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Province News Letter

Jan – Feb 2021

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES



St. Anthony's Convent, Jeolikote

By the time we bade goodbye to Dec. 2020 we knew we were heading for hard days. Yes, dark clouds were gathering in the horizon. Since Sr. Rinalda's health was deteriorating she was taken to Allahabad on 26th Dec. for treatment accompanied by Srs. Sheeba and Pratibha. We ushered in 2021 with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8:30 am. The church was full. Throughout the lockdown we celebrated the Eucharist, God kept us safe all through. On 2nd Jan. we had a special gathering in the Priest's house to celebrate Emeritus Bishop Isidore's Birthday.

Since this year is specially dedicated to St. Joseph, we brought the statute of St. Joseph in a procession to the chapel and placed it in a specially decorated niche. We have special Novena and prayers in honour of him every Sunday.

The Kathgodam Deanery tried to make Christmas very meaningful by trying to involve the parishioners in various activities. In all of it we excelled and our parish secured the title of 'Champion' and the prizes – cash and trophies were distributed by Fr. Uday (Parish Priest) on 3rd Jan.

Though some of our sisters were absent we tried to make Sr. Deepika's birthday celebration a memorable one with a meaningful Holy Mass and a few delicacies.

Since we got the message that Sr. Rinalda was improving after the operation, our sisters decided to return. Fr. Uday obliged to bring them by vehicle since travelling by train was not advisable. On 11th Jan. Sr. Augustine developed a mild fever and cold so we called the doctor and gave her medicine and made her to rest. Srs. Sheeba, Pratibha and Fr. Uday reached back by 7:30 p.m. on 11th Jan. On the next day after the evening tea, Sr. Augustine went to church and recited the Rosary quite loudly sitting with Sr. Laura. On 13th, sister attended the Eucharist as usual, came for breakfast and in front of every one of us she collapsed and passed away of a massive heart attack. Repercussion was felt in Allahabad – Sr. Rinalda too collapsed and she too started sinking. The funeral service for Sr. Augustine was held on 14th Jan. at 11:30 a.m. which was officiated by our Bishop along with eleven priests.

On 17th we received another shocking news that Sr. Rinalda breathed her last in Allahabad. Immediately our sisters along with Sr. Elsy left for Allahabad. Fr. Uday accompanied them - indeed a pillar of support especially at this time of bereavement. On 19th and 24th Jan. 7th day Mass was offered for Srs. Augustine and Rinalda respectively and prayed for the departed souls.



Sr. Assunta was kind enough to invite us to Rudrapur for a change and a few of us had an outing on 26th Jan. after a short Republic day celebration. Fr. Uday also joined us as he stood by us in the thick and thin. To our hearts' content we plucked mutter, enjoyed a special lunch and returned in the evening.

We observed Mary Ward Week meaningfully. Each one of us had a chance to plan out the hour of prayer creatively and draw inspiration from her committed life – “Lead us on Mary Ward, lead us on” was the refrain that echoed in our hearts. A lot of repair work is going on and the school/church entrance is looking quite grand.

Srs. Laura and Kanula celebrated their birthday and feast day on 1st and 2nd Feb. respectively. On 7th all of us went to Nainital to join the Jubilarians. Rumors about opening the school was quite ripe and following the guidelines we opened school for day scholars of Cl. 6 – 12, though the response is not very encouraging. Parents are quite apprehensive to send their children and they are following “wait and watch” policy. The teachers are seriously revising the lessons. Online classes are been conducted simultaneously accommodating the boarders.



Srs. Augustine’s and Rinalda’s ‘home going’ was celebrated on 15th Feb – Month’s Mind – and 5 priests and our sisters from Nainital and Rudrapur joined in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Our parish choir members with their melodious singing added to the solemnity of the occasion. Sr. Lorna took extra care to train them and Srs. Kanula and Alka were a great support to her. After the Eucharist celebration and prayer at the grave, all were served a sumptuous meal. Memories of our dear sisters

were relived and indeed there was a sense of bereavement felt by all. “When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.”

On 16th Feb. five of us joined the Deanery level monthly recollection at Suchetna, Kathgodam. We began our Lenten season; starting the longest journey, 'journey inward.' Our only prayer is, may the Lord give us the courage to turn back and embrace our shadows and move on with the crucified and risen Lord. On 21st, Srs. Sheeba and Alka went to Bareilly for CRI recollection.

We took much courage and effort and called the boarders of classes 9 – 12 on 22nd Feb. Those who did not bring the required documents had to go back, since we did not want to take a chance. We quarantined them for 7 days. The entire school was given holiday since day scholar parents expressed fear to send their children along with the boarders. Online monthly test was successfully conducted during these holidays.

Presently our co- workers, teachers and sisters are going to B.D. Pandey hospital for Covid test. Almost all the boarders arrived and it took a week to get them all. CEO came for inspection and we are advised to keep the boarders segregated and we plan to postpone the pre-board exams of Cl. X and XII. The officers and the public are not confident to let the students attend the school in the normal manner. On 28th Feb. we were happy to welcome Sr. Patricia into our company. She was reached by her community. We wish her a happy stay with us. May God help us in our Lenten Journey.



St. Mary's Convent, Nainital

The month of January all our co- workers were found very busy getting ready for the new academic session. During holidays few of our sisters made their online retreat and thus gained spiritual strength. Like every other year this year too, we celebrated the Mary Ward Week in a fitting manner. The FMW were active during pandemic and they had their regular online meetings. On 13th January we were shocked to hear that our dear Sr. Augustine went to her eternal reward. All of us participated in her last journey. After four days again we got another shocking news that our dear Sr. Rinalda is no more. Four of us took the tedious journey to Allahabad by road to pay tribute to our dear Sr. Rinalda and to join in her last journey. Srs. Manjusha and Sheryl returned back with full of joy after their home leave making the community complete. On 2nd February many of us relived our Profession Day. On 5th Feb. we had the first snowfall of the year. Corona prevented us from celebrating the Jubilees of Srs. Stella, Shobha and Amita last year. Finally, the Jubilee bells rang on 7th February calling our sisters from Jeolikote, Rudrapur and Puranpur to join us in the Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilee celebrations of Srs. Stella, Coletta, Patricia, Elaine, Shobha and Amita. The presence of Srs. Elsy and Deepa added to our joy. Most. Rev. Ignatius D'Souza Bishop of Bareilly, along with 5 more priests offered the thanksgiving Eucharist. Sr. Kanula and the choir with their melodious singing made the liturgy meaningful. Jeolikote and Nainital communities together



celebrated the birthday of Sr. Elsy on 9th Feb. joyfully. Next day Sr. Elsy was reached to Rudrapur accompanied by Srs. Tarsicia and Manjusha. On 15th some of us joined the Jeolikote community offering the Eucharist on the occasion of the Month's mind of Srs. Augustine and Rinalda. 16th was a day of recollection for the priests and religious of the Kathgodam Deanery at Suchetna. Srs Digna and Amita participated and were enriched.

As we got the green signal that we can reopen the school for the seniors, we sent the information to the Board students to report to school on 20th February. Prior to that the SDM and his team did the inspection of the school and the campus. After the long break due to pandemic, the teachers too reported to school on the same day. Sr. Manjusha conducted a prayer service for the teachers and briefed them guidelines to be followed. From 22nd February we started regular classes for the board exam students. We were also able to conduct the entrance test for classes 1 to 8.

The community was happy to welcome the relatives of Sr. Sheryl from Delhi. The month of February ended with a day of recollection and prayer. The resource person Fr. Aloysius OFM. helped us to take an inward journey challenging us to live our religious life fully and joyfully.



St. Joseph's Convent, Puranpur

We welcomed the New Year imploring God's blessings on the whole humanity. After the winter break of ten days, we resumed the online as well as the offline classes. Students were kept motivated to learn through unit tests and assignments as we could sense a widening of the learning gap in the students this year due to the Pandemic.

As part of the Voters' Day celebrations, some competitions were organized for the students in the Tehsil. Our students promptly participated in speech, slogan writing and poster making competitions and won prizes. The Republic Day was celebrated in a fitting manner in the school following the pandemic regulations in the absence of the students.

Bishop Ignatius D'Souza of Bareilly diocese organized a virtual meeting of all the managers and principals of the diocesan schools and gave guidelines to be followed in the upcoming academic session. Many of our students actively took part in the National Song singing competition, as part of the centenary celebrations of 'Chauri Chaura' incident.

Sr. Anjali attended a seminar on the New Education Policy (NEP) organized for all the Fathers and Sisters working in the diocesan schools, the resource person being by Fr. Sunny Jacob, SJ. Recollection for all the priests and sisters of Poliganj deanery was held in our parish on 16th February. It was also a chance to meet everyone after a very long time. Sr. Sudeepti attended the CRI meeting in Bareilly on 21st Feb and on the same day we welcomed the Lenten Cross to our parish. Sr. Marisha took the initiative to conduct the prayer with our Catechism students and co-workers in front of the Cross. The Cross was reached to Pipariya Parish on the next day.

Classes VI–VIII were happy to be back to school from 10 February and Primary students from 1 March 2021 following the Covid-19 norms. The students and teachers kept themselves busy with the internal assessments/ Practical/ Catechism exams. Now, the senior students are having their annual examinations. We help out our co-workers' children with their studies.

2021 being the year dedicated to St. Joseph, the diocese of Bareilly has planned different activities/ competitions for every month from February to December 2021.



St. Francis' Convent, Jhansi

With great hope and high expectation, we welcomed the New Year 2021, praying silently in our hearts using the words of Michael Jackson's immortal anthem, "Heal the world...make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race... there are people dying ... if you care enough for the living... make it a better place ... for you and for me."

In the afternoon Sr. Seema left for Bangaluru to attend a renewal programme in Adhyatma Vidya Peetham, Carmelaram. There was excitement and enthusiasm on the 4th as Class 12 Science students returned to school to begin their practical. It was heartening to see that they strictly followed all the Covid- 19 norms.

6th was a day of rejoicing, a day of celebration, as it was the 9th anniversary of our Bishop's Episcopal ordination. Srs. Regis, Georgina and Vijaya participated in the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration and the felicitations that followed.

We were delighted to have Sr. Roselette and the five postulants for tea on 10th. Besides the tea party, they enjoyed going round the garden which is in full bloom. Their fun and laughter energized and enlivened us.

We were deeply shocked and grieved to hear of the sudden demise of Sr. Augustine on 13th. What she has been and what she has done for Jeolikote will be marked in golden letters. She has left an indelible mark on all those who got a chance to live and work with her. She will ever remain alive in our hearts. We watched the live streaming of Sr. Augustine's funeral service on 14th besides spending time with the Lord in prayer.

15th to 17th saw the first Mary Ward JPIC South Asia General Meet on a virtual platform on the theme: "Rooted, Responsive and Relevant" in which 45 Schools from India and across the border regions participated. The three-day conclave focused on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The aim was to reach an action plan that can be adopted by all the 45 schools to achieve the desired transformation. Under the dynamic leadership of Sr. Deepti assisted by Mrs. Josephine, SFC launched the programme in good earnest.

17th: Sr. Rinalda is no more... Could not believe our ears... Dear Sr. Rinalda, you live in our hearts though your physical presence is no more. The beautiful memories you have left behind will always be a source of strength for us.

Mary Ward's birthday was celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal on 23rd. Class 8C conducted a very inspiring virtual assembly appreciating Mary Ward and her work, also thanking her for making it possible for women to be educated and pursue a career of their choice. In the community too we had a beautiful prayer service which was an inspiration and invitation to be like Mary Ward. During the Mary Ward Week, we took turns to conduct prayer services in very creative ways, thus bringing Mary Ward alive and her message relevant in the present day situation. Various activities were conducted by the Friends of Mary Ward too. The students amazed us with their creative, innovative ways of paying tribute to Mary Ward.

A New Beginning: Union Process Meet: The Winifred Wigmore group (CJ and IBVM) had its first meeting on 24th January in which Sisters from eight provinces were present. Sr. Deepti was one of them. During the meeting they shared about themselves and their ministry. Each participant got a sister as a prayer-partner.

We warmly welcomed Sr. Kiran who arrived here on 24th to prepare herself for the renewal of vows under Sr. Pratima's direction. The Republic Day was celebrated with ardent love and unmatched zeal. The hoisting of the National Flag, the virtual Assembly etc. helped us to renew our patriotic spirit.

"Hearts and flowers" to Sr. Elsy as she arrived here on 29th! Sr. Kiran renewed her vows on 30th in the presence of Sr. Elsy, during a beautiful Eucharistic Liturgy. The festivities that followed added to the charm of the day. The prayer service in honour of Mary Ward was a fitting end to a glorious day.

On the Pastoral front: Braving the weather and corona virus, Srs. Pratima and Deepti have started visiting the Catholic families of our parish strengthening them in their faith.

February was a month of hectic activities. Prelims of Classes 10 and 12, regular classes for classes 9 and 11, interviews for admission to UKG, jubilee celebration etc. kept us busy.

2nd February was observed as the day of the consecrated persons. With immense joy and satisfaction,



we celebrated the day in St. Jude's Shrine. 3rd was a very special day as we anticipated and celebrated the 60th birthday of Sr. Elsy. We made the day special in our own unique way. The prayer that went up from the depths of our hearts was:

May your birthday be the best
That you've ever celebrated;
May all the joys of life be yours
Today and every day of your life.

On 4th we happily welcomed back Srs. Georgina and Shalini, who had gone to Allahabad to make their retreat in preparation for their golden jubilee.

Trip to Sagar: To diffuse tension of work and to get re-energized for the demanding days that lay ahead, we went for a picnic to Sagar on 7th. We visited the Shrine of Divine Mercy and our sisters in Sagar and returned home with abundant blessings from the Lord, refreshed in mind, soul and body.

The golden jubilee of Srs. Georgina and Shalini was celebrated in a simple but beautiful way on



13th to which only our sisters from Nirmala and Mauranipur were invited. The high light of the day was the concelebrated High Mass officiated by our Bishop Rt. Rev. Peter Parappullil. The Bishop in his homily appreciated them and praised them for their valuable services to the Church and the society at large. He exhorted them to stay with the Lord and to abide in Him to produce good fruit – fruit that will last. After the Mass the jubilarians were felicitated and the

jubilee cake was cut. The delicious meal that followed was enjoyed by all. In the evening we surprised them with a short variety entertainment programme in which the young and old, healthy and the sick took part.

17th was a day we were looking forward to as Sr. Isabel was returning after her home leave. Our joy and excitement disappeared the moment we realized she was suffering from cellulites and was finding it difficult to walk. We wished her speedy recovery. 22nd was another day of excitement: gearing up for the quiz on Fratelli Tutti. It was fun preparing for it. Great was our joy when we say we are in the list of 'First among equals'.



24th too turned out to be a special day. On that day we bade farewell to our dear Pyarelal – one of our co-workers, who served the Institution with dedication and loyalty for forty long years. We had an inspiring prayer service in his honour followed by high tea.

We kept up 28th as our Recollection day, the theme being, “Return to the Lord with all your hearts, fasting, weeping... relent” Joel 2:12-13. By the end of the day after prayer and reflection, we were happy to see we were ‘returning to the

Lord’. Our heartfelt thanks to Sr. Celine for guiding and leading us in prayer!

Before we conclude we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all those who brought us joy by their visits. The list includes Srs. Sarita and Sunita, Rosita, Deepa, Roselette, Divya and Celine. Thank you, dear sisters, God bless you.



St. Xavier's, Shahbad

The year 2021 began with the Holy Mass, thereafter we wished one another a prosperous and joy filled year ahead. 3rd January was a joyful day for us as we celebrated the feast of our congregation. On the same day six children from our parish received the sacrament of confirmation. We were privileged to have Most Rev. Bishop Anil J. T Couto as the main celebrant of the Holy mass. In honour of our Institute Day, we happily welcomed our sisters from Jesu Bhawan for lunch. On 4th, the school reopened after the Christmas vacation and the virtual classes continued. On 12th, Sr. Tomsy returned after having spent relaxing days with her dear ones.

We were extremely sad to hear about the sudden demise of our dear sisters Augustine and Rinalda. Sr. Vandana attended the funeral service of Sr. Rinalda at Allahabad. On 19th Sr. Anita left for her home leave. We spent the Mary Ward Week meaningfully reflecting and praying over her inspiring life. On 26th January, a creative online class assembly was conducted by the teachers, reminding the students to love our country and to grow as good citizens.

On 19th February Sr. Anita returned after her home leave refreshed and relaxed. Sr. Sanjana returned back to the community after her treatment in Kerala. The treatment helped her and she is feeling much better now. This academic year is coming to an end and the students began their online final exams on 22nd. The teachers are busy with the digital corrections of the answer scripts.



Nirmala Convent, Jhansi

We welcomed the New Year with great joy in the Lord hoping that He will lead and guide us all throughout the year. We prayed for the whole world to be freed from Corona virus and all may experience wholeness and peace.

The month of January brought us the sad demise of two of our dear Srs. Augustine and Rinalda. We miss their presence very much and we believe that they will intercede for us from heaven. We thank God for their loving service to the Church, Congregation and specially to each one of us. Few of us were fortunate to attend the funeral service of Sr. Rinalda since it was held in Allahabad. May their souls rest in peace.

After a few days of winter break Classes 9-12 resumed their studies in the month of January. Since there was no problem, we decided to open classes 6-8 in the month of February.

Sr. Roselette accompanied the Postulants to Patna; a fitting farewell Mass was organized for them by Nirmala Community. Sr. Alice spent a few days with her younger sister who was seriously ill. Sr. Annette went to Allahabad to join the retreat in preparation for the Golden Jubilee. She was happy to be with her companions, and after having a grand celebration she returned from Allahabad. Sr. Naveena from Allahabad Province came this way on her way home to meet her ailing Father.

Mary Ward Week was celebrated in the school; the students depicted the various scenes from her life. Sr. Elsy came to install Sr. Alice as the animator of the Community. On the same day Holy Mass was offered by Rt. Rev. Bishop Parappullil in our chapel with the Salesian fathers as it was the feast of St. Don Bosco.



A fitting farewell programme was organized by the school to thank Sr. Vinita for all the services she has rendered to the Institution. On the same day Sr. Alice was welcomed by the school. A thanksgiving Holy Mass was offered for Sr. Vinita. Sr.

Tessy in her introduction thanked the Almighty God for the gift of Sr. Vinita and for her loving services to the Community for the last three years.

Sr. Deepa from Delhi reached two candidates to Krist Jyoti and returned back to Delhi after two days. Srs. Celine and Roselette paid us a visit. We gave Sr. Roselette a fitting farewell and wished her the very best and God's blessings in her new community.

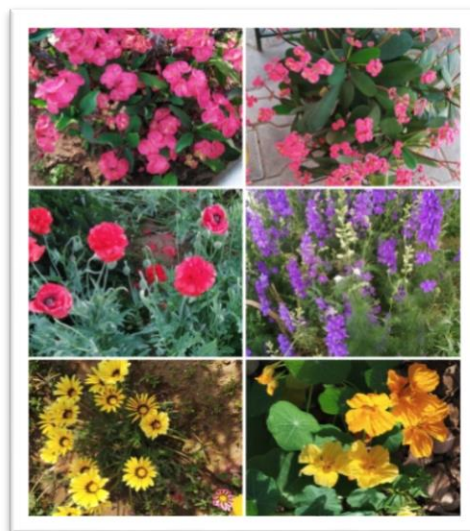
By the grace of God, the fear of Corona has been reduced, the church is opened for all, and we the sisters have started attending the services in the Cathedral.



St. Mary's Convent, Jhajjar

We ushered in the New Year with the Vigil Mass in the Jesuit Chapel. On 3rd January we celebrated the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus in a befitting manner. On hearing about the poor condition of Sr. Rinalda, Sr. Mariella visited her in Allahabad and after a week again she was there but only to attend her funeral! Both Sr. Augustine and Sr. Rinalda live in our memories and we pray for their eternal repose. On 14th January we had the school inspection in view of granting recognition by the department of Education. We are diligently working towards meeting the criteria for recognition.

With the arrival of two new staff members (co-workers) the campus has assumed a fresh look. A good variety of seasonal flowers render it colorful too.



During the Mary Ward week, we spent valuable time reflecting on the life of Mary Ward and her virtues. Some of the Jesuits next door were fascinated to listen to the story of our Foundress. The school celebrated online the Birth and Death Anniversary of Mary Ward and the Republic Day.

We welcomed Sr. Vinita to our community on 13th February and on 23rd she left for home visit after which she will begin her teaching mission here. Srs. Mariella and Joseline were happy to be with Sr. Poonam on her Silver Jubilee celebrations.

In Haryana off line classes began for classes 6 – 8 on 1st Feb. and from 24th Feb. Cl. 3-5 have also started coming to school. From 1st March Cl. 1 and 2 will also be coming to school. There is good attendance. Parents are happy that finally children can be back in school. Shifting from online to off line class also brings some relief to the teachers. Our town and villages have been comparatively safe, with hardly any Covid case



reported. While trusting in God's providence we take all precautions and abide by the government regulations.

In January – February we worked hard to study Fratelli Tutti. Beyond preparing for a 'quiz' we were happy to have had a glimpse into the spirit of the encyclical.



Maria Ward Bhawan, Mayur Vihar

We bade farewell to the year 2020 with a grateful heart and welcomed the new year 2021 with joy and hope, as many unknown pages of our life will be opened during this year. After the winter holidays, the school reopened and the online classes are going on. The teachers and students are in full swing getting ready for the final exams. Intense preparations are going on as the board exams are nearing.



Sr. Poonam celebrated her much awaited Silver Jubilee on 13th February with a solemn Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Joseph SDB being the main celebrant. We were delighted to have our sisters from the Provincial house, Shahbad, Jhajjar, and from nearby religious communities as well as some of our parishioners. The presence of her sister Rachana and her little nephew added joy to the celebration. It was a day of thanksgiving and joy for her as God was walking beside her as a shepherd and guide throughout the past 25 years.

We entered into the Lenten season desiring to follow our Master little closer and to taste the depth of his love for each one of us in His passion, death and resurrection.

Maria Bhawan, Mauranipur



*“When your heart is open to spread Love, Sounds become music
Movements become dance... Smiles becomes laughter...
Thoughts become meditation and life becomes celebration...
Make your life a celebration with Love”.*

The New Year was welcomed with the Holy Mass in the parish, putting a full stop to online Mass. We thank God for His providence and for keeping us safe and sound during the Corona period. Sr. Shanti left for Bangalore to attend a renewal programme.

We celebrated the Institute Day in the parish with the parishioners with a meaningful Eucharistic celebration. In the afternoon we invited our co-workers and celebrated with them during which Sr. Geetika highlighted the importance of the day. We conducted many games for them and enjoyed the day and ended with a tea party and gave prizes to all the winners and gift for all. We had dinner together with the sisters and the parish priest.

We were saddened with the news of the sudden demise of our dear Srs. Augustine and Rinalda. We all have experienced their special love and care and thank God for their holy and exemplary lives. May their souls rest in peace. Srs. Lucy and Pushpita attended Sr. Rinalda's funeral at Allahabad.

Fire department had come to demonstrate to the whole hospital staff how to use the fire extinguisher. We were happy to welcome back Sr. Teresa in the absence of Sr. Shanti. Fr. Sebastian OFM Cap (Rupcha Director) and Mr. Sam visited us and encouraged us to have Tele Health Programme in our hospital.

We celebrated the Birthday of our Beloved Venerable Mother Mary Ward with a solemn Mass. Sr. Kiran gave a brief introduction about the courageous and faithful life of Mother Mary Ward. We prayed Rosary in the evening with parishioners followed by dinner for all. We were happy to welcome Sr. Celine CJ (Nepal) to our community for hospital experience and wish her all the best.



Srs. Lucy and Divya have formed Children's Club in the village under the guidance of Sr. Julita. They conducted a few competitions for the club members like dance on patriotic song, drawing, handwriting and recitation. They observed the Republic Day in the village in the big yard of a family. The flag was hoisted by Sr. Julita on the house top. Winners of the competition got the prizes. We are running two tailoring centers in the village and two batches in the skill training centre.

We had the conclusion of Mary Ward Week prayer in the school community, followed by dinner. Sr. Kiran had spent 3 days in recollection in SFC and renewed her vows. We are grateful to Sr. Pratima for leading and guiding her during her recollection. A big thanks to SFC community for making the day a memorable one for her. Sr Sushmita went on a well-deserved home leave on 1st. February as she wanted to be with her ailing mother. We were happy to welcome Sr. Elsy our Provincial on 1st February. On 6th Srs. Vinita, Camila and Crispina paid us a visit.



The Little Sisters of Sacred Heart (Mada) spent a day with us; we prepared lunch together and spent time leisurely and they left after tea. On 14th evening the whole community and our girls had an outing to a nearby dam. All were busy on 20th and 21st Feb. revising Frattelli Tutti. In the same way

excitement and fever started again on 27th recording 3-minute speech on the virtues of St. Joseph. Four of us participated in it.

Srs. Lucy and Divya are busy in getting ready to celebrate Women's Day. We wish you all a happy Women's Day and fruitful and grace filled time of Lent.



Jesu Bhawan, Delhi

The new year 2021 was welcomed with a meaningful Holy Eucharist in the parish. Our hearts desired to have a corona free year. May the Lord bless all of us with blessings in abundance to continue our mission with love.

We were very saddened to hear about the demise of Sr. Augustine on 13th and Sr. Rinalda on 17th. Sr. Elsy was present for the last rites of both our dear sisters. Sr. Deepa went to Allahabad to take part in the last journey of Sr. Rinalda. Two great souls, lived exemplary lives returned to their Creator leaving footprints for us to follow. May they enjoy the eternal bliss!

We were happy to render our hospitality to Srs. Sheeba, Sheryl and Josephine. Sr. Sheeba was happy to visit Jhajjar before she moved to her community at Jeolikote. After her home leave, Sr. Josephine arrived with two new candidates and she returned to Rudrapur with Sr. Sheryl who was going back

to Nainital after her holidays. Sr. Reena is happy to be back to the community after her treatment in Kerala. Sr. Grezal who was with us from October went back to her hostel in Mangalore for offline classes and exams. All the best Grezal!

After a gap of one year, the council members – Srs. Manjusha, Jessy, Pushpita and Remya came together for the council meeting. After the three-day deliberations, they returned to their respective communities. Sr. Elsy went to Jhansi to mission Sr. Alice as the new animator of Nirmala Community.

Srs. Elsy and Deepa were busy attending/hosting zoom meetings – the former with COIN provincials or CJ provincials and the latter as part of CJ/IBVM Union Process. Mary Ward Week was well celebrated with everyday reflections and community adoration. Learning of ‘Fratelli Tutti’ gave us an opportunity to know the mind of our dear Pope Francis; an encyclical rich in wisdom and grace.



St. Mary's Convent, Rudrapur

We welcomed the New year with thick fog and cold wave. We fervently prayed for an end to the pandemic and normal life for everyone. The Institute Feast was kept up on 3rd. Being Sunday we went for the Parish Mass. Once returned all turned into chefs for we had invited the neighbouring convents and priests for Lunch. It was a welcome break from the pandemic for all of us.

We happily welcomed Sr. Caroline who came for a short holiday. While here she made a number of dishes for us which we otherwise would not have had. It was a welcome break for her and we were the beneficiaries.

On 12th Sr. Elsy, our provincial arrived by Shatabdi to go to Puranpur community the next day. On 13th morning, after Mass and breakfast, Sr. Assunta was gathering provisions and vegetables from the garden to take along. At that time Sr. Elsy received the sad news that Sr. Augustine, suddenly collapsed in the dining room and went for her eternal reward. We gently broke the news to Sr. Patricia, her sister. Within half an hour we were off to Jeolikote. Srs. Roshni, Florence, Mariette, Sumita and Martha from Allahabad Province reached here on 13th midnight and went along with us to Jeolikote for the funeral.

After hearing about the demise of Sr. Rinalda, Srs. Mary John and Assunta left for Allahabad reaching there after 16 hours facing many hurdles and fog on the way. After the funeral they spent some time with the sisters specially the elderly at 21 and 32 communities. On 19th, they returned en route RDSO, Lucknow.

The winter rain had destroyed the crops of green peas (mutter) and cereals last year. This year the mutter crop was very good. Therefore, Nainital and Jeolikote communities made few visits. The community went to Jeolikote on 24th to attend the Requiem Mass for Sr. Rinalda. The sudden demise

of Sr. Augustine affected us in some way or the other and then the death of Sr. Rinalda. We deeply feel the loss of both our sisters.

From 23rd to 30th we kept up the customary Mary Ward Week. The chapel and the portrait of Mary Ward were well decorated, giving a prayerful atmosphere. On 30th we had a solemn High Mass highlighting her life. We concluded the week with an hour of prayer and adoration. The topics for the week were reflective and enriching.

Many days remained gloomy without the sunshine. Our co-workers were happy to have a cup of tea daily to beat the cold. The priest too came for Mass by bike braving the cold. We concluded the Jubilee year of Srs. Patricia and Elaine on the 1st with a prayer service. An organized recreation was conducted in their honour. 4 of us celebrated our profession anniversary on 2nd with a beautiful Mass prepared by our two junior sisters and ended with an hour of adoration in the evening.

The community had the recollection on 6th in anticipation of the Golden and Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Nainital the next day. Srs. Patricia and Elaine were indeed happy and joyous for celebrating their day. On 21st Srs. Assunta and Elaine attended the annual CRI meeting at Bareilly.

On 28th we reached Sr. Patricia who was missioned anew to Jeolikote community. We take this opportunity to thank Sr. Patricia for her valuable loving services rendered to the little children by way of singing, value education and training them to speak in English. She was very eager to teach catechism to our one and only catholic student. At times she surprised us with creative snacks. She helped us to build up our immunity and vitality by preparing chayavanaprash, a nutritious jam. We are enjoying the gooseberry pickle prepared by her.

We wish all our readers a grace filled Lent.



DEAR ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US!!