



# DELHI DISHA

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Province News Letter

Mar – April 2021

## From the Provincial's Desk...

Let us remember and specially pray for all our dear departed:



### Prayers needed:

- Srs. Elaine and Marcellina who are in the hospital; they will be discharged soon.
- Srs. Seema, Maria Rose and Maria suffering from covid
- Many of ours recuperating from covid
- All those suffering from covid

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

### St. Anthony's Convent, Jeolikote

During the month of March, the refreshing spring season adorned our garden and the flowerpots with variety of flowers, feasting our eyes and delighting our hearts. It brought great joy to all those who entered our compound.

#### Here is a glimpse of our flowers



Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> was a great day for the catholic youth of our parish. Nainital parish youth, accompanied by Rev. Frs. Aloysius and Kishore brought the Youth Cross to our parish. Our parishioners spent three hours praying together. The youth in turn conducted the prayer with great devotion and helped the people to pray fervently.

On the following day, after the Holy Mass, a few of our youth along with Fr. Udai, Srs. Sheeba, Damian and Alka reached the Cross to St. Michael's Church, Bana.

On 8<sup>th</sup> we remembered all the women during the Holy Mass and evening prayer. There was a special celebration on 14<sup>th</sup> honouring all the women of our parish. We thank them for their active role in all the parish activities.



On 19<sup>th</sup> morning, Fr. Udai and Sr. Deepika accompanied Bishop Isidore to Allahabad, Nazareth Hospital for his treatment. Sr. Alka went along with them to Chitrakoot via Allahabad to visit her ailing mother. She returned after a week, seeing her mother slightly improving and being brought back home. Thank you, dear sisters, for your prayers.

In the second week of March all the classes started their final exams. Classes 10 and 12 began their pre-board papers. After completing their school exams on 23<sup>rd</sup>, boarders of class 11 and 9 were sent home. The teachers kept encouraging the students of classes 10 and 12 with regular tests and revising their lessons.



On 21<sup>st</sup>, we honoured all the gentlemen of our parish by celebrating the 'FATHERS' DAY' with a special Holy Mass. Rev. Fr. Deepak D'Souza celebrated the Holy Mass and highlighted the role of a father in the family. After Mass all the men enjoyed the games and the winners were awarded prizes. They were served tea and had a delightful time.



On 29<sup>th</sup> we had special Holy Mass and prayer for our dear Sr. Lorna thanking and appreciating her generous services to the Jeolikote Mission for the past four years. Her selfless contribution to the hostel, community, school and the church will be gratefully remembered. She took a lot of trouble to prepare the church choir, well in advance for all the feasts and functions as well as of the school. Our parish won many prizes in all the competitions under her guidance. Dear Sr. Lorna, we are grateful to you and assure you our prayers for your new mission. In the evening the community presented a unique recreation as a token of gratitude. Sr. Lorna enjoyed the day, as we made it very special for her.

On 31<sup>st</sup> the staff and the students presented a short farewell programme for Sr. Lorna with a meaningful prayer service, dances, singing and speeches. Sr. Deepika expressed her gratitude on behalf of the management and school. All of us and the school will really miss Sr. Lorna.



The Holy Week Liturgy was well attended by our parishioners and some guests. On Palm Sunday we had a procession from the parish house to the church. Fr. Udai gave an inspiring sermon in a reflective manner, leading the faithful to meditate on the passion of Christ. As Fr. Udai was hospitalized at St. Joseph's Ghaziabad during the week, Fr. Gautam IMS from Bhowali helped us out with the Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. The Church was artistically decorated on Easter Sunday by Sr. Pratibha.

Our sisters Sheeba and Lorna were affected by Covid 19 during the Holy Week and were segregated in the parish building 'Bethania' across the road. It was a safe and quiet place to rest and get healed. Srs. Alka and Pratibha very attentively took care of them and all of us implored God to heal them. We thank God and all the sisters for your prayers for their fast recovery.

Sr. Kanula went for her holidays on 12<sup>th</sup> and spent two days at the provincial house, waiting for her flight to Bangalore on 15<sup>th</sup>. We wish her wonderful and safe holidays with her dear ones.

We declared the final results of our students on 10<sup>th</sup> April online. After a break of 5 days, the new academic year has begun on 16<sup>th</sup>, so the teachers and students are busy with online classes.

On hearing the news of the cancellation of the Cl.10 and postponement of Cl.12 Board examinations, all the boarders went home on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We miss our hostel children very much.

The Bareilly Diocese has begun Chain Rosary Prayer separately for each deanery from 23<sup>rd</sup> April and it will continue for a month imploring Our Blessed Mother for her protection. Let us earnestly intercede to our Blessed Mother to free us from the deadly Corona Virus and completely heal all our sick sisters.

Sr. Laura C J

### **St. Francis Convent, Jhansi**

March was more or less an uneventful month. On the whole the atmosphere was pervaded by 'Lenten spirit.' The only thing that made a difference was the celebration of the feast of St. Joseph. A day spent in prayer and reflection on the person of St. Joseph brought us closer to him and increased our love and appreciation of him.

The annual examinations were conducted successfully – class 9 and 11 offline and the rest online – and the school closed on 27<sup>th</sup> to be opened on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Some of us attended the Lenten- Mission conducted by the Redemptorist media centre Bangalore and were enriched by it. The Holy Week services were beautiful, devotional and awe inspiring. On Holy Thursday before dinner before the breaking of the unleavened bread we had a unique penitential service – a symbolic washing of the feet – which made the feast really meaningful. The absence of Sr. Pratima who had gone to Falna on a mission and Sr. Georgina who had gone to Delhi for treatment was deeply felt. The Easter services were held at 7 pm. Though there was not much glitter in the celebration, we were happy that we could celebrate it in the church.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> we had the staff meeting and the online classes started in good earnest. By then all of us got vaccinated, the senior sisters got even the second dose. Sr. Elsy was with us on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> radiating joy and warmth. The presence of Sr. Rosily (Allahabad), Srs. Gladys and Juliana too brought us great joy. As the Covid cases increased we stopped the online classes to be resumed sometime later, may be in June. We also started praying fervently from 4.30 to 7.30 pm before the Blessed Sacrament. We are badly hit by the pandemic and many of us are fighting with it.

We entrust all of them into the hands of Jesus the mighty healer and Our Blessed Mother, the Health of the sick to intercede for them and we believe that we are in their safe hands.

S.F.C. community

## **Maria Bhawan, Mauranipur**



International Women's Day was celebrated in a village named Badagauon. People were not aware of such a day and what it is all about. Sr. Divya had prepared a one-hour programme with our tailoring students on various themes. All were appreciative of the programme. Altogether about 300 people were present including 150 women. Now we have started classes for dropout children.

Sr. Smita from Nepal and Sr. Manisha our postulant mistress paid a short visit and we had some light time together. On 19th with a Solemn High Mass we celebrated the feast of St.

Joseph. We spent some time with ourselves and received the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for Easter on the 21st of March. The feast of Annunciation was celebrated with a Solemn Mass and prayed specially for Sr. Mukti's intentions who would be returning to her province, Patna. Sr. Gladys reached her to Jhansi and she came back with Sr. Shanti who was returning from Bangalore after the renewal course. We could attend the Holy Week services without any medical emergencies. Our house and hospital were blessed on Easter Sunday itself. April 8th was a special day for us. In the morning Sr. Elsy installed Sr. Lucy as the animator of our community during a prayer service. In the evening we had the Eucharistic celebration to thank God for the gift of our silver Jubilarians, Srs. Shanti and Sushmita. It was a small family celebration. After the Mass we had the felicitations and a fellowship meal. The culmination of it all was a well-prepared recreation.



Sr. Juliana left for Bilaspur for her retreat and from there to proceed for her home leave. Sr. Gladys also left for home leave on 11th April. Covid cases are rising in an alarming way. On 12th Sr. Shanti was tested corona positive. Four of us got corona vaccine. On 19<sup>th</sup> Sr. Maria Rose joined our community back even though her practical exams are not yet over.

Second wave of Covid is hitting us very badly. Our Dr. Elizabeth D.G.O expired on 23rd followed by her husband Dr. Emanuel Oriel on 25th. They had served our mission for more than 10 years. May their souls rest in peace. It is indeed a great loss for our hospital and for the people of Mauranipur. This time we were forced to close our Hospital temporarily since sisters and other support staff were infected and all are in quarantine.

Sr. Suchita was brought to our community on 28th since she was not feeling that well. She was put on drips. But on 29th, her condition worsened as she developed high fever, high sugar and low oxygen saturation level. We took her immediately to St. Jude's Hospital, Jhansi. Seeing her condition, the doctor suggested shifting her to any hospital of our preference. So, we decided to take her to Ghaziabad. On the way before reaching Agra, sister breathed her last while Srs. Julita and Maria Rose watched her going helplessly. Immediately they started their return journey and on reaching Jhansi, her mortal remains were laid to rest in Premnagar cemetery by 10 p.m. This loss is still indeed a shock for all of us. We still feel her presence, in the hospital, dining room, on the ramp and everywhere.



*Sr. Suchita, you will ever be missed. May you rest in peace.*

## **Mayur Vihar**

The month of March brought in the Annual Examinations and report cards. Indeed, a busy time due to online classes. It was also a time of new admissions and verification. We had offline PTM following the covid protocol. The PTM also helped us to get back the pending fees of many of fee-defaulters.

We had a community outing to Jhajjar. Fr. Jose our Parish Priest joined us. It was a day of relaxation and joy as we enjoyed the hospitality of Sr. Mariella and community. We returned back after visiting the beautiful XLRI campus. The Jhajjar community visited us after a week and we had lots of fun and laughter.

We had many sisters as visitors to our community who brought joy and colour to our life. Srs. Geetika and Divya came to purchase books for the school library. We had a day's outing with them to the Spice Mall in Noida. Sr. Jaya from Patna Province came here for her treatment and stayed with us for a week. Sr. Georgina came for her treatment and stayed with us for a month. We had the privilege of listening to her wisdom and learn from her interesting stories and anecdotes. Besides them, Srs. Elsy and Pratima also visited us.

In spite of the increase in covid 19 cases, we had all the Holy Week services and Easter celebrations. We were involved with the Parish youth in preparing them for the live Way of the Cross, Lenten retreat, Easter decorations etc.

On 5th April we began the new session although online. We also had the orientation for the KG parents as usual. But due to the increase in Covid cases, teachers started falling sick. Sr. Merlin too fell sick and we took her covid test on 10th April. On 13th April afternoon when her report came positive, seeing her deteriorating condition, we decided to get her admitted in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ghaziabad. With this the opening of the school silver jubilee year was postponed for an opportune time. Following the order of the Government, the school was closed suddenly for the summer vacation.

The painful reality of covid 19 started unfolding in front of us day by day. Some of our parishioners, parents, relatives of our sisters and many others lost their dear lives to covid. On 22nd April we lost one of our most dedicated and committed teachers Miss Teresa D'Costa leaving all of us in shock and pain.

On 28th April, we brought back Sr. Merlin from the hospital and she is recovering. We are grateful to all our sisters for the valuable prayers.

Sr. Poonam C.J.

## **St. Mary's, Jhajjar**

'Life is so ironic. It takes sadness to know what happiness is and absence to value presence'. At the end of April while as one sits down to recount the happenings one is gripped by the irony of life. We miss Srs. Suchita and Jane. We miss quite a number of people whom we have known personally - RIP. And then there are many – our own sisters and others struggling with Covid. While we pray for them we remain grateful to God that so far we have been preserved.

We were one of those communities which had never missed Mass ever since the outbreak of Covid-19 as our campus remained safe. But since 24th April we too attend on-line Mass, the reason being obvious.

We wish to place on record our deep appreciation to Sr. Remya who laid a strong foundation for the school - she and the school growing together – resolutely facing the challenges and teething troubles of a new institution in the state of Haryana. With her sense of commitment, alertness, prudence and patience she won the hearts of people



around. Before leaving Jhajjar on 24th March the school and community bade her very modest



farewell. The irony is that someone who did so much for the school and children had only a representative group to greet her before she left. But we pray that God who sees the heart will abundantly bless her always. Our good wishes go with Sr. Remya.

In the month of March for a week we had short reflections during Mass on Patris Cordis led by Fr. Jinesh SJ. We also kept up our Rosary to St. Joseph right through the month.

In Feb- March we had off-line classes for about 5 weeks and conducted the term 2 exams and declared the results. We also managed to take quite a number of new admissions and started the new academic year on 5th April. On 10th April we held a Parent- Teacher Meeting especially as parents wanted to be acquainted with the teachers. However, because of the spread of Covid-19 the Government ordered the closure of schools and we had to revert to on-line classes.

A week after joining the community Sr. Vinita went on home visit and when she returned Sr. Mariella too took her turn. Both experienced the providence of God. Despite the surge in Covid-19 both returned safely.

We send everyone our good wishes and prayers. May you all stay healthy and safe.

## **Jesu Bhawan**

With the tragic atmosphere around us, with thousands getting affected by this deadly virus including our own sisters in various communities, silently we stand and look at the Mighty God with a small prayer on our lips to heal this world.

In the beginning of March Srs. Elsy and Deepa went to Falna to meet the Bishop of Ajmer and to discuss about the land in Falna. The provincial Team was in Jesu Bhawan for their two days council meeting. Srs. Renata and Reena took some time out to be in Raj Niwas enjoying their eight days with the Lord. We were happy to welcome Sr. Alka and her brother who came from Jhansi. Alka had visited her mother who was sick and her brother reached her to Jesu Bhawan. On the same day Alka proceeded to Jeolikote and her brother back to Chitrakoot. The community had a day out to St. Francis' School, Greater Noida, a school run by the Franciscan brothers. We spent some time with Bro. Julius, cousin of Sr. Renata and the community of sisters there and enjoyed a delicious meal prepared with love. At the end of the month of March Sr. Pratima arrived from Jhansi who went along

with Sr. Elsy to Falna. They came back on Maundy Thursday and on the next day Sr. Pratima left for Jhansi.

The season of Lent prepared us for the great event of Easter which this year we celebrated with the parishioners. During the Holy Week, we had all the services in the open, not in the school hall and according to the Covid protocol only some were allowed to attend the Services. On Easter day we shared the feast day meal with our sisters in Shahbad – after a long time came together.

Soon after Easter Sr. Nibedita joined our community. We wish you a happy stay with us, Nibedita! On Easter Monday Sr. Elsy left for Mauranipur to mission Sr. Lucy as the animator of the community. After a few days of stay in Jhansi/Mauranipur, Sr. Elsy along with Sr. Juliana went to Bilaspur. The former for a few days of prayer and the latter for her retreat for which Sr. Nibedita too joined from Jesu Bhawan. We were happy to see them back renewed and refreshed in mind and body.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April all of us were shocked and saddened to know about the sudden demise of our dear Sr. Jane Frances. A great person who cherished her vocation lovingly and lived it efficaciously touching many lives. May her soul rest in the bosom of her Creator and Father.

During this month we were very saddened to hear the news about many of our sisters who were infected with the virus. We sat before the Lord pleading for a quick healing of all those who are affected with this; that the world be free of this virus. Little did we know that soon we had to receive the shocking news about our dear Sr. Suchita who went to her Eternal reward on 29<sup>th</sup> April. A simple human being, a woman of few words who touched many lives specially the sick ones whom she served. We will miss her presence around. May the soul of Sr. Suchita enjoy the eternal bliss!

With our hearts raised to God, imploring Him to wipe away this virus, we wish everyone good health and safe stay in the communities!



***COME, HOLY SPIRIT COME !***