



DELHI DISHA

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PROVINCE NEWS LETTER NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

RAMNEE....

The dear departed

The month of November arrived inviting us to remember those who have gone before us. All Souls' Day was commemorated with due respect and reverence for our dear departed sisters. The clean graveyard with candles and wreaths on each grave gave us a glimpse of heaven. We heard our sisters appealing to us to be better human beings. Our co-workers took great pride in decorating the graves of the sisters whom they knew well. Three of us joined the parishioners for the Eucharistic celebration at the common graveyard.

The Festal Mood

On 3rd November we had our school fete. The whole campus echoed with the fun and laughter of the students from various schools. All enjoyed variety of games and delicious food items. The whole school enjoyed their days of picnic in the second week of November. The little ones were in the big field with their Tiffin boxes having fun and laughter while one of our workers kept away the monkeys from encroach themselves into the picnic spirit. Classes 3, 4, 5 went to PANKUD where they enjoyed with themselves thoroughly. Ramnagar was another spot for the rest of the students and each group made use of the opportunity to 100%. The teachers went to Bhowali tea

gardens and then to Mukteshwar resort. The co-workers too had a day out from their busy schedule. They enjoyed the day to the



full and were very appreciative of the opportunity given. The students of Class 8 of Nirmala School were thrilled when

we took them to the various TAALS (Lakes) around Nainital. The day was made memorable with games, dances and songs; everyone enjoyed it thoroughly. The Children's Day was anticipated with Holy Mass and a short assembly by the teachers. 15th November, Farewell Day was a remarkable one for the students of class XII. They were proud to show themselves in their finery.

Fare Thee Well

Srs. Isabel and Sunaina who were with us for the past years were given a fitting farewell by the community. Thank you dear sisters, for your loving and dedicated services and availability to everyone in Ramnee! We miss you dear sisters! Sr. Sunaina was reached to Jeolikote her new place of mission. Sr. Isabel travelled to Jesu Bhawan for the Province Gathering and from there she proceeded to Jhansi, her new community.

Days of prayer

On 20th November Sr. Isabel facilitated the community recollection; she inspired us through the words of Pope Francis on the

Feast of Christ the King and the World Day of the Poor. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed the whole day and each one took it in turn to be with the Lord in silence. The action plan of our prayer and reflection was to help the poor families with ration. We reached out to 40 families with ration – rice, dal and oil. In December Sr. Elaine guided the day of recollection with the theme – Our Advent with Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Celebrations – birthdays and feast days

On 26th – the feast of Christ the King was celebrated prayerfully. After the Holy Mass a number of us with a few little ones from the boarding joined the Eucharistic procession in the parish. The procession was concluded in our chapel with the Benediction. We celebrated the gift of life of Srs. Adelaide, Elaine, Merlin, Nirmala, Seema and Shobha with meaningful and festal Eucharistic celebration. The singing of children, the bouquets from teachers and the delicious dishes in the refectory added joy to our sisters. We are proud of you dear sisters!

Final Days in the school

From 23rd the whole school was in the examination mood; the children studying and writing exams, the teachers and two sisters with bundles of papers and corrections and the other sisters on their knees imploring the Lord to help them. On 6th December class XII had their final assembly through which they expressed their gratitude to everyone in Ramnee; by 2.00 p.m. the campus was empty – all our boarders went home for their long holidays. On 12th the day-scholars came in with eagerness to see their performance of the whole year. The teachers had a short prayer service followed by Christmas gifts and lunch in the beautifully decorated T. V hall.

JPIC in action

The children from the informal village – SEEM, (we had visited them in November), visited us on a Sunday. They were very excited to see our big campus and the school, boarders and sisters. Mrs. Jaya Shah, the kind woman who takes care of the informal library in SEEM writes, “19th November 2017 will remain one of the most exciting and memorable day for 27 children of SEEM. For these children, aged 9 to 16, this was the first experience of being invited to visit such a prestigious school. Going to Government schools, they could not believe that a school could be so big and have so many toilets! Initially they were hesitant to interact with the boarders. But our students were so friendly and made them feel very comfortable that all barriers of class and language were forgotten. The Ramnee students very generously gifted these children with books, stationary and hand knitted caps and scarfs. The most touching gesture of the boarders was giving up their tuck to their new friends! Thank you mother superior, sisters and the wonderful students of St. Mary’s for giving these children from a small village such an enriching experience.”

On 16th December the parish priest of the Lake Church organized the first ever Inter-Religious Christmas Meet. The representatives of various religions – Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, CNI and R.



Catholics - were present for this gathering.

Sr. Tarsicia C. J. spoke on behalf of the Catholic Church. Everyone appreciated this meet and wished for more of such gatherings in the future.

Christmas comes every year with the



message of love, compassion and generosity. This year we were able to reach out to 200 people - rickshaw pullers, rag pickers, potters, boatmen and the labourers who are seeing to the repairs and



maintenance in our compound. They were invited on 17th and 18th for a short prayer service and carols before the crib and then we gave them 5kgs of rice, 3kgs of dal, a pouch of oil and a blanket each. We spent some time with the inmates of the leper



colony in Rajpura, Haldwani and shared Christmas joy and love with them. We shared the joy of Christmas with the inmates - about 75 differently abled men - of Asha Deep (looked after by the MC Sisters) in Motinagar. On 23rd we gathered before the CRIB with our co-workers for a short prayer service. Soon after we shared a fellowship meal with them; they were very happy to receive a Christmas gifts too.

Merry Christmas

Carol singers (sisters) visited the houses of our teachers and parishioners and shared with them the message of peace and love. We returned home daily with much joy and satisfaction. Our teachers who belong to other faiths really appreciated Jesus entering their homes bringing His blessings to them. We visited our sisters in Puranpur, Rudrapur and Jeolikote - spreading the joy of Christmas. On 24th the community sat around the crib looking at the Babe of Bethlehem. The Christmas message of Sr. Jane Livesey drew us into introspection experiencing **Jesus holding our hearts**. We thank you dear Sr. Jane for the meaningful and inspiring Christmas letter. We are challenged to widen our hearts so that our lives become life giving and purposeful. Christmas Day – awaited day by all; the beautifully and creatively prepared crib invited our teachers, children, parents, friends and well-wishers to come in and spend joyful time with us - wishing, chatting

and relishing a cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

Home birds

Our sisters Coletta, Anne, Caroline, Seema and Shobha went home to be with their dear ones and Sr. Elaine to spend a few days with her ailing mother. Sr. Merlin would spend a few days at home before going to Pune for a two months renewal programme. We wish you all a happy and a relaxed time. Those of us who are at home wanted a little relaxation so we took time off to visit Almorah and Kausani – it is indeed marvellous to watch the Snow Mountains – the snow-capped mountains praise the Lord!

Good bye to 2017

Before we welcomed the New Year 2018 we spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament thanking God for all the blessings of 2017. Every one of us was full of gratitude, for the year had been truly grace-filled with the ups and downs of life. We wish all our sisters a happy year ahead full of blessings on all our endeavours.
HAPPY FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS – OUR DAY!!!

PURANPUR

Students Put up a variety entertainment programme for teachers and greeted them with bouquets and flowers on Teachers' Day. Sr. Digna then conducted a few games for them after which they were served a delicious meal.

On 8th September the entire diocese celebrated Maria Jayanthi. All the Parishioners and the Krist Bhaktas gathered for the Holy Mass in the church, thereafter everyone shared an Agape together.

On 12th Sr. Deepti went to Nav Sadhana, Varanasi to attend the Annual General Body Meeting of Catholic Educational Institutions of U.P and U.K. and returned on 15th.

The school has once again launched into social action through the members of the Social Cell. The students visited a few villages around promoting cleanliness drive and distributing books and pens to children. They also put up a street play on the theme 'Road Safety'. This was well appreciated by the local authorities.

The Logos Bible Quiz was conducted in the Diocese in various Deaneries. Sr. Sanjita participated in it in Pilibhit. The community went to Sitarganj for a one day prayer when Fr. Anil Dev IMS conducted a retreat for the faithful there.

During the Dusserah holidays Sr. Sanjita, along with 8 students and a teacher went to Nainital for the C.J. Fest. On 2nd October student conducted a prayer assembly followed by a short programme in memory of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

On 5th Sr. Deepti attended the Principals and managers meeting at Bareilly Bishop's house. During meeting they discussed at length the guidelines on safety of students in the school and the various issues faced by the schools. On 7th Sr. Digna attended the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting along with the Parish Priest and Parish council members in Kathgodam.

During the Deepawali holidays Sr. Sanjita and Sr. Deepti made their retreat while Sr.

Digna was privileged to attend a 4 day seminar on Educational Rights of Minorities at ISI Delhi.



The month of October was full of activities and celebrations. The school celebrated Paryatan Parv highlighting the importance of

tourism in India. The students had various competitions - essay writing, drawing, Collage making and quiz. Meaningful assembly was organized for both primary and senior sections. In the inter school tournament our students bagged 1st prize in badminton.

National Seminar Cum workshop on Educational rights of Minorities.

It was indeed a learning experience for me to attend a Seminar cum workshop on educational rights of Minorities at Indian Social Institute (ISI) Delhi from 19th to 22nd October 2017. We were a group of 120 priests and sisters from different parts of India. A number of excellent resources persons threw light on various issues regarding the Minority Rights - Recent amendments on Tax related matters, FCRA, Constitutional Spirituality, Fundamental and Educational Rights of Minorities under

the Indian Constitution, Labour Laws and Minority Institutions, GST *vis-a-vis* Charitable and Religious Associations, Educational Rights and Administrative Structure of Minority Educational Institutions, Right to Constitutional remedies, India's Constitution: Roots, Values and Wrongs, Disciplinary proceedings, Criminal Law and our Rights, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, Right to Information Act, Protection Policy for Educational Institutions, School Governance in the present Socio-Political Context etc. These topics were explained to us in detail. The topic 'Constitutional Spirituality' gave me new insights. Sr. Tresa Paul, Advocate, Supreme Court, presented this topic very well connecting the Preamble of the Indian Constitution with our vow formula. Constitutional spirituality is nothing but Gospel spirituality. Evangelization is to be done having Bible in one hand and Constitution in the other hand. We are called to Constitute, to ensure and to promote justice, equality, liberty, dignity, fraternity, unity and integrity. We are invited to build the people of God. We have a tremendous responsibility to build the 'We the People of India'. To make our life meaningful we are called to embrace these values. Let us build the We-ness.

I remain indebted to Sr. Pratima for offering me this opportunity.

[National Commission for Minorities has made it mandatory to obtain NGO Darpan Unique ID number from February 2017 before we submit the newly amended application form for Minority Certificate. Website: <http://ngo.india.gov.in>]

(I will not be able to do justice to all the above mentioned topics if I start

commenting on each of them. If the readers are interested I can do it in the next issue.) World poor day was celebrated in St. Joseph's Se. Sec. School, Puranpur. The children of the entire school along with the teachers took keen interest to identify the poor from the neighbouring villages. 105 selected people were called to the school and they were given quilt, dal and rice. SDM of Puranpur was invited to initiate the distribution. He was very happy to be part of this endeavour and appreciated the effort of our students and teachers. He also promised that he would be ever ready to help our school at any time.

Sr. Digna

JEOLIKOTE

On All Saints Day we had a solemn high Mass along with our parishioners, remembering all the Saints - both the living and the dead. On All Souls Day a few of us were privileged to attend three Masses - one in our graveyard, the second at the parish resident, and the third in the common graveyard. All the graves especially our sisters' were decked with flowers and lighted candles.

On 2nd we were glad to meet Sr. Antonette from Nepal who had come to see her brother, Peterji who is quite poorly.

On 4th the staff and the sisters were happy to have our Friends of Mary Ward from Nainital - teachers - Kusum, Nalini and Anita Tomar. They shared their experiences with us. Their sharing had such an impact on most of us that we felt we were transported to Yorkshire.

On 5th November, we were extremely happy to welcome our new and the youngest member, Sr. Sunaina C.J. The Nainital community reached her to Jeolikote - their

loss is our gain. We wish Sr. Sunaina a happy and growing time with us.

Some of our students from classes 7th and 8th attended the Scout and Guide Camp in Bhimtal. They returned with rich experiences, under the supervision of our Mr. Ramesh Geena. Many were on the track but a few won the prizes. Our students from both English and Hindi medium participated in the Athletic Meet organized on the occasion of the Maha Kumbh to celebrate the birth Day of Uttarakhand. A few were selected for the district level competition.

We visited the Maids of the Poor Sisters in Bhowali to express our sincere condolence at the sudden passing away of late Sr. Catherine IMP. The sisters were very happy to have our company though for a short while. While returning home we had a dinner party hosted by Bishop Isidore on his 45th ordination anniversary. Our hostel children too enjoyed a sumptuous dinner.

Nirmala Joshi went to Barabangi (the first long journey) to attend Biju Anthony's son's reception. It was indeed a memorable occasion for her. She was accompanied by Mrs. Vinita Thakur; they came back with great rejoicing.

In the Deanery level Bible Festival the Jeolikote parish won the second prize in singing.

Sr. Sherly's brother and the family came to visit sister and they were with us for two days. The little baby boy was very happy with everyone.

The sisters, teachers and students missed Sr. Laura's company for two days when she went to Bhowali to share her wisdom and

knowledge with the I.M.P. sisters on “effective class room teaching”.

The Children’s Day programme was indeed wonderful. Everyone enjoyed it. We also organized the “baal mela” for the children. They had a special item – the Disco and the break dance - which they enjoyed thoroughly.

One of our parishioners, Mrs. Mary Gabriel passed away. She was our Nainital co-worker for many years. Many friends and relatives came to bid her farewell. Mr. Gabriel has not yet overcome the loss of his beloved wife. May she rest in peace!

On 18th November was a red letter day for the St. Anthony,



Jeolikote (English medium). Within the short period of time the staff and the students under the guidance of Sr. Damian, got ready for the Science and art exhibition. Every child was able to explain their working models to their parents and visitors.

The “Mock Parliament in Session” on the



topic ‘polythene menace in Jeolikote’ was

an outstanding item of the day. Every participant was appreciated and the chief guest expressed his wish that they become the future ministers and MP’s.

On the Feast of Christ the King after the Holy Mass the entire parish took out a peaceful procession praying the Rosary, singing devotional hymns and reading excerpt from the Bible. Srs. Deepika and Sunaina were leading the prayers - the procession ended with solemn blessing followed by light refreshments.

The students of classes 9 to 12 had one day outing to Nainital - they were also taken to the Observatory. The other students are hopefully waiting for their turn.

Srs. Lucy, Damian and Lorna participated in the province gathering in Delhi and came back with joy-filled hearts saying “we have done our best”

JESU BHAWAN

The month of November was a busy one – with repairs, painting and meetings. The work was interrupted a few times due to meetings and Christmas. On 6th November, Srs. Rinalda and Joseline represented the C.J at the wedding of Mr. Rahul Vincent Cutting – son of Rose Cutting. We were happy to see Sr. Sneha off to Germany and receive her back on her return. We and our sisters from Shahabad spent quality time in sharing our understanding the voices of our sisters in the summary report in preparation to the Province Gathering. Almost all the sisters reached Jesu Bhawan on 24th November. We experienced the spirit of the Lord

guiding us right through our meeting. Unfortunately Sr. Camilla fell ill and Sr. Pratima Tundo C.J (Patna) from Vidya Jyothi generously helped us in the external affairs during the two days of meeting. May God bless you dear Sr. Pratima!

It was a pleasant surprise for Sr. Pratima on her birthday, as our sisters from Mayur Vihar and Shahabad joined us in the evening on 29th November. We truly had some fun and relaxed moments. Thank you dear sisters for your thoughtfulness which was a gesture of gratitude for all that Sr. Pratima is to all of us!

Sr. Pratima completed her mission journey to Falna before the council meeting and Christmas preparations. All of us joined our Jesuit fathers on 3rd to celebrate the feast of St. Francis Xavier and on 4th for the birthday celebration of Fr. Britto. Sr. Pratima joined the Carol Singers of our parish and reached out to most of the families. Srs. Maria, Divya and Nibedita doubled our joy as they extended their hands in all the preparations for the birthday of our Lord. Their aesthetic sense was appreciated by one and all.

Sr. Rinalda went to Jhajjar on 30th to be with Sr. Kanula as the sisters went for their annual retreat. Foggy days have set in once again. Sr. Camilla went to Jhansi for retreat. We wish a relaxed time with the Lord dear Sister!

ST. MARY'S JHAJJAR

On 4th October the community celebrated the birthday of Sr. Remya. The School wished her with a meaningful prayer service

conducted by class 2 students. On 12th Sr. Kanula joined the provincial house community for her annual retreat and returned on 21st renewed in mind and spirit. Frs. John Ari, Joseph Kochu, Srs. Mary John and Remya attended the Silver Jubilee celebration of St Xavier's School, Behror, Rajasthan on 3rd. The Jesuit community and SCJM sisters from Jaipur spent a day with us on 13th. They had a relaxed time with us. They appreciated greatly the well prepared lunch.

18th November was the day marked for our annual programme. The result of the hard work put in by all - the sisters and teachers- was very visible on the stage. Jayant a student of class -2 touched the hearts of the audience by his excellent acting. The Chief Guest for the occasion Fr. John Ari in his address highlighted the importance of the parents, teachers and the school management working together in order to bring about the desired positive result in the students. Sr. Pratima was our Guest of Honour. We were blessed to have Sr. Rinalda and Sr. Sneha from Patna as well.

We had a fruitful outing on the World Day of the Poor; 19th November, we along with the Jesuits visited the home for the destitute women run by the SD sisters at Farrukhnagar. We joined the women in their recreation and dance which was followed by lunch. 29th November was a great day for Sr. Remya who stood first in Political Science of the batch 2014-2015 in her B. Ed College at Gorakhpur. She along with Sr. Sheryl who stood first in History and third in the college were honoured and awarded by the college during a felicitation ceremony. Congratulations Sr. Remya, we are proud of you.

We got the good news on 28th November that XLRI Jhajjar Campus is made a Quasi Parish - Mass centre by the Archbishop of Delhi, Anil Couto and Fr. Varkey Muthalakuzy SJ as the priest in-charge. We had a homely get together on the feast of St. Francis Xavier in the evening with our neighbouring religious communities. Fr. John Ari mentioned the triple reasons for the celebration - the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the XLRI campus being raised into a Mass centre with Fr. Varkey as the priest in-charge and Sr. Remya being awarded by the college. During the inspiring prayer service Fr John Ari stressed the quality of St. Francis Xavier, "To Dare the Audacity of the Improbable" and inspired all present to follow the suit in our own areas of life and ministry.

On 10th December Srs. Kanula and Remya joined the other religious communities of the area and went to Rohtak for the parish feast. The internal sports day on 16th December was a day full of fun and



healthy competition for all our students, as they crawled, ran, jumped, skipped and took part in different sports activities of the day. Some who are weak in studies realized that they could shine out, on the field. After the school hours some children of the construction workers are being helped to

read and write. While waiting for the bus – the second trip - our senior most students - class 3 - are taught to help weak students of LKG and workers' children – 'each one teach one'. They are happily doing it learning at the same time how difficult it is to teach the little ones.

The construction work at the convent, school and XLRI site is progressing well. On 22nd we celebrated Christmas in the school. The live crib with St. Joseph, Our Lady, the dancing angels, the shepherds, the kings – all looked real. Thanks to Sr. Kanula for the extra efforts put in. At the end Fr. Joseph Kochu gave an inspiring Christmas message. We wish one and all a very happy Christmas and a bright and blessed New Year 2018.

PROVINCE GATHERING 2017

November 25 and 26, 2017 are two days to be recorded in the annals of Delhi Province – 30 representatives from all our communities, together with the Provincial



team gathered at Jesu Bhawan for the 'Province Gathering 2017'. Rev. Fr. Joy Karayampuram S.J. was the facilitator. 25th Morning, Fr. Joy celebrated the Holy Eucharist setting the tone for our day's deliberations and reflections. The Nainital and Jeolikote communities had prepared the



Eucharistic Celebration – meaningfully centering round the Symbol chosen for our Provincial Gathering. “Everything in service to God, Humanity and Environment – the past, present and the future, all connected to God as the centre.”

After the Mass and breakfast, we moved to the basement where Srs. Remya and Mary John put us in the right mood by a short and inspiring prayer service invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sr. Pratima, warmly welcomed the participants and explained in brief the purpose of our gathering and drew our attention to the LOGO of this gathering – “Everything in service to God, humanity and environment, Honouring the past with gratitude, embracing the present with compassion and co-creating the future with hope”. Thereafter, Sr. Elsy introduced the facilitator Fr. Joy Karayampuram, and invited him to address the gathering and explain the proceedings of the day. He emphasized the importance of Generative Listening and Generative Speaking, both of which we had good practice in our communities since we began the preparation for this event.

The second session was taken by Sr. Mary C.J., the topic being “Union of Minds and Hearts”. Sister explained the Ignatian way of understanding ‘union of minds and hearts’ and the Holy Trinity is the perfect model for

us. Sister also referred to Part VIII of our Constitutions and stressed the need to be familiar with the Complementary Norms and other texts related to Ignatian Spirituality for effective understanding of our mission. A few questions were given at the end, for reflection and sharing.

The afternoon and the next day were spent in group work, reflection, sharing and reporting on questions which were already



sent out to the communities for individual and community study and reflection. The representatives from each community shared the sentiments and aspirations of their respective communities. There was absolute openness and confidentiality prevailing as we proceeded with group sharing. The process of generative listening and speaking made us more sensitive and alert to others’ inner feelings and sometimes unexpressed words.

At the end of the first day, Fr. Joy took a session 15-20 minutes leading us into inner silence and awareness of our interior movements; each one was invited to voice a phrase or sentence – what the Spirit was telling her at that moment. There was a



positive energy flowing in the group and we felt that the Spirit of God truly present in our midst as was in the “upper room”.

26th, the day began with a prayer session conducted by Srs. Manjusha and Tomsy. Thereafter, Sr. Deepa very systematically presented before us “The Just Soul Vision” and its relevance in today’s context. This



was followed by group reflection, sharing and reporting as the previous day. Towards the end of the day, it was clear that we were reaching where we began, to honour the past with gratitude, to embrace the present with compassion and co-create the future with hope in the service of God, humanity and



the environment. Practical suggestions were drawn up – to practice individually, as community and in province level. A written evaluation was also taken to review the two days proceedings. The group thanked Sr. Pratima and the provincial team for organizing very meticulously the ‘Province Gathering’ and all the ground work which helped the smooth running of the two days programme. Fr. Joy encouraged us to go beyond our own selves and the issues affecting us and our ministries – to the world at large and to where no one has yet walked or dared to reach.

The two day programme was culminated with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration in honour of Christ the Universal King. The Jhansi Communities took the lead for the concluding Liturgy. The group dispersed with a deep sense of gratitude, enriched by the guidance of the Spirit, more united to one another and determined to keep the flame of C.J. burning wherever we are as the true and loyal daughters of Mary Ward.

Sr. Mary C.J.

AMDG