



# DELHI DISHA

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PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

MARCH - APRIL 2017

## NEWS AND EVENTS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

### JEOLIKOTE

Energized by the daily inspiring and practical messages received during liturgy in the Lenten season, some of the sisters went to families daily for the Way of the Cross. On 11<sup>th</sup> March we were shocked and saddened to hear of the brutal death of Mrs. Samta Bhatt's husband who was killed along with twelve para-military soldiers by the Naxalites in Chhattisgarh. Most of us visited Samta's family and offered our condolence and prayers. Kindly remember the family in your prayers.

As a preparation for the final exam we conducted subject wise quiz for all the classes in which children as well as teachers took great interest. We also gave out prizes for academic excellence and House activities.

We spent 13<sup>th</sup> March in prayer and recollection. Sr. Vinita gave an excellent input session, based on the guidelines given by Pope Francis, on how to observe the Lenten season and come closer to Jesus. In the same evening our Bishop Ignatius paid us a short visit along with USF General and five Provincials.

8<sup>th</sup> March - International Women's Day - was celebrated by the ChildFund in our School Hall. About 350 women from different villages participated. Group dance, group song, and fancy dress competitions were held based on the theme, 'Protection and

Empowerment of Women and Girl Children'. Most of them secured prizes and gifts for their efforts.

Mahila Sangh of our parish took part in the denary level competitions held at Suchetana, Kathgodam. They bagged the first prize in group dance and a third in painting.

On 22<sup>st</sup> Wednesday three SDB fathers and a Holy Cross sister miraculously escaped from a very dangerous car accident that took place on the PWD Road leading to our convent. The car rolled down the hill and landed on the main road at 6.30 pm. With the immediate help of the police and the people of Jeolikote they were taken out of the car, and were rushed to the hospital. Thank God for saving them from sure death.

On 28<sup>th</sup> about 70 Youth of Kathgodam denary spent a day in prayer in our parish. The day was spent in adoration, confession, Holy Mass and concluded with the Way of the Cross on the provincial hill at 3.00 p.m.



On 31<sup>st</sup> the Youth Cross of Barielly Diocese was brought to the parish church solemnly from the Bana Church. A meaningful prayer service was conducted by our youth leading the whole parish in prayer.

Our garden looks very beautiful with variety of flowers welcoming everyone who enters our campus.



## NIRMALA CONVENT, JHANSI

2<sup>nd</sup> February being the anniversary of our religious commitment we had a candle lit procession followed by Mass. In the evening we all participated in the special Mass and procession arranged by the CRI Jhansi unit in St Jude's shrine. Fr Julian, the main celebrant, enlightened us on the importance of Religious Commitment in the modern scenario. As usual on the first Sunday of the month we had our recollection. Sr. Mary led us into prayer with the help of a talk given by Fr. Augustine Velluran. The next day we celebrated the feast day of Sr. Doreen. The day began with beautiful thanksgiving Mass offered for her. The school greeted her, offering her saplings of flowering plants, keeping in mind JPIC principles. On 8<sup>th</sup> Sr Mary left for Kerala to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> day Mass and services for her mother. On the following Sunday the community along with some of the candidates made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Infant Jesus at Dabra. We had holidays from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> as our school was chosen as a polling centre. We rejoiced with a Hindu girl from our neighbourhood, Mrs. Dr. Surichi, who after regular instruction in Faith by Sr. Crispina, received Baptism and Holy Communion. On 24<sup>th</sup> Sr. Remya went to Allahabad to attend the Formators' meeting.

We gladly welcomed a delightful couple from Austria, friends Fr. Rinoy SDB. They spent quite a lot of time going around the campus, appreciating its serene and natural beauty adorned with a wide variety of winter flowers

in full bloom. On 25<sup>th</sup> the outgoing students were given a fond Farewell. They in turn expressed their gratitude for the school and promised to continue to grow in the spirit of Mary Ward which they had been receiving from the very beginning of their days in our school. On the same day we were happy to be part SFC community for dinner on the occasion Sr. Reena's birthday celebration. On 26<sup>th</sup> some of us attended the CRI meeting held in Judepur. Fr David helped us to enter into the season of Lent.

Fr. Freddy Mendonza conducted a prayer service and shared with classes X and XII some tips on utilizing their study leave for best result. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March we were glad to welcome Sr. Deepa who spent a day with us on her way back from Allahabad. Sr. Josephin accompanied her to Naini Tal. On 8<sup>th</sup> Sr. Joseline along with Akansha and Soni came from Delhi, the girls stayed with us for two weeks and appeared for class eight annual examinations in one of the close by schools.

In the month of March Sr. Crispina led the community into recollection and she highlighted some of the points from the Lenten message given by Bp. Peter. In the evening we were sad to hear about the demise of Mr. Munna one of our co-workers. We paid a visit to the family and expressed our condolence.

On 16<sup>th</sup> we had a beautiful combined celebration of Sr. Shanti's Birthday and Sr Patricia's Feast Day. On 18<sup>th</sup>, Srs Mary, Susan and Jyothika went to Kolkatta on a pilgrimage to Mother St. Theresa's place and returned on 22<sup>nd</sup>. They had a memorable and relaxed time.

A three-day retreat in view of the immediate preparation for Easter was conducted in St. Anthony's Cathedral. Many people had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of confession and renew their lives. Bishop Peter

concluded the Triduum with a Holy Mass on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We wish all our Readers PEACE, JOY and LOVE from our RISEN SAVIOUR!!!

## **ST. MARY'S CONVENT, NAINITAL**

### *Welcome to New Academic Year!*

After a long winter vacation, we commenced our new academic session with a Staff meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February during which six new teachers were introduced. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fr. Jimmy James S.J. conducted an orientation programme for the teachers and his main theme was POCSO. On 25<sup>th</sup> Fr. Sunny Jacob S.J. also gave a seminar for the teachers highlighting how to be an effective teacher and what is expected of them by the management. He emphasized the responsibilities and duties towards their students. The two days' orientation programme was very enriching and the teachers were very happy and requested us to organize such programmes oftener. On 27<sup>th</sup> February School reopened for the new academic year 2017 and we were happy to see the lively and happy faces of children and teachers in the campus whose presence creates a lot of joy in the heart of each one of us

### *Joint Recollection for Priests and Religious*

On 24<sup>th</sup> Srs. Tarsicia and Isabel attended the recollection in Suchetna arranged by the Diocese for Priests and Religious. The resource person Fr. Japamala S.J. spoke on Religious Life and Commitment explaining that unless we have a deep experience of God, we cannot commit ourselves, or allow God to work in and through us. Father asked us to reflect on the question, 'How can I make my community a more joyful, loving, caring and challenging one?'

*Welcome dear Sr. Josephine!*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> Sr. Deepa left for Delhi to attend the consultants meeting after which she proceeded to Allahabad for the COIN Formators' meeting. She also visited the junior sisters in Mauranipur and Jhansi and returned on 5<sup>th</sup> March along with Sr. Josephine who was professed in January and now our new Community member. Welcome dear Sr. Josephine!

### *Jubilee Bells*



On 25<sup>th</sup> March we were happy to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Mr. Sandeep Singh – our computer teacher. His dedicated and generous service for the past 25 years in Ramnee was well appreciated by all. The students put up a meaningful prayer service followed by a beautiful programme highlighting his good qualities and expressed their gratitude and appreciation. The sisters and the teachers gathered in the T.V. hall to congratulate our jubilarian. Mr. Sandeep, as usual, with all his respect and praise for the school, was full of gratitude for every gesture of love and appreciation. He lovingly remembered many CJ sisters who came into his life during the past 25 silver years in Ramnee. The celebration ended with a sumptuous lunch given by the management.

### *A Special Lenten Cross*

On 29<sup>th</sup> March the 'Lenten Cross of Bareilly Diocese' was received by the parishioners of St. Francis Home (for the past six years during Lent the Cross is taken to all the

parishes of the diocese); many of us were part of it and we spent some time before the special Cross praying for all. The next day Srs. Deepa, Shobha and Josephine joined the parish community as they took the Cross to Bana parish. It was a rich spiritual experience to be on pilgrimage as we climbed the hills with the cross bearers. It was hectic but very meaningful. We prayed our Rosary and went in procession to the entrance of the Church where the parishioners were waiting to receive the special Cross. The people of Bana rejoiced as they welcomed the Cross because this is the first year that this special Cross is taken to Bana Church. After spending some time in the church we gathered together for lunch which was lovingly prepared by the youth of the parish. We returned to Nainital with an experience which cannot be forgotten. *We hail Thee O Holy Cross!!!*

#### *Easter Assembly by Children*

On 6<sup>th</sup> April the school – primary and seniors - had their Easter assembly. Both the groups, very meaningfully and creatively, brought out the message of Good Friday and Easter giving everyone an experience of the pain of passion at the same time, of Easter love, hope and joy. The teachers who prepared them were Hindus; we really appreciate them for depicting so well the meaning of Easter. Thanks to Sr. Adelaide for guiding them. On Saturday our boarders went home for a week and so we sisters had a quiet and prayerful time during Holy Week. On Holy Thursday since Fr. Arnold could not wash the feet of '12 Apostles' because of his poor health and age Sr. Deepa took it as a privilege to wash the feet of 12 Apostles – 7 sisters, 3 students, 1 woman and a man.

We welcome you dear Sr. Tessy to Ramnee community as our new member; may God bless you and your mission here with children.



#### *Request for prayers*

Kushi one of our students of class VI is suffering from cancer of the wind pipe. She is going through chemotherapy. Palak Bisht who passed out last year is also diagnosed as having cancer of a rare kind. She has lost her right eye vision and now it has spread to the brain. It is already in the fourth stage. When she came down from Delhi to her house in Nainital she came to the chapel to pray. She requests prayers from all of us as she believes in Ramnee (sisters) prayers.

We are now getting ready to welcome various groups of sisters, who will be gathering for the batch-wise meeting in April/May/ June. You are most welcome to the cool and beautiful Ramnee for a few days of relaxation and sharing.

#### **JESU BHAWAN -ROHINI**

The month of March is the time of final examinations everywhere, and we too were involved fully in it as our helping girls Akanksha and Soni were preparing for class VIII examination. All of us got involved in teaching them and also helping them in their routine work. On 8<sup>th</sup> March they left for Jhansi for their exams which lasted till 24<sup>th</sup> March. Now we rejoice with them for we hear they have cleared the exams. Thanks to our Nirmala community for their generous help while the girls stayed there to appear for their exams. We realize how education can bring changes in the lives of people! This was so

visible when our girls returned after their exams. All of us felt happy to see their confidence and sense of responsibility shown in their work, and thus being part of JPIC mission. They will continue their studies by joining the NIOS.

Finally the elevator installation work has started and is making slow and steady progress. We welcome and extend hospitality to all our guests. Sr. Pratima was on her mission visits to different communities. Though we had street lights around our house, they were stolen within two months. Now we have fixed few bright lights around our house and so Jesu Bhawan is visible from far even in the night.

We are blessed to have retreat centres nearby. Sr. Sanjita attended a retreat in Burari preached by a well-known preacher Fr. Dominic Valamnal. We were happy to have our sisters from Shahpur who were in Delhi for their community outing for a few hours on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Our garden which we tend lovingly is indeed



a delight to us. This year it yielded a variety of vegetables such as garlic, tomatoes, onion, broccoli, cauliflower, brinjal etc. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April three men on bike visited our gate around 0015 hours. We do not know their intention. Fortunately the guard alerted Sr. Pratima and police was informed. But they escaped as usual. We thank God for the protection we experience daily. On 4<sup>th</sup> April we received the sad news about the sudden demise of Sr. Maria's brother. Though she was not able to reach home before the funeral she went home

to be with her mother and family. Sr. Vijaya stayed with us for two weeks after her angiography done in AIIMS.

Sr. Alice returned from Muringoor on 5<sup>th</sup> April, after completing the nine month Bible course. Sister is missioned to KristJyoti - our initial formation house.

On Good Friday the youth of the parish enacted the passion of the Lord in a most touching way moving us to tears.

On Easter Monday Srs. Pratima, Vimala and Roshini left for Rome to attend PRSC and returned on 30<sup>th</sup> April. We are always glad to have our students with us during summer holidays. They keep us young. Sr. Nibedita arrived from Patna on 17<sup>th</sup> and Sr. Anima on 3<sup>rd</sup> May from Allahabad. For our monthly recollection we chose the theme 'Challenges of Consecrated persons' for our prayer and reflection. We were happy to welcome Srs. Feby, Borgia and Lawrentia on their way to Nainital. Sr. Rinalda returned from Nainital on 30<sup>th</sup> after the 'Group- Faith Sharing.'

## WISDOM GROUP MEETING

34 of us from five batches, from the year 1969 – 1973 gathered together in the lovely, cool hills of Nainital for a REFRESHER



COURSE ANIMATED BY Fr. Joe Mannath SDB and Sr. Inigo Joaquim SSA. The course began on 30<sup>th</sup> April by Fr. Joe, with a power

point reflection on Psalm 139 placing us securely in the loving, caring, consoling uplifting arms of our heavenly Father. Very systematically and interspersed with plenty of anecdotes and jokes to break the monotony, Father dealt with a number of probing and reflective topics which were very much applicable for our onward journey.

*The main focus were on the following themes:*

1. Seven pillars of happiness
2. How to take care of our person – body, mind, spirit
3. Seven rules for having a great new day
4. Counseling, spiritual direction and confession
5. How to handle jealousy
6. How to develop memory
7. Regrets at the end of life.

Every topic was explained with examples, power point presentation and relevant Scripture references. Based on the themes two movies were shown to us in the evenings. We are very grateful to Fr. Joe for throwing light on many issues which we face as we advance in age. We have enough material to reflect and pray over for the rest of our life.

The groups had enough time to meet and chat and share their experiences, as some of them met after a very long time. The joy and thrill they experienced was palpable all through the days.

From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May, Sr. Inigo, helped us to ‘cast into the deep’ (Lk 5:4; Jn 21:6). Sister presented Jesus as an Asian who was born in our culture, grew up in our culture and understood our culture. She drew our attention to two questions: “What are you looking for?” (Jn 1:38) and “Whom are you looking for?” (Jn 20:15). She led us to a detailed study of Mk 6: 30

– 46. Sister underlined that in our declining age too we can be people of Contemplation, Compassion and Action (Mk 6: 31, 34, 37). The ministry of ‘**presence**’ is more important than the ministry of ‘doing’.

**Speaking about our ‘presence’, ‘leaven in the world’, she enumerated the different types of ‘presence’ - Contemplative presence, compassionate presence, creative presence, non-violent presence (gentle, understanding), healing presence, hopeful presence and God’s presence.**

**Millions of ways - a spontaneous smile, a kind word, a sweet greeting, a graceful nod, a concerned look, willingness to listen, a surprise visit, a loving phone call, going an extra mile - make your presence felt by others.**

As usual, Sr. Inigo took us through a research in the Bible, hunting for the ‘Word of God’ apt for every situation and circumstance in life. Sister also explained in brief the great examples and spirituality of the Indian Mystics like Swami Vivekananda, Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and the most modern and popular person – Pope Francis.

On 4<sup>th</sup> evening, the Ramnee Community celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Srs. Regis, Lawrentia, Renata, Helen, Marcella, Vincy and Feby. Sr. Rufina was absent. After a solemn High Mass we had a well prepared fellowship meal followed by an organized recreation in honour of the Jubilarians.

We are immensely grateful to Sr. Pratima for organizing this renewal programme for us. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Sr. Deepa and Sr. Caroline and every member in the Ramnee Community for the warm hospitality and for making excellent arrangements for our stay in the colourful surroundings, so that we could fully benefit

from our five days journey ... “to create everything NEW” (Rev 21:5).

Sr. Mary C.J.

### FAITH SHARING

We, the 17 senior sisters of the Delhi province - M. Adelaide, M. Tarsicia, M. Patricia, M. Coletta, M. Isabel, M. Laura, M.



Rinalda, M. Anne, M. Renata, M. Regis, M. Mary, M. Nirmala, M. Camilla, M. Julita, M. Elaine, M. Georgina and M. Shalini- sisters of the first group, gathered together in SMC, Nainital, on 27<sup>th</sup> April at 9 a.m. sharp. The absent ones were Srs. Louisa, Augustine, Stella and Annette. Srs. Isabel and Mary introduced the day's programme by reading the letter of Sr. Pratima, our provincial. Then Sr. Mary presented a PowerPoint presentation based on a song 'Listen'. The lyrics of the song gently invited us to pay attention to the beautiful creation of God. This was followed by Fr. Augustine Vallooran's talk on 'Living waters' reminding us not to live in the past but live in the present, experiencing God's infinite love. He also reminded us that every problem in our life is caused by some broken relationships and every mental disorder is also caused by some brokenness in our family relationships. The only way to restoring our peace of mind and happiness is LOVE. The Book of Revelation says, "Behold I make all things new" (Rev 21:5).

Sr. Isabel gave us an input session on 'The spirituality of evening years' and on 'Growing old Gracefully'. She told us that the

basic needs of old age are to be acknowledged, respected and loved. Sister Isabel aptly compared our lives to the journey of the SUN. On its first stage of journey the sun-light gradually increases, reaching maximum energy and light at noon. On its second stage of journey the light and energy of the sun begins to decline. Similarly, we, at this age in our lives, are on the second journey slowly moving into passivity in prayer and action. Prayer is being with the Lord in His presence – be lovingly present in the loving presence of the Lord in silence. In our second journey of life we must grow gracefully passive, receptive and freely surrender to the will of the creator.

Our sharing was based on three topics:

- What have I received from the Congregation?
- What have I given to the Congregation?
- What more can I do in the service of the Lord?

The sharing of each one was very unique and enriching. We could see clearly how God has been faithful to each one all through her life. Every one expressed her deep gratitude to God and the Congregation for what she is now.

All of us remembered with affection and gratitude our German sisters who played a very important role in strengthening our vocation especially in difficult and challenging times.

Our second day began at 6 a. m. with a group meditation on our favourite Gospel passage. Each one shared a verse from the Bible which is a guiding light for her in her day-to-day life. The first session began with a PowerPoint presentation by Sr. Mary – a small story of 'A famished fox and a generous lion'.

This was followed by an input session by Sr. Isabel on '**Role of Authentic Friendships and Relationships**'

These two days were grace-filled, enriching and fruitful. All felt good, free, relaxed and at home. We renewed our life filled with gratitude to our Congregation. There was willingness to give as far as possible; awe and gratitude for God's grace as we felt the working of God in each one's life. We experienced freedom and openness to share without inhibition. Great concern and love for the good of the Province was evident. Faith sharing has truly increased our faith and we came to know and understand each other better.

We thank our Provincial, Sr. Pratima and our communities for giving us this grace-filled opportunity of coming together in an atmosphere of prayer, love and togetherness. Special thanks to Sr. Deepa and community for their hospitality and generosity.

Sr. Mary CJ

*Delhi Disha Wishes*

*All Its Readers*

*A relaxed and peaceful time*

*In spite of the heat!*

**AMDG**