



DELHI DISHA

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PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2019

From the Provincial's Desk...

Hearty Congratulations to our dear Srs. Amita, Poonam and Merlin who successfully completed their M.Ed.

Kindly pray for :

- Sr. Damian's mother who had a fall and is in bed since a month and for her father who is losing his memory.
- Sr. Lucy's father who is ailing
- Sr. Alice's sister who is recovering from her illness.
- Sr. Isabel's sister-in-law who is critically ill.
- Sr. Celine's grandnephew, Delvin who is on ventilator.

News from our communities

Nirmala Convent, Jhansi

On 1st August, Srs. Alice and Roselette left for Bangalore to attend the Formators' programme guided by Sr. Prisca. Sr. Annette took good care of the postulants and candidates in their absence. Thank you dear Sr. Annette for your availability. On 3rd, the teachers hosted a lunch in honour of Sr. Doreen who was on transfer from Nirmala to Falna.

Looking ahead to the Independence day celebrations, we began different activities on 13th. We had house wise group song and group dance competitions. On 14th, the primary children had a mesmerizing show in all their colourful costumes of multiple fashions. On the same day Classes 6 - 8 showcased their talents in speeches and tableaux. On Independence Day, the programmes started with march past by the four houses. Fr. Rinoy SDB, the Chief Guest took the salute and appreciated the great talents of the 'Girls'. Later, the best items of the previously held competitions were staged for the delight of all.

Mr. Denzil Goden M.L.A and his wife Leena from Lucknow were invited by our Bishop to address various groups in the Diocese. He met the priests, religious, lay people, nurses, youth etc. and explained the present situation of our country. He encouraged us not to fear but 'put love' in all that we do. He also told us 'be transparent in all our institutions, in our dealings with people and in our mission'. He repeatedly said, if we put LOVE in whatever we do, God will do the rest. Ms. Leena, his wife convincingly assured us of God's power in our life, if we trust Him.

Since the feast of Raksha bandhan was on Independence Day, we were given permission

to celebrate it with our brothers and sisters in the jail on 17th August. Our students collected 'Rakhis' and brought biscuits to distribute to the inmates. An entertainment programme was prepared by the schools and that gave joy to all in the prison. Receiving Rakhis from the young sisters gave them great joy and a sense of belonging to someone who care for them.

Sr. Alice left for home to care for her sick sister. We pray for a speedy recovery for her. With the hoisting of the flag by our Bishop, Novena to Our Lady of Velankanni began in the Cathedral and most of us attended the Novena every day and prayed for our Congregation, our country and the entire world.

Our students were invited to a 'Sports Event' in the stadium where they participated in a variety of events like cricket, kho kho, basketball, volley ball etc. They returned with a number of gold and silver medals. Well done girls!!

Sr. Elsy, our Provincial was with us for the



visitation. The students and staff gave her a warm welcome and presented a short programme to honour and welcome her. We are grateful to her for being with us and

inspiring us with her gentle and unassuming ways.

On Teachers' Day, Sr. Jyotika our Principal



and 4 other teachers were awarded by Jila Jankalyan Mahasamiti, Jhansi for their contribution towards 'Swachh Bharat' - pollution free and polythene free environment in Nirmala. Our sisters from Sagar with their staff came to Jhansi for a picnic. We were happy to serve them and they enjoyed their day with us.

The Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni – 8th September was celebrated solemnly in the parish. Our postulants and candidates were specially appreciated by our Parish Priest for their melodious singing during the Novena days. In spite of the rain, the Church was packed with the devotees of the Blessed Mother. After the Solemn Mass, everyone shared the fellowship meal. Fr. Francis Karthanam conducted a seminar on 'Evangelization'. About 140 priests, sisters, formees and others were active listeners to the powerful message of Fr. Francis.

154 Girls from classes 11 & 12 with Sr. Jyotika and six teachers had an outing to Kanpur – 'Blue World'. They spent a fabulous day in a world of 'wonders' away from the routine reading and writing.

Memories to cherish, especially for class 12! Some of us were present to share the joy with Srs. Augusta and Amata (St. Jude's Hospital) on their golden jubilee. On the same day, the two day Bible Festival was concluded by our Bishop, with the distribution of prizes to the winners who had participated in different programmes.

Nirmala Convent, Jhansi

Falna community

Two of us, Srs. Joseline and Rayna arrived here on 24th June and Sr. Anjali left for Puranpur on 26th June. So it was a learning process for both of us. We took chances to visit the families and found that people here are simple and concerned about us. On the second week of July we had a Parent - Teacher Meeting and many parents came to meet the new sisters and invited us to visit their families. On weekends we visited the catholic families and nearby religious communities and places of importance along with Fr. Jacob. Our community is complete with the arrival of Sr. Doreen on 6th August and she was missioned as sister-in charge of our community on 7th by Sr. Elsy. Our first community outing was on 11th August, visiting a few religious communities of our region - Mount Abu. We could not believe that we are in Rajasthan as we travelled through the hills – something like Nainital. It was a wonderful time coming in contact with other religious working in the diocese. In turn we also had sisters and fathers visiting us from our neighbourhood on 15th August.

We experience miracles in our lives very often and forget to note them down. One of these was on 15th August. Students had prepared well for the parade and a short

programme for the day. But rain started the previous evening giving no hope of having the programme. We were in two minds whether to have the programme in the hall or outside. Trusting in the Lord, students all lined up, the chief guest arrived and it was about to rain. But the students were undisturbed; they knew that the Lord is going to hold back the rain and it was so. Everything went well as planned earlier and the students left the campus, and lo! it rained for the next two days. We were surrounded by flood and the District Magistrate declared holidays for two days due to incessant rains. A miracle indeed; the presence of God experienced tangibly!

We were happy to welcome our Bishop on 19th August and the next day he offered Holy Mass for us. We visited 'Tong' one of the far away mission stations where IMS priests and CMC sisters are working together in a school. We spent a day with them. On 2nd September we visited Jodhpur palace, Fort, two convents and parish.

Students honoured the teachers on 5th with a cultural programme followed by games and lunch for the teachers by the management. On 8th our small parish celebrated the feast of Mother Mary. There was yet another reason to rejoice - Mrs. Thomas, a parishioner received an award from Rajasthan government for her meritorious service at the health centre of Falna. We thanked God for the gift of Mrs. Thomas, a catholic woman making a positive impact with her service in the area of health and healing. On 10th September we spent the day in prayer and recollection.

St. Mary's Convent Nainital

Plant seeds of happiness, hope, success and love; it will all come back to you in abundance. This is the law of nature. [Steve Maraboli]

Indeed! We were delighted to welcome 12 scholars from France who paid a short visit to us. On 11th we had the twin feast day celebration of Sr. Digna and Fr. Jerome, our parish priest. Our cluster community and the



local priests added much joy and shared a scrumptious meal with us. To add colour to the celebration, the students conducted a meaningful prayer service and put up a mesmerizing entertainment programme.

Students of classes 6 - 12 worked their fingers to the bone for their house competitions and they wonderfully performed well. The same day we welcomed Sr. Elsy who spent a few days with us as she was on visitation. On 15th

Sr. Elsy hoisted the flag and addressed the teachers and the students.

Srs. Elsy, Digna, Tarsicia and Manjusha left for Rudrapur to wish Sr. Assunta on her feast day. The same day Bishop Antony accompanied by a few priests visited us. In the evening we had a get together in the Parish house to celebrate the feast of Fr. Arnold and all of us enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

Community had the monthly recollection on 12th guided by Sr. Tarsicia. The Diocese of Bareilly organised a two day seminar on the current social issues. Sr. Sheryl represented our community and on her return she briefed the community about the current social issues. Srs. Manjusha and Shobha attended the UP-UK Catholic School Association meeting in Allahabad. Kathgodam deanery organized a two day Bible festival for the catholic children. Against all expectations, our students trumped the cup final winning two 1st prizes for the speech and drawing competition respectively. On August 16th Sr. Sheryl left for Ireland to have an International experience for a month. Our school was invited by the Forest Department of Sathal to plant saplings, where the trees were destroyed by the forest fire. 29th August was a special day for the office bearers of L.T.S, U.S.M, and Eco-Club as they had an



exciting trip to Sathal, accompanied by Srs. Digna, Manjusha, Amita, Mr. Sandeep and Mrs. N. Adhikari, where we had the heart touching experience of mounting the hills, digging and planting 350 saplings. One of our ex-students who was also a member of the group briefed us about the importance of taking care of the nature and 4 R's, Recycle, Re-use, Reduce, and Refuse.

Along with Mrs. Sangeeta 10 of our students went to Mohan Lal Shah Bal Vihya Mandir to take part in various competitions. Our students won the Runner up Trophy and a few prizes. The overwhelming victory of the team was a 'feather in the cap' for the school.

September was a month of festivals and excitements which began with a special visit from Sr. Roshni and Sr. Salesia, both, "Old Girls" from Ramnee, which brought us much joy, especially to our elderly sisters as they reminisced old days together. On 5th we celebrated Teachers' Day in both the schools. The children put up a beautiful programme to express their appreciation. At 11.00 a.m. we had the solemn Eucharistic celebration followed by a festive meal. We anticipated the Ramnee Day on 7th because of the feast of the Nanda Devi on 8th.

SANSKRITI: Every year on 8th September Ramnee celebrates the feast of Mother Mary, our Patroness, by holding an Inter-school Cultural Fest called Sanskriti, a much awaited day by our neighbouring schools too. Culture reflects the soul of a person, the ethos of a nation and celebrates oneness and harmony in all of creation. This year 5 of our neighbouring schools participated in the various competitions such as speeches by famous personalities, Dance, Band, Documentary making etc., highlighting social issues. We were delighted

as our School secured the First Position. However, all the teams put up exceptionally good items. Sr. Manjusha, the sisters and the teachers deserve a special mention for the excellent arrangements. Sr. Stella was



overjoyed when the students wished her on her feast day.

On 19th, Sr. Sheryl returned from Ireland much enriched after experiencing their rich traditions, culture and life-style with our IBVM Sisters, all of which we are sure will overflow into her mission among us.

23rd of every month is dedicated to Mother Mary Ward and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and creative ideas. This month of September was wisely utilized by our Mary Wardians by organizing different activities to promote, help and encourage the needy ones. On 19th September a visit was paid to Nirmala School, Nainital by our Little Mary Wardians to interact with them and they conducted



various literary events to encourage them and elicit their talents. On 21st September, students of Class 12 visited the Government Primary School, Tallital, to interact with them and on 21st the Little Mary Wardians invited our Nirmala School children as guests of honour at their Recitation competition of poems on Mary Ward written by them. The Nirmala School children too participated in various items organized for them. May the Spirit of Mary Ward continue to grow in our students by making them women of commitment who will do great things in life.

26th September was a special day for all the Ramneetes. After a period of ten years of drought, our Senior Basket Ball Team was delighted to win the Basket Ball Tournament organized by the DSA, a week-long event full of passion, grit and excitement for the participating schools and the townsfolk. Though the much coveted Trophy had eluded SMC for a decade, our Team kept on playing in the true spirit of Sportsmanship, believing that a “Big shots are only little shots who keeps shooting.” Our Junior Team who put up a commendable display is sure to keep on shooting in the same spirit. Hearty congratulations to our students and the coach.

The culmination of all excitement was on 30th the day of the Ramnee Annual School Fete, a day of enjoyment with a noble purpose! All our sisters, teachers and students put in their best to make the day an enjoyable one for all adding generously to the Fun and the Fund. God bless us all as Mary Ward says, “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Jesu Bhawan, Rohini

The two months of August and September were busy days for Sr. Elsy as she travelled to

visit the communities. She was accompanied by the prayers of the two in the community. From 27th – 29th Sr. Deepa attended the Provincial Congregation in Allahabad and returned with rich experiences and warm relationship.

Sr. Pratima came back to the province on 11th September after her renewal programme in Pune. Sr. Elsy accompanied her to Jhansi and she was missioned as the animator of St. Francis community. Congrats and God Bless you dear Sr. Pratima.

Sr. Elsy returned to Jesu Bhawan on 19th and this time bringing along Sr. Reena, the fourth member of the community. Hearty welcome to you dear Sr. Reena!

The provincial team was in NRC, the Jesuit renewal centre for the Ignatian family meet organized by Fr. Jeera S J. After two and half days workshop on leadership they came to Jesu Bhawan for the council meeting. After the consult Sr. Deepa left for Nainital for an important work. It was a revisit to relish the memories and cherish them.

We found some time to visit our neighbours; visiting the home for the mentally retarded run by SD sisters and the children’s home (birds of the air) gave us an opportunity to see the reality around and at the same time appreciated the care and compassion of the sisters and the staff taking care of them.

On 27th September Sr. Vandana brought Sr. Alka to Delhi since she was suffering from bladder stone. With the medication from Apollo hospital, without a surgery she was healed completely. Thank you Srs. Sherly and Vandana for taking care of her.

All four of us in Jesu Bhawan kept ourselves busy getting ready for the big event, the Provincial Congregation.

Sr. Sheryl writes - Our international exposure in Ireland

Life is the greatest journey till our last breath in the universe. Yes we feel very happy that we got an opportunity to experience European culture and life. On 18 August four of us from COIN Srs. Divya, Cecilia, Naveena & Sheryl reached the Dublin Airport. Sr. Mary O' Corner received us warmly. We were sent two by two to the communities. Srs. Naveena & Sheryl were taken to the Loreto Abbey Community in Dalkey. The community members welcomed us cordially and made us feel at home with them. Soon we adjusted to their lifestyle.

Our life in Ireland was very different from the one in India. The very first day we were taken to the town, metro stations and bus stand etc, so that we can travel freely and explore the places. The sisters accompanied us to some of their communities, home town of Teresa Ball, Loreto Schools and archives. As we visited these places we were delighted to see the birth place of Teresa Ball, the original hand written Constitutions and how she started the Loreto Schools in Ireland. We were also privileged to make a pilgrimage to the patron of Dublin St. Kevin and his monastery, Glendalough. Another place of Pilgrimage was Kylemore Abbey, where the Benedictine Monks live. Visiting these places inspired us to become a channel of grace to all those who come in contact with us.

We admire our Loreto Sisters with whom we spent a month. In spite of their age and illness, they move around to do what they can



as per their capacity. They have deep faith and trust in God. They live an independent, liberal, happy and healthy life and spread the Kingdom of God. The month passed by very quickly. We enjoyed our stay there. On 17th September we bade good bye to them. Indeed we were surprised to see our elderly sisters in their 90's getting up early in the morning to bid farewell to us and telling that "Hope to see you again". What a love & care !

Gratitude is an attitude. Yes, I am indeed grateful to our General Superiors Sr. Jane and Sr. Noelle IBVM for giving us this unique opportunity to be in Ireland, to experience their culture and lifestyle. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sr. Carmel IBVM for making our stay a memorable one. I am indebted to our Provincials Sr. Roshni and Sr. Elsy for giving us this once in a lifetime opportunity of having such an exposure. I thank my community members who happily shouldered my responsibilities in my absence. Once again I thank every one of you for your prayers and good wishes.

Sr. Sheryl