



DELHI DISHA

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PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

July - august 2016

News and events From our communities Ramnee, nainital

The natural splendor and the cool breeze of Ramnee brought a pleasant relief to all the sisters from the humid summer days during the three day Mary Ward conference by Sr. Gemma Simmonds. It was a fruitful time of spiritual enrichment and an occasion of union of hearts and minds. The month of June ended with many goodbyes and welcome along with the arrival of torrential downpour from heavens above.

Bro. O. A Ballantyne (86years) one of the Christian brothers of St. Joseph's College went for his eternal reward on 28th June. Although he died in Goa his body was brought to St. Joseph's for the last rites and is buried in Jeolikote. Our community actively supported the small community of Brothers extending our help towards the final journey of Brother Ballantyne whom many of us knew for years.

We were happy to welcome twenty Jesuits from Vidhya Jyoti, Delhi who came for their annual colloquium; they were highly impressed by the hospitality received and the natural, peaceful beauty of Nainital.

A group of four students from class 12 went to Birla School for the 2nd Sarla Birla Memorial Business Quiz and proved their worth by securing the second position among the 16 schools present for the competition. Our senior girls joined in the 66th 'Vanmahotsav'; the annual tree plantation

festival organized by the Forest Department



and planted many saplings with an aim to promote Forest conservation and preservation of environment. Ramnee girls also participated in a Peace March organized jointly by the Hill Schools Association and Templeton Academy, Bhimtal on 6th August to Commemorate Hiroshima Day. It was held to appeal to the world leaders to abolish nuclear weapons to make the earth a better place to live in and safeguard the future generations yet to be born.

Srs. Tarsicia and Isabel attended a deanery level meeting in Suchethana, Kathgodam for the evaluation of our 'Mercy Year' action plan and its implementation. Representatives from all the parishes and various institutions were present and a well-planned feedback session was organized by Rev. Bishop Ignatius D' Souza during which everyone expressed about their own individual/community project. The Bishop also stressed on the upcoming historical event of Mother Teresa's Canonization. As part of the canonization and as proud Catholics, a

number of activities were proposed in order to give the best tribute to Mother Teresa in our schools and parishes. Diocesan and school level Competitions such as drawing, sketching, speech, debate, elocution, essay writing etc. are going on in full swing at Ramnee.

In honor of the Feast of St. Ignatius we had a solemn High Mass concelebrated by three fathers from Patna. These fathers along with Srs. Lydia, Justina, Letitia had come to visit Sr. Stella. They were with us for a day. Their visit brought much joy and happiness to Sr. Stella.

As usual the families of rag pickers were given the ration, the number reaching up to 24 families. This sharing and caring aspect of 'Mercy' fill us with contentment and joy.

Fr. John Rogers S J, the National promoter of the LTS, came to rejuvenate our girls in efficient leadership and agents of social change. All the LTS students renewed their pledge. Ten of them along with Sr. Digna attended the regional camp held in Delhi from 4th to 7th August. As part of their project 40 of



them visited St. Anthony's School Jeolikote on 13th August; they interacted with the students and extended both monetary and material help.

Nainital City Club organized a football tournament in which our Nirmala Junior High

School boys participated and received a rolling trophy for the third position among 17



schools. Mayank Arya was named the best player of the tournament and was awarded for his outstanding performance (one holding the individual trophy).

In the month of August Sr. Deepa formed 'Friends of Mary Ward' involving the middle school students. The official oath taking ceremony and formal announcement will be held soon. They have emerged as a group to grow in the spirit of Mother Mary Ward and to promote her values among the students and parents; they are keen to reach out to the poor and needy.

Now and then our night guards see leopards enter into our campus and we are alerted. Even if we have not encountered one, the news leave everyone shell shocked especially the boarders while some of us want to have a selfie with the beast.

The feast of the Assumption of Mother Mary and the 70th Independence Day was celebrated with all its significance. Ramneeites showcased a colorful performance with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. After the celebration the boarders went home for the feast of Rakshabandan, while the community had our monthly recollection and a time of relaxation as the monsoon pours and pours refreshing and recharging us uniquely...

As part of the action plan of the diocese for this Year of Mercy, Kathgodam deanery made a pilgrimage to Bazpur, Shrine of Our Lady - one of the 'Holy Doors' for this year; some of us were part of this pilgrimage and made arrangements for our Catholic co-workers to be part of it. It was a day of prayer and rich experience.

During our Annual CRI (Conference of



Religious India) meeting of Bareilly diocese our Bishop encouraged the religious to make the action plan for the year of mercy. As CJs in Bareilly diocese, sisters from our four communities who were present for the meeting came together and in our discussion we had decided to make a house for a poor catholic in Jeolikote. We are very happy that our target is completed and Mrs. Shanti has a good house to live in with her sons and family.

PuranPur

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience”. (Colossians3:12)

The months of July and August ushered in plenty of important and memorable activities and celebrations. On 1st July Sr. Deepti took charge of St. Joseph’s senior secondary school, Puranpur. Fr. Tony Andrade SJ conducted a seminar for teachers on 2nd July. His sessions and power point presentations

inspired and challenged the teachers to be more dedicated and committed in serving the students who have been entrusted to their care. The understanding of the ‘total vision of education’ presented by Fr. Tony brought in a great deal of enthusiasm and eagerness through their group activities and discussions. It was a day of joy and mirth as we had the meal together at about 1:30pm followed by a staff meeting by our new principal Sr. Deepti. The whole day’s programme was concluded with a thanksgiving prayer by Rev. Fr. Salvadore D’ Souza.

On 4th July the school reopened after the summer vacation and on 5th July Sr. Deepti was officially welcomed by the entire school from Pre-Nursery to class 12. The school had organized a short programme and Fr. Salu introduced Sr. Deepti to the staff and students assembled in front of the school. Finally she thanked the teachers and students and in her maiden speech she reminded the students to be responsible, obedient and hardworking. She enlightened the students to have a change in their attitudes in order to enable them to bring a transformation in their own lives, in their family, in the school and in the society where they live.

Fr. Salu, Sr. Annette, parish council and catechists went to Polyganj on 6th July to attend a meeting organized by Bareilly diocese on 'Evaluation of Mission Work' in Polyganj deanery. The response was very positive even though it was raining continuously for three days. We had a perilous journey to Polyganj as the roads were flooded with rain water. Thanks be to God, all were safe! Rev. Bishop Ignatius D’ Souza was also present for this meeting. He thanked all the participants specially the catechists for their great zeal in reaching out to the remote areas of the diocese to make the name of Jesus known to them and spreading God’s kingdom among the people who live in the villages far away from the cities and towns.

On 21st July Sr. Deepti went to Delhi to attend the meeting of Superiors and Principals in the provincial house and she returned on 24th July with great enthusiasm and on the same day she shared all the important points in the community.

From the Forest Department we received some saplings and they were planted in the school compound by the staff and students, reminding all of us to keep the environment green and clean.

The feast of Sr. Annette was celebrated on 26th July. In the morning we had a very meaningful holy mass in the parish church. On this day we were lucky to have the first rainy holiday which made it possible for all the inmates of the church compound to have lunch with us in the convent.

On the following day the primary wing wished Sr. Annette during a small programme arranged by them. Our Manager Fr. Salu and Principal Sr. Deepti were present for the programme. The generosity of Fr. Salu was to be appreciated since he was kind enough to gladden the little hearts of the primary children with a 'munch' before they left the school. The staff also wished her and laddos and munch were given to them.

Sr. Sudeepti attended a seminar for the catechism teachers in Kathgodam. While returning, Srs. Lousia and Jyoti from Pipariya could not proceed further due to heavy rain and found shelter here with us.

In honour of Mother Theresa, the school had various competitions conducted, like drawing, painting, essay writing and elocution. The students also had Inter-House Football Match and now the students are busy preparing for the half yearly exams.

Sr. Pratima, our provincial and Sr. Assunta paid a visit to us on 8th August. While Sr. Assunta was busy seeing to the house account

Sr. Pratima visited our parish priest and met each of us. On the following day after the Holy Mass and breakfast both of them left for Jeolikote.

The Independence Day and the feast of Assumption were celebrated in a fitting manner. The day commenced with a holy mass which was attended by almost all the parishioners. The melodious hymns sung by the teachers enabled us to pray with great devotion and love. Then we had the flag hoisting by Sr. Deepti followed by Speeches, Dances, One Act Play and Quawali by the students which added colour to the programme. The day's celebration came to an end with a speech by Fr. Salu and distribution of sweets to the students.

On 16th some officials from Puranpur enlightened the students about the safety rules they should be aware of, while driving two wheelers on the road and the safety measures to be taken care of. On the following day nine of our students from 2015- 2016 batch received Rs. 30,000/-each as Kanya Vidhya Dhan from the government at a function organized in Piliphit.

On 23rd was the first death anniversary of Chindu, one of our parishioners. All of us went to her house in a village called Khandepur and Fr. Salu offered the Holy Mass in their house, thereafter we shared the meal with them and returned home about 7:00 pm .

The feast of Saint Monica, the patron saint of all the Mothers, was celebrated in our Parish. The mothers of our parish organized a meaningful liturgy. The solemn mass commenced with lighted candle procession by the Mahilas. The intercessory prayers, offertory procession, meaningful and prayerful hymns sung by the youth helped the faithful to pray with devotion and faith. After the Mass, refreshments were served to all present. At the end of the month we started

the nine- day novena in preparation for the feast of Our Lady on 8th September. Happy feast of Mother Mary to all!

Jesu Bhawan

Greetings from Jesu Bhawan! The month of July brings in a lot of celebrations. So we had a community celebration on 14th July in honour of the feast of Srs. Pratima, Rinalda, birthday of Sr. Joseline, the welcoming of Sr. Sanjita and the farewell of Sr. Maria, leaving the only person, Sr. Divya, to be the host of the day.

After the school had reopened in the plains we had a gathering of animators, principals and few teaching sisters from all our communities. This was an experience of being in a class room for three days. But the resource persons and Sr. Pratima kept us awake and active throughout. All left for their respective places, enriched and with eagerness to start anew.

At the end of all the hustle- bustle of hectic days we also found a day of rest in the presence of the Lord, reflecting on the compassion of Jesus and our response to His call to be compassionate in our turn. This was also in preparation for the celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius. We were privileged to join this great feast with S.J fathers at Shahabad. During the solemn mass in their renovated school hall, three Jesuit priests pronounced their final commitment. This added to the solemnity of the celebration.

Sr. Pratima went to visit our sisters at Falna. Sr. Rekha came for her eye checkup and the doctor was pleased



with the improvement and gave her suitable spectacles. Sr. Rinalda went to Mayur Vihar to complete her visits to the dentist. Meanwhile our dogs - Pixy and Tuffy were not well and they needed to visit the doctor for a few days. Thus they had a ride in the capital. Finally Tuffy had to undergo an ear surgery which was not so simple. His guardian, Sr. Sanjita had to sign the papers of consent before he was taken to the operation theatre. Thanks to Sanjita and Marianus who took care of him for a month he is now free from his ear problem.

Mr. Kashyap Vepari came to audit the house accounts on 21st evening. Thanks to Sr. Assunta who came early and helped all our Delhi based superiors to get ready for this his work went very fast and smooth. He left on 25th August. Sr. Pratima too left on the same day to meet our sisters of Jhansi region and returned home on 1st September. As the rainy days are on many people are falling sick very frequently. We reach out to our neighbours (Shahabad communities) in their needs. By the grace of God, flood and other calamities have not visited us. But unwanted guests like porcupines and neelgais pay us visits and feast on our garden.

We wish you all a very Happy Feast on the Birth Day of Mother Mary! A very Happy Teachers Day too!

St. Francis, Jhansi

4th September was a proud, joyful day for India. Our very own Mother Teresa whom we have seen, touched and listened to was canonised by Pope Francis. We sat glued to the T.V. from 1:30 p.m. enjoying, relishing everything that was going on there in Rome. Thank you dear Mother Teresa for being a mother to us!

5th September was a much looked forward day 'The Teachers' Day'. The celebrations began with a meaningful prayer service which highlighted the contributions of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to the field of education. The cultural programme that followed was indeed very entertaining. Sr. Jessy – the Principal exhorted the students to be like Mary Ward, Mother Teresa.... and the brave girl Malala who by their lives made a difference to the World. The celebrations culminated with a grand lunch for the Teachers.

5th was also important to us for another reason. The Catholic Diocese of Jhansi celebrated 'Mother Teresa' – the Sainthood conferred on her by the church. Every school in the diocese was asked to celebrate the day in a spectacular way. Accordingly we put up an exhibition for the parents depicting her birth, childhood, teachings, loving services rendered to the poor and her struggles to be what God wanted her to be. The exhibition was creative and effective.

In the evening at 4:00 p.m. we (parishioners included) all gathered in St. Jude's Shrine which was tastefully decorated, to attend the Solemn High Mass offered by our Bishop along with the Priests. The melodious singing made it all the more beautiful and joyful. After the Eucharistic celebration a cultural programme in which our students also participated was organized in Christ the King Academy. The organizers saw to it that all those who gathered were provided with dinner.

8th September the Birthday of our Blessed Mother! It was celebrated in a befitting manner. The devotees flocked to the church to show their love and affection towards

Mother Mary. It was amazing to see their faith in her.

It was also the GIRL CHILD Day. Class 10 B, conducted an inspiring prayer service on the theme, 'Give her wings so that she can fly.' They very creatively brought out some of the causes of neglecting the girl child and how the situation can be redeemed. Carefully selected songs, dances, skits gave it a magical touch.

We had our monthly recollection along with sisters of Raksa community on 13th. Fr. David, Parish Priest of St. Michael's Church, Raksa was the resource person. The talk on 'Community Living', the long hours of adoration and the celebration of the holy Eucharist..... brought us close to God and to one another. It was a wonderful experience to be with them and to pray together.

Sr. Louisa's nieces and nephew were given a warm welcome on the 14th. Their presence and the abundance of love showered on her made her radiant with joy. We wish her many such visits. They left Jhansi the next day.

On 25th we went on a picnic to Rajghat Dam. We had a lovely time there. As we returned home we carried along with us a stock of energy to push us ahead into the next few months.

We were privileged to have trained a few of our L.T.Sers by two Army Personnel to control the traffic at our gate. They are doing their job pretty well.

Sr. Maria Rose is working very hard making use of every resource available to do well in her examination which is fast approaching. Our teacher Mrs. Anju Mansharamani is

taking keen interest in her and helping her in every way possible.

Our evening school “The Mary Ward School” is growing slowly under the able guidance of Sr. Reena. The strength of the school has doubled. May it continue to grow.

St. Jude’s Shrine is getting ready for its Golden Jubilee Celebration in the coming month of October. All are cordially invited to the feast and receive special blessings from the Lord through St. Jude.

“You are created to make someone else’s life better – someone needs what you have – your smile, love and encouragement.”

GOD BLESS YOU

NatioNal GeNeral MeetiNG of JPiC, Loreto SchoolS

Loreto Sisters had their National General Meeting from 16th to 18th September 2016 at Loreto Convent School, New Delhi Cantt, with the theme “Urjha”. This meeting was special because students’ representatives were invited for this meeting. Each school sent two student representatives and two teachers; both the teachers and students were a very vibrant, energetic and enthusiastic group. The meeting began with the invocation of God’s blessings through a meaningful prayer service conducted by the students.

The coordinators of the event, Ms. Suneet Singh and Sumita Biswas, teachers from

Kolkata, shared the agenda. Each school was asked to give a report of their activities done throughout the year. One could see the creativity of the groups in the choice of the means they used in presenting the report - songs, dances, street plays and power point presentations, a treat indeed to the eyes and ears!

On 17th morning the presentation continued by the students. Then there were panel discussions, the eminent speakers were from reputed organizations which are working for the environment, Global warming etc. Each one expressed his/her views, and shared how we contribute to carbon emission. They also asked us to calculate carbon footprint, environment footprint and water footprint. Carbon emission can be minimized through the judicious use of electricity, fuel, vehicle etc. The alarming truth revealed was that we will need two earths by 2030, if we continue to use the resources the same way we do now. Hence the request was to become responsible consumers. Since we are creating demand the corporate world provides it, and there is no limit to buying. Protecting the earth has to be our main concern in whatever we do. War and urbanization are the main cause for climate change. The suggested strategies for urban sustainability are:-

- Minimize dependence on imported resources
- Create circular-production and consumption –patterns.
- Minimize waste and pollution.

We have to change our life style. Each one is an agent of change. We have gone away from the habit of reusing. We try to take away all

the resources from the earth. Education should arm us with ability to contribute to the sustainability of the earth. We are badly bitten by consumerism.

Make young people more empowered, because they can mobilize the world and lead it to a better world and because they are the present of the world.

The entire activities were centered around the SDG – Sustainable Development Goals of UN. Sr. Nirmala representative of Loreto to UN dealt deeply on SDG. The goals are inter connected and the 13th goal, protect the planet, is taken for action. Thinking and planning for long term effect, they decided to take up two activities. They are:-

- Loreto Schools in India commits to dedicate one lakh trees to the nation by 2020.
- Loreto schools in India commit to make their schools carbon neutral by 2020

Children shared their action plan to fulfill the commitment to plant one lakh saplings and making the school carbon free.

There was an exposure visit to TERI - the Energy and Resource Institute-University, Vasant Kunj. This University is globally recognized for its contribution to scientific and policy research in the realms of energy, environment and sustainable development. Ms. Fawzia Tarannum addressed the group and explained the need of conservation of water. The current market is about profit maximization. A sense of belongingness to the water resources has to be developed. The abuse of the natural resources will harm the

humans. Nature doesn't need people but people need nature. In the process of the session she also conducted few group activities with the students.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks followed by a prayer service.

Sr. Lucy CJ

AMDG