOD'S WORK
THE BEGINNING, MIDDLE,
AND THE END.
- MARY WARD**