



# DELHI DISHA

VOL.13/1

PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

## *From the Provincial's Desk...*

### **Change in Religious Name:**

Sr. Anusha has changed her religious name to Sr. Anu George.

### **Request for Prayers**

#### **For those who have gone for their eternal reward:**

- Sr. Adelaide's sister-in-law, Marykutty, 68 on 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Sr. Rose's sister, Emily, 48 on 14<sup>th</sup> February

#### **For those who are ill:**

- Sr. Adelaide's brother, Thomas
- Sr. Sheeba's sister-in-law, Mercy who has to undergo chemotherapy

## **NEWS AND EVENTS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES**

### **S.F.C. JHANSI**

**Breaking News** : Sr. Jessy received the '**Award of Excellence**' in the field of education from an N.G.O. Manav Seva Sansthan. Congratulations dear Sr. Jessy!

It was a matter of jubilation for the students of the primary wing as their P.T. display began with vim and vigour on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Col. Vaneet Mehta, the Administrative commandant, Jhansi, was the chief guest and

Rt. Rev. Peter Parapullil, the Bishop of Jhansi, the guest of honour. After an impressive march past by the four houses the audience witnessed a series of captivating items. The most important event was the **Honouring of Kirti Sehgal** – the gold medal winner of ASISC national level Karate and Dhruv Nigam, the brother of one of our students – Christ the King College student of class 9, the budding author, at the publication of his first book "The Deadliest Game."

The chief guest appreciated every item especially the march past and commended the efforts of the children and the staff and exhorted them to work hard to reach their desired goals.

On the same evening sixteen of us from five different communities set out on a spiritual journey accompanied by Fr. Abe Puthumana S.J. This inward journey awakened in us the desire to follow Jesus radically, to stand up for justice unafraid like Sr. Rani Maria.

The feast of Diwali was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Through inspirational songs, dances and skits the students of class 10 brought out the meaning of Diwali during the morning prayer assembly.

An outing is one thing that we all look forward to. On 10<sup>th</sup> November the students of

class 12 accompanied by four teachers went on an educational tour to Gwalior. They had a good time visiting places of interest and importance. It was an unforgettable experience and it helped them in relieving their stress related to studies.

On 14<sup>th</sup> we honoured the Jericho Cross which was brought from the Sacred Heart Church to our Chapel. The following morning we reached the Cross to St. Anthony's Cathedral.

Celebrations! 14<sup>th</sup> November the children's day – to mark the day a special programme was organized by the staff. It began with a prayer dance by the primary school teachers which was followed by a Rajasthani dance that left everyone mesmerized. The funny skit by the male staff, senior teachers etc. was a treat to the eyes. After the programme they enjoyed a small party with their teachers.

The Constitution Day – The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and pride. An enriching and inspiring prayer service was organized by class X. The most important words Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic were highlighted and their meanings made clear through skits. Patriotic songs and dances showing unity in diversity and the miming showing God is One, added beauty and colour to the celebration.

Orange Day - It is a day set apart to bring awareness, to highlight the ways by which we can prevent and end violence against women and girls. Through a skit they depicted how violence is done to women and by means of a dance drama they showed how it can be prevented. Finally, they challenged others to

stand together to fight against violence and victimization.

On 28<sup>th</sup> the students of class IVB conducted an assembly to express their love and gratitude to their teacher Mrs. Menon who was on transfer to Kashmir. To be loved unconditionally is a beautiful feeling that brings zest to one's life. We bade farewell to Mrs. Menon on 30<sup>th</sup> November during the birthday celebrations of 26 teachers. We expressed our love and appreciation for her through endearing words and tokens of love. Sr. Jessy commended on her commitment and love for her students.

The surprise visit of Sr. Rosily on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sr. Cecilia on 5<sup>th</sup> December brought great joy to us. 8<sup>th</sup> was an important day for the students of classes U.K.G. to X. They were given Measles-Rubella Vaccination by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry. The tiny-tots of U.K.G proved to be the bravest of all.

A warm welcome was accorded to the Parish Priest and some of the Parishioners of the Syro Malabar Church, Mayur Vihar, Delhi who had come to St. Jude's shrine as pilgrims. We had a good time with them and it gave us an opportunity to renew our relationship with them. After seeing them off we rushed to Nirmala convent to greet Sr. Vinita on her birthday.

Sr. Reena received the sad news of her dear Mother's death on 11<sup>th</sup>, a day after she returned to Jhansi after being with her for a few days. Sister accepted the news graciously.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 53 teachers accompanied by Srs. Jessy, Shalini and Amita went for a

picnic to Shivpuri. They visited Chhatri Temple, U.P Tourism Rest House, had boating and returned home, relaxed and refreshed.

18<sup>th</sup> witnessed an enriching, inspiring and educative orientation programme for parents and our teachers on “Misuse of Mobiles by the youth – leads to Mental stress and Violent behavior and Suicidal tendency in them” by Fr. Alangaden. This programme proved to be a boon for them.

Sr. Amita joined the prison ministry members in celebrating Christmas in the prison. The students sang Christmas Carols and entertained the inmates and gave them small gifts.

We had the Christmas celebration for the staff on 21<sup>st</sup>. It began with a very inspiring prayer service by class 6. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 11.30 a.m. which was followed by games and a sumptuous lunch. The school closed for winter vacation on 22<sup>nd</sup> to be re-opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019. On 26<sup>th</sup> Sr. Regis left for Lucknow to make her annual retreat.

USM Corner – On 2<sup>nd</sup> November the members of USM celebrated Diwali with the children of Mary Ward School. They conducted a prayer service for them, organized games, put up a skit, distributed gifts and prizes and enjoyed dancing and singing with them.

USM in-charge Ms. Manju Pandey and a few students sacrificed their holidays and came to school to sort out and prepare parcels of the things collected for the poor. It was a tremendous job which was appreciated by all

of us. They helped us in distributing the things to the needy.

8 students (USM) along with Ms. Ambika went to Indore on 27<sup>th</sup> December to join the 51<sup>st</sup> Knit India programme. Many eminent people were present. The children were inspired by the seminar and the motivational talks. They were amazed to see the transformation they felt in their lives because of USM.

Sr. Vijaya CJ

### **NEWS FROM NAINITAL HILLS...**

The month of December dawned with an invitation to enter into the season of Advent, then to Christmas and its festivities. The school was busy with final exams and farewells of teachers, students and co-workers. On 4<sup>th</sup> December the students conducted a meaningful assembly expressing their love and gratitude for Mrs. Kanaklata Pandey who was retiring from the school. The following day Ms. Meena (wife of Moti), who has worked 34 years in Ramnee was given a fitting farewell by the school. Thank you Meena, you were instrumental in keeping the place clean.

From 10<sup>th</sup> December Ramnee was silent as the boarders left for home after the final exams; we miss the chatter and noise of children around. The day scholars received their report cards on 15<sup>th</sup>. On the same day we conducted Christmas prayer for our teachers followed by a delicious Christmas lunch lovingly prepared under the guidance of Sr. Caroline.

On 18<sup>th</sup> Nirmala School had their annual concert in the Mary Ward hall. The children

dressed in colourful costumes performed exceptionally well for their parents and well-wishers. Everyone present appreciated the hard work and efforts of the students. Well done Sr. Shobha and her staff!!

Christmas activities: The Carol singing in the homes of our teachers started on 18<sup>th</sup> in full swing and it lasted for a few days. Some of us joined the parish carol group in visiting the houses. The inmates of the leper colony had their share of Christmas celebration, carols, gifts and lunch. We were emotionally moved to see how they too put in their mite as we sang the carols. We were reminded of the widow in the gospel about whom Jesus said, "She has put in more than all the others". The next day we were happy to have carols and a short prayer service with the underprivileged of Nainital town - coolies, boatmen, rickshaw pullers, other workers, such as painters and daily wagers. They were 134 in number. Every one received a blanket, 5 kg atta, one pouch oil and 2 kg dal. We felt happy to see them smiling and returning with handful of things. On 21<sup>st</sup> – the women who receive their ration from us every month were called for a short prayer service before the crib. They too received some gifts for Christmas (same as the other group).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> three of us like the three Magi visited Rudrapur, Purnapur and the Bishop's house sharing Christmas love, joy, peace and cakes. On 24<sup>th</sup> all our domestic staff sat before the beautifully prepared crib; it was also a time when we thanked God for the gift of our two domestic staff – Meena and Nirmala who served Ramnee for 34 and 4 years respectively. Thank you Meena and Nirmala!

The Christmas gifts and lunch shared with them was very much appreciated.

In the evening we the sisters sat some time before the crib, reflecting on the inspiring letter from Sr. Jane, praying for everyone and sending out the vibrations of Christmas love and peace to the whole world. On 24<sup>th</sup> the Christmas celebrations began at 8.30 p.m. in our chapel and soon after some of us joined the celebrations in the Lake Church and in St. Francis home parish. Throughout the day we were kept busy by the teachers, parents, students and well-wishers who came in to join the festivities of the day.

On 28<sup>th</sup> we took our domestic staff for a day out to the Ramnagar Resort. They enjoyed themselves to the full with games, dances and delicious dishes. Soon after Christmas Srs. Nibedita, Tessa and Merlin went for their home leave. At the end of the year we were happy to welcome Sr. Pratima who came to meet Sr. Elaine who was not keeping too well. 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> were quiet days for us as we entered into days of recollection and prayer before we stepped into the New Year 2019.

In the month of December Sr. Elaine frightened us all; she took very ill due to some infection in the blood, and was admitted in Haldwani. After she recovered a little she went home to be with her mother who too is quite poorly. Sr. Nirmala accompanied her to Bombay. In the beginning of the New Year Srs. Tarsicia, Anne and Grace left for home to be with their dear ones.

Those of us who stayed at home and enjoyed the cold winter holidays took some time out to visit Rudrapur, Dhamola and a few other

places. The holidays keep us busy because of the maintenance. The whole campus was full of workers - repairs, painting, new construction etc. At the end of January the home birds returned. Srs. Tessy and Shobha prepared themselves for their fourth vow which was solemnly pronounced on 30<sup>th</sup> January in Jeolikote along with Sr. Sudeepti who made her final commitment. Congratulations dear sisters! May this commitment make you more available and generous in your mission!

In the beginning of February we welcomed the students of class 12 for their practical papers. On 3<sup>rd</sup> the Bareilly Diocese celebrated Sr. Sudeepti's special day in the Cathedral thanking the Lord for all the blessings the family has received. It was very unique and solemn. Those of us who could not be in Jeolikote attended this second celebration.

After the long holidays the teachers had their orientation. The boarders returned on 25<sup>th</sup>. Once again the campus vibrated with the noise of children. 26<sup>th</sup> was the first day of the new academic year; but the next day was snowy holiday for all.

Sr. Adalaide's sister-in-law passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Soon after her brother had a fall and fractured his hip bone. So sister went home to spend a few days with him. Srs. Adelaide and Elaine are back now to continue their mission here in Ramnee.

We have a new member added in Ramnee – a German Shepherd, Magi by name. She is very friendly and affectionate and is very good in chasing away the monkeys. Do you want to see her? Here she is!

## ST. ANTHONY'S, JEOLIKOTE

The month of December started with a note of excitement as we had a wonderful P.T. display on 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the English and Hindi medium students put up a fantastic performance. It was very colourful and all the parents enjoyed the display. Mrs. Geeta Bhist, the Block Pramuk and Mr. Sanjeev Arya, the M L A were the chief guest and guest of honour. They appreciated the children's performance and gave an inspiring message.

8<sup>th</sup> December being the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary, Sr. Deepika went on a pilgrimage to Bazapur with two girls from our parish. After the Holy Mass, Miss Manisha our hostel girl was honoured with a certificate and cash prize of Rs. 1500 for participating in the Bible Logos quiz conducted by the Diocese in which she stood 3<sup>rd</sup> on national level.

The MSI sisters, our neighboring Convent invited us for a tea party in honour of their Congregation feast. Both the communities had a lovely time together.

As Sr. Lucy was going to Delhi for a meeting, we anticipated her feast with a solemn high Mass and sumptuous lunch. The students and teachers prayed for her during the school assembly. The teachers were served some snacks. The students of class 10 and 12 started their pre-board exams on 14<sup>th</sup> December. 7 of our sisters in two batches went to Bareilly for the Christmas gathering organized by the diocese. They enjoyed the get-together, the entertainment and the

Christmas gift given by Rt. Rev. Bishop Ignatius D' Souza.

Under the guidance of Fr. Uday, the sisters went for Carol singing with the parishioners. It lasted for four days. It was a big success as they could visit many families including some Hindu families who gave them a warm welcome. Carols were sung and prayers were offered for them.

Mr. Stephen, a Methodist Pasture from Nainital came with his team and sang Christmas carols for our students. They also staged a skit displaying Christmas values and danced for them. The group was facilitated with Christmas delicacies. They were very pleased with our children's response. On the same day the English Medium students had their carol singing and crib making competition. The Hindi medium had drawing, dictation and writing competitions.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> Just before the closing of the school for Christmas holidays, the Hindi Medium students put up a Christmas play and also enacted a scene from the life of Mother Mary Ward during the assembly. They also had the Carols and National Anthem singing competition on the same day. The Eng. Medium had put up a Christmas programme for the grandparents of the students of the school which was enjoyed by all. The children were given cakes. Our boarders went home for a short holiday.

We shared our Christmas joy with a get-together with the teachers and co-workers. A meaningful prayer service was prepared by Sr. Deepika. Thereafter all enjoyed a delicious lunch and Christmas gifts were given to them.

On 24<sup>th</sup> evening we wished all our residential co-workers and after that the community had a prayer service in front of the crib in the dining room. At 10.30 p.m. we began the Christmas celebration with carol singing followed by a solemn High Mass. Thereafter we greeted one another over a cup of coffee and cake. A beautifully prepared crib and delicately decorated altar and the church by Srs. Pratibha and Damian along with co-workers was the centre of attraction.

Christmas day began as usual with a High Mass at 9.00 a.m. Many parents, students and well-wishers came to greet us and the whole day the compound was full of laughter and joy.

On 26<sup>th</sup> we had the V.I.P. gathering. We sang carols for them and Fr. Uday, the parish priest gave an inspiring message. They enjoyed coffee, Christmas cake and other delicacies.

The next day all the elderly people of the locality were invited for a get together. About 70 elderly people took part in it. Sr. Damian took special interest to visit every home and invited them for the event. Games were conducted for them. Winners were given prizes. Delicious snacks were served and every family was given a warm blanket as a gift. They enjoyed the day and were very happy.

The community had the monthly recollection and the day ended with a meaningful hour of adoration thanking God for all the blessings of the year and for God's plentiful blessings in the year 2019.

As we ushered in the New Year we were reminded of a small poem.

‘She came to my desk with a quivering lip the lesson was done.

“Dear teacher, I want a new leaf”, she said

“I have spoiled this one.”

In place of the leaf so stained and blotted  
I gave her a new one all unspotted.”

I went to the throne with a quivering soul  
The old year was done.

“Dear Father, have you a new leaf for me?

I have spoiled this one.”

He took the old leaf so stained and blotted

And gave me a new one, all unspotted

And into my sad heart lovingly smiled

“Start anew, and do better, my child.”

With this assurance we started the New Year 2019 with the Holy Eucharist.

This year the Sisters’ Christmas get-together was organized by our Bishop with a novel idea to make sure of the participation of all – the young and the old. So he had it on two different days at two different places. To those who could not be present, he personally reached the gift with a note “we missed you in our gathering”. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January – our Institute feast – he visited us and joined us for supper. He handed over the gifts to the absentees. The next day he offered the Holy Eucharist and proceeded on to other nearby communities.

Srs. Deepika and Sheeba made the best use of the winter vacation for their Annual retreat in Rudrapur.

It was a pleasant surprise when our parish priest Fr. Uday invited us sisters – MSI and

CJ – for a Mission Tour to Shajahanpur Deanery. On 6<sup>th</sup> three MSI and four C.Js left for Shajapur. We stayed there overnight and visited many mission stations on our return journey, and reached back on 7<sup>th</sup> by 5:30 p.m. We really appreciated the generosity of Fr. Uday. Our sisters and fathers of the mission stations were so kind to share the produce of their land with us that by the time we reached home we had a few kilos of ‘tapioca’. After giving their share to MSI sisters, we got into the tedious work of drying it. It will come handy in the rainy season.

Srs. Lucy, Damian, Deepika and Sheeba were part of the team which went to Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. They had an important meeting with our auditor and came back enthused to spend more on the needy thus keeping to the objectives of our Societies.

On 15<sup>th</sup> the majority of our boarders returned. Since then they are seriously focusing on the monthly tests.

The Mary Ward Week was well planned. On every working day, the students had various activities - prayer service, quiz and the drawing of the portrait of Mary Ward. The students and teachers are sincerely focusing on her virtues esp. Freedom, Justice and Sincerity. Hope to create some ripples in their life which will overflow to the society, at large.

Another much awaited event was the Final profession of our ex-student Sr. Sudeepti. She arrived on the 25<sup>th</sup> for her immediate preparation. On 27<sup>th</sup> she started her recollection. On 28<sup>th</sup> Sr. Pratima arrived and helped her to familiarize herself in God’s ways. Along with her, eight of ours prepared

themselves with a day of recollection to profess the Fourth Vow. Sisters from Rudrapur and Nainital joined the preparation. Sr. Augustine the senior most led the line.

Now and then it turned cloudy. 30<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a bright day. At 11:00 a.m. all gathered in our well decorated Church with our Bishop Ignatius, twenty one priests, many sisters of other congregations to witness the solemn moment of the Final vows of Sr. Sudepti. Her dear mother, two brothers and relatives joined her in this grace-filled moment of her final and total surrender. She missed her dear father who went for his eternal reward 3 years ago. Highlighting the virtues of her father the bishop urged her to remain a committed person till the end. Our boarders and parishioners witnessed the moving ceremony where her mother and elder brother led her to the altar and left her there for the Lord. The music conducted by Sr. Lorna and the students added a sense of aura to the occasion. At the end of the Mass Sr. Sudepti thanked all those who played a part in her vocation story. The Bishop, the clergy and all the invited guest were served delicious lunch. By 2.30 p.m. the day turned quite cold and all returned to their destination. Sr. Pratima with her usual vibrancy added colour to the day. She left for Delhi on 31<sup>st</sup> and Sr. Sudepti went home on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

On 31<sup>st</sup> our SDB fathers celebrated their Founder St. John Bosco's feast. The Eucharist was celebrated in our church at 7:00 a.m. and the sisters and parish priest were invited for a tasty lunch. They hope and pray that the work of their new building may start immediately so that they can serve the participants and all

others in a well equipped centre. We say 'Amen'.

1<sup>st</sup> February was a very joyful day for all of us as Sr. Laura and Sr. Rinalda celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Archbishop of Agra, Albert D' Souza and his priest brother, Mathew gave us a big surprise by their visit to be with their cousin Sr. Laura on this great day. Sr. Nirmala too joined the celebration. We had a solemn High Mass concelebrated with the Archbishop and four priests. All of us joined Sr. Laura and Sr. Rinalda thanking God for their beautiful lives and the wonderful gifts God has showered upon them. On the following day we gratefully remembered our profession day and thanked God for our religious call to be the followers of Mother Mary Ward.

Our Bishop, Ignatius D' Souza addressed the SCC (Small Christian Community) meeting at Suchetna, Kathgodam on 6<sup>th</sup> February. It was attended by the animators of all communities of the Bareilly Diocese and the SCC leaders of each parish. It was very inspiring as Bishop explained to the group how to make these meetings more effective and keep the families united and work together to build up strong faith and live a true Christian life. Our parish is very active in conducting the SCC meetings regularly on Sundays in different families. We are divided into three groups. The parishioners are eager and enthusiastic in coming together to understand and learn the Word of God. The children also share their ideas freely and cooperate well. On Sundays one or two parishioners share their faith experience at end of the Holy Mass.

On 11<sup>th</sup> we had a special Holy Mass for the **Kruseveer** children as we celebrated the **Holy Childhood Day**. All our little ones took an active part in the Sunday liturgy. At the end of the Mass parents came forward and stood with their children and prayed for them. It was a touching scene for the entire Congregation.

On 12<sup>th</sup> our English medium school children and teachers conducted a special prayer assembly and a short cultural program for the students of class 10 as our boys will leave the school. It was very well done and the class 10 students appreciated this gesture very much and thanked Sr. Damian and the teachers for their guidance and hard work. We are proud of our first batch of class 10 students. We wish all our students excellent results and a successful future.

14<sup>th</sup> February was a great day for class 12 students and the boys of class 10 as it was their farewell day. The students of class 11 conducted a meaningful prayer service and performed a variety of dances and skits with moral values. Sr. Deepika our principal, advised the children to make their life successful by having a close touch with God and **“whatever you do, do it well”** as Mary Ward says. **Always make God as your close friend and a Loving Father.**

On 18<sup>th</sup> the **Youth Day** was celebrated. Our Bishop had given us guidelines to make it fruitful and effective. We have just nine youth but they took active part in the Holy Mass and prepared for the day very devotedly. Fr. Uday explained to the youth and the parents their special role in the Church. The parents need to encourage the children to be regular for Mass.

On the same day we received the sad news of the sudden demise of Mrs. Rekha George, our Parishioner, 36 years old. She is Sr. Antenette C.J's nephew's wife. We pray for her husband Victor and her two children who are still studying. She suffered from brain hemorrhage.

We had a special assembly on Mother Mary Ward conducted by the Hindi section teachers. We also prayed for the brave soldiers who were martyred at Pulwama. We are proud of these 42 young, brave, and self-sacrificing Soldiers who gave up their lives in safeguarding our country.

Our Scouts of classes 6, 7, 8 displayed their talents by setting up camps on the Provincial Hill near the parish priest's house. They were divided into four groups and performed various activities such as setting up tents, preparing food, skits, peace march for Pulwama and first aid in emergency. These activities were done enthusiastically.

We would like you to have a peep into our LKG and UKG as these children are busy revising for their final exams. They were very attentive in their colourful classrooms. Sr. Damian has taken a lot of trouble to encourage the students and the teachers to have class wise quiz in groups in each subject. She personally supervised and monitored this activity during the past two weeks. It was very profitable learning experience for our students. So they are well prepared for their final exam.

Please remember our board exam students of classes 10 and 12 in your prayers. We assure you our prayers and good wishes to all our students in every school who are preparing

for their board exam and final exams. God bless you.

### **JESU BHAWAN NEWS...**

For us at Jesu Bhawan December was a quiet month until Christmas. Sr. Pratima was in and out on her mission journeys and retreat. Season of Christmas reminds us of caring and sharing with the poor and the needy. So Sr. Pratima brought a mini truck full of provision from St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Mayur Vihar to distribute to the poor who are living in huts across our house. Our sisters from Mayur Vihar and St. Xavier's communities too joined us in this venture. We also shared some provision with a few poor Catholic families of Khera Khurd.

Sr. Poonam was with us to attend to her ENT related problem and returned to Falna with satisfaction after a minor surgery. Sr. Divya joined us for Christmas and went for her annual retreat on the following day.

After Christmas Srs. Sujata and Kiran went for vocation fostering to Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. They were warmly welcomed by people and they felt that they could interact with the youth in a satisfying manner. With a grateful heart for all the blessings we received and with trust in the Lord we entered into the new year 2019. The gift of the year came in the person of Sr. Elsy Vattamattathil as our next Provincial Superior.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January during the council meeting, Sr. Pratima briefed Sr. Elsy with necessary information and handed over a file which was meticulously prepared by her. On the following day we had meeting of all the accountants of our main schools, principals

and superiors with our Auditor, Mr. Kashyap. It was a time of learning and updating ourselves with new rules and to plan for the future. We are called to be accountable, responsible and just in the use of resources/finance of the congregation.

Sr. Christina from Allahabad was with us for two weeks to meet the doctor at AIIMS. Her two nurses rendered a wonderful service to her and returned to Allahabad.

The months of January and February were again special for the province as 26 of our sisters professed the fourth vow on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February. We congratulate Sr. Sudeepti who professed her final vows with fourth vow on 30<sup>th</sup> in Jeolikote. On 30<sup>th</sup> morning Srs. Kiran and Grezal renewed their vows at Jesu Bhawan, Sr. Juliana in Allahabad and Sr. Alka in Kolkata - Loreto Convent on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations dear sisters!

The Birthday of our dear Venerable Mother Mary Ward was celebrated at Jesu Bhawan with Loreto sisters, CJ and S.J communities of Shahbad and Jhajjar. The celebration of the week continued in a fitting manner and the finale was at the Loreto Convent at Delhi Cantt.

The sisters from COIN came twice for their visa interview. God was gracious to them and everything went well and they received their visa this time without any difficulty.

We were happy to host COIN Social Action Meet on 16 – 17 February. Fr. Joy Kariampuram S.J. facilitated the meeting in an effective manner. They spent the two days fruitfully in prayer, reflection and sharing.

## RUDRAPUR

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November we visited our so called Christian cemetery at Rudrapur with our parish priest and few parishioners. The sight was far below our expectation for it looked like a dumping ground not a graveyard. We lit candles on the Four-five graves which were visible. The parish priest blessed the graves and said the prayers for the dead. We were deeply saddened by the deplorable state of the graveyard.

The month of November were loaded with practices for our little ones. The number of holidays declared by the administration compelled us to postpone the dates for our Annual Function which at last was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The items were really captivating and the light effects added exquisiteness to the display. We could notice that the guests and the chief guest S.D.M. of Rudrapur and Kichha were appreciating and complimenting some of the items. Kudos to Srs. Mary John, Patricia, Rose and the teachers!

There is a custom that the Christian community of Rudrapur stages the Christmas programme for the public of Rudrapur. This year our students of class 3 put up two items which was well appreciated.

The students enacted the Christmas play and they brought gifts to offer to Baby Jesus which was served to the poor and the needy. The biscuits collected were reached to the inmates of Mother Theresa's house at Motinagar by the sisters along with few students. The children and the teachers were much touched by the service done by the M.C. Sisters.

We invited the labourers from the school construction site and our own workers to the crib. Sr. Assunta explained to them about the birth of Jesus and who really Jesus is for us and for the world, sang few carols and prayed for them. A sumptuous meal was served to them after which they were given gifts.

The New Year dawned on a joyful note of celebration and sharing as we anticipated the congregation Feast on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The priests and sisters from our neighbourhood were invited to the thanksgiving Mass and a fellowship meal. On 2<sup>nd</sup> sisters from Delhi, Jhansi, Mauranipur, Jeolikote and Puranpur arrived for the 8 days retreat directed by Fr. Ceasar S.J. from Vidya Jyoti. We were indeed glad to see HOUSE FULL for the first time. Our house has been hallowed by the presence of many sisters praying for eight full days. It was providential that the District magistrate had declared holidays till 16<sup>th</sup> January. Unlike other years there was very good sunshine and warmth which proved a blessing in disguise for our retreatants.

When the school reopened the students were busy preparing for the Mary Ward Week. The Mary ward week was celebrated with a lot of earnestness and enthusiasm by the teachers and students. The children were interested in the history of our Foundress. In order to strengthen the bond of Mary Ward Friends, we invited Mrs. Kusum Sharma, Teacher from St. Mary's, Nainital to acquaint the teachers with our Foundress.

On 30<sup>th</sup> Sr. Mary John pronounced her 4<sup>th</sup> Vow in St. Anthony's Church at Jeolikote. We wish her abundant blessings from St. Ignatius and our Venerable Mary Ward.

On 2nd February we had a homely celebration of Sr. Rose's silver Jubilee of committed life and in remembrance of our final commitment in the C.J. Family. Srs. Tarsicia and Ann from Nainital and Deepika from Jeolikote enroute Bareilly joined us for the evening celebration. The timely visits of our sisters from Nainital, Jeolikote and Puranpur invigorate us in our mission here. We look forward to similar visits. These days the monkeys boldly trespass into the forbidden ground, destroying our green peas and ground nuts and winter vegetables. The gardeners get the alarm from the dogs and they manage to keep them at a safe distance. The school building is still in progress and is at the finishing stage.

In the early hours of 14<sup>th</sup> Sr. Rose got the sad news of her sisters' death. May her soul rest in peace! Sister was happy to be at home for the funeral.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed Sr. Sudeepti. We wish her a happy and fruitful stay and ministry at Lalpur.



**Delhi Disha Wishes All Its Readers A  
Time of Coming Home During This  
Season of Lent!**

**AMDG**