



DELHI DISHA

Vol.15/5

PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

Sept. – Oct. 2021

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK...



We thank God for all the loving services rendered by our dear Sr. Imelda and all the blessings came upon this congregation through her commitment and true dedication. May she enjoy the Eternal Bliss with her Creator!!

Kindly pray for those gone before us:

- Sr. Alice's elder sister, Mary Varghese, 71 on 12th October
- Sr. Geetika's elder brother, Mr. Markus Masih, 69 on 7th November
- Sr. Deepti's mother, Mariam 85 on 8th November

Kindly note the following:

- There will be a zoom meeting of the Animators on Saturday, 13 November from 5.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. The link is already sent to the Animators' group in the WhatsApp.

My itinerary:

- 16 Nov – 18 Nov – CRI meeting in Nav Sadhana, Varanasi
- 28 Nov & 29 Nov – Meeting the tertians in Kolkata

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

ST. FRANCIS', JHANSI



September was a month of celebrations- Teachers' Day, birthday of our Blessed Mother, birthday of our parish priest and Sr. Vijaya etc. On Teachers' Day, some enthusiastic children of class 11 and 12 organized a prayer service and put up a variety entertainment programme which gave the teachers much joy. The tea party that followed, added to the charm of the day. The celebration of 'Hindi Diwas'

on 22nd delighted both students and teachers especially those who teach Hindi.

After a gap of two years, the investiture ceremony of the school cabinet was held on 11th September. During an awe-inspiring prayer service, the newly elected office bearers were honored with their badges, sashes and flags after which they took their oath. The presence of their parents gave them immense joy.



The community had an exciting trip to 'The Authentic Village Farm, Simraha', about 45 minutes' drive from SFC. The organic farm situated in a beautiful village attracts many a visitor. The farm is owned by two of our ex-students. The meals prepared from organically grown vegetables cooked in earthenware pots and served on 'vattayela'(leaves) add to the glory of the farm. In the midst of hectic activities, we found time to have our community evaluation and recollection.

September also gave us the opportunity to attend a unique and very enriching webinar on 'Ecology in Art Form'. It was amazing to see how art in various forms like music, singing and dancing etc. can be used to awaken the people on 'The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'.

It was with a heavy heart that we bade good bye to our dear Sr. Maria Rose when she had to return to Mauranipur after finishing her studies. Before she left for her community, we organized a prayer service and a 'special evening' to express our love and gratitude to her.



highlighted his qualities and principles was inspiring, thought provoking and challenging. On 4th we remembered and celebrated St. Francis of Assisi, our patron saint. Due to the pandemic, we kept the celebrations at a low key- just a solemn high Mass with well-prepared liturgy and a prayer service depicting the virtues of St. Francis.

We were happy to welcome Sr. Elsy as she arrived here on visitation. She had a pleasant stay with us and returned to Delhi after fulfilling her mission. October too had some important days to celebrate



such as Inter National Girl Child Day, the birthday of Sr. Divya, the birthday of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam which is observed as the Students' Day and the day of the United Nations, which were celebrated in a fitting manner.

Sr. Shweta was accorded a warm welcome as she visited us on 13th. It was her first visit to SFC after taking charge as Provincial of Allahabad Province. We had some warm and wonderful moments with her before she left for Allahabad. We wished every blessing upon her in her life and mission. With warmth and a sense of gratitude we welcomed Sr. Assunta who had done a lot of developmental works in SFC. The Feast of St. Jude was celebrated without much pomp and show. The customary Masses, the Benediction, the procession and free meals for those from the out stations etc. were part of the celebrations. In spite of Covid restrictions a good number of people flocked to St. Jude asking for his intercession. It was indeed a heartening sight to see the faith of the people.

Trials and tribulations are part of life. All of a sudden Sr. Isabel fell ill and had to be hospitalized. Thank God she is back and is recouping. Sr. Assunta left on 31st leaving behind beautiful memories of her stay with us.

As the month of October gives way to November our prayer is, May the powerful intercession of St. Jude heal the world of the pandemic.

ST. MARY'S, JHAJJAR

September added more life to the campus as school re-opened for all. The tiny tots were the most enthusiastic. The celebration of the Season of Creation began with a prayer service in the community. Throughout the season the school had a special prayer inserted into the daily assembly.

Despite the Covid imposed restrictions we managed to organize some co-curricular activities such as assembly on Teachers' Day, St. Mary's Day, Girl child Day, Gandhi Jayanti and Dussherea. Students had 'Cleanliness drive' experience on 2nd October in honour of Mahatma Gandhi. Different classes



did a bit of cleaning in and around school campus, which they enjoyed and appreciated. Cl. 7 visited the waste water management plant at the Jesuit run management institute - XLRI. Children have regular Yoga classes.

In preparation for the birthday of Mother Mary, the community had a special novena. Since it was also the feast day of

Sr. Mariella, we had evening Mass in our chapel along with the four Jesuits. During Dusshera holidays Sr. Joseline took time off to make her annual retreat in Jesu Bhawan.

Our Eco –Friends are kept actively engaged with various activities. Sr. Vinita is guiding the teachers to form a Friends of Mary Ward group.

After a long gap, teachers have started using the SMART CLASS. A training session was conducted to help the teachers to re-acquaint themselves with its know-how. The first term exams were held in October followed by Parent- teacher meeting.

Now we have a new parish church in Farukhnagar - Our lady of the Poor - which was blessed and inaugurated on 21st September. Srs. Joseline and Mariella were delighted to attend the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee year Celebrations of St. Mary's Mayur Vihar. The journey of 25 years depicted



through classical dances was unique. We did recall the many graced milestones and every sister who contributed her share to nurture this school to its glorious present.

The month of October concluded with Visitation by Sr. Elsy which also included some lighter moments! We were very pleased to meet Sr. Pushpita who visited our community and school for the first time.

ST. MARY'S, NAINITAL

The month of September called us for a meeting with the Minority Commission which was attended by Srs. Digna and Manjusha. Teachers' Day was a thrilling experience for the teachers. Through an online assembly the students expressed their gratitude towards their teachers. The sumptuous meal was a special happiness for all. This was a gathering that was missed by all due to Pandemic. Sr Elaine is feeling much better and is brought to the cottage from the infirmary. Ramnee Day - 8th September was specially blessed by Sr. Elsy's presence. Although we missed the usual colour and high spirited programmes, children did their best through a digital assembly during which Sr. Elsy gave a beautiful message. Next day Srs. Marisha, Manjusha and Deepti went to Raniket to join the silver jubilee celebration of Sr. Daisy (Canosian sister). In honour of Ramnee Day which is also the feast of Sr. Stella, we had an organised recreation with lots of fun and laughter.

A few sisters went along with Sr. Elsy to Bhimtal and purchased variety of saplings from the nursery. Fr. Naveen the newly appointed parish priest of Lake chapel with Fr. Harold paid a visit introducing Fr. Naveen. After completing the visitation here Sr. Elsy left for Jeolikote.

We celebrated the silver jubilee of Mr. Naim(tailor) and Mr. Mohan. Mrs. Munnie was given a fitting retirement after her 30 years of service in Ramnee. Our students expressed their gratitude through a meaningful prayer service and hilarious programme. A sumptuous lunch was the finale of the celebration.



Inter religious prayer service was organized by our school on zoom during which leaders from various religions gave messages. 2nd Oct. Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated with flag hoisting honouring Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. Fr. Aloysius Ofm. gave a meaningful message to the entire school. The day ended with a zoom meeting conducted by the JPIC Magnet Club under the guidance of Sr. Deepti. Feast of St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated in both the parishes and our sisters actively participated in them. The students of our school participated in many competitions conducted by clean India team and won many trophies and certificates. They were happy to take part



in the competitions conducted by Nainital zoo authorities and won many prizes. It was a great joy for us to know that Shailja Pandey our ex-student from Nainital secured 61st rank in the IAS examination.

To the surprise of our students, the school conducted sports day in a small scale. Children were extremely happy to receive many medals and certificates. Sr. Josephine from Rudrapur came with her brother and family for Nainital Darshan. Nainital experienced the consequences of Flash floods for three days. Landslides, broken bridges and damaged roads isolated Nainital for a few days. Hence the cluster community recollection was cancelled. On 25th Sr. Sherly returned after five months of stay at home due to her illness.

Srs. Digna and Anima attended the meeting organised by the Bareilly Diocese to discuss about the Synod and its activities for our Diocese. 31st Oct. farewell function was held for the Students of Class XII. It was an unexpected day for all of them. We closed the month of October with the solemn celebration of the devotion to the Holy Rosary. The parish organised rosary and all the parishioners came in procession with lighted candles to our grotto and after the rosary everyone was served tea and snacks.

JESU BHAWAN, DELHI

During the months of September-October Sr. Elsy was busy with her mission of visitation. The trio in the community spent three days in prayer and recollection with the theme, 'Mother Mary, Model of Virtues'. Each of us shared the theme for our prayer and it was very inspiring and meaningful. The birthday of Mother Mary was celebrated in a very meaningful way in the parish and we were part of it. Birthday celebrations in our neighbouring SJ and CJ communities were light moments during which we shared love, fun and laughter. The meal which was prepared with much love was indeed delicious. After a long gap, we visited our sisters in Mayur Vihar and Jhajjar and spent some time together in each other's company.

The month of rosary invited us to have more devotion to our dear Heavenly Mother and the daily rosary brought blessings to many and joy to our hearts. In the second week of October Fr. Varkey S J guided eight of our sisters in their annual retreat. The house was vibrating with positive energy with their silence, prayer and deep communion with the Lord. The weather was very favourable to them which was truly a blessing.

The Synod 2023 preparations and all the material coming from various sources keep us active in reading and studying them. The various webinars conducted by JPIC and Friends of Mary Ward bring a lot of inspiring and meaningful moments. As part of Ignatian year, the Jesuits of various provinces organised prayer services online and we were happy to participate in them. Very creative and enlightening! The archive letters of IBVM were very moving and heart touching which gave a deep understanding about the history of the Institute.



Sr. Anne was happy to be part of the silver jubilee celebrations of Mayur Vihar school. Sr. Nibedita took her annual home leave and returned fresh and happy. After having visited all the communities of the province, Sr. Elsy is back in Jesu Bhawan waiting for the next travel to visit our tertians in Kolkata. We wish you good health for all your travels.

MARIA WARD BHAWAN, MAYUR VIHAR

Celebrations break the monotony of every day's routine and bring colour to life. We had many of them during these two months. Teachers' Day was celebrated through online assemblies of senior and primary sections of the school. The students expressed their love and gratitude and honoured the stars of the day i.e., teachers.

We participated in the parish novena and feast. It was a unique one as due to the incessant rain the church campus had water logging which reached its climax on Saturday, a day before the parish feast. In spite of knee-deep water, the church was packed. On Sunday morning that is on 12th September the water receded miraculously and the joy and gratitude of all was immeasurable. Srs. Deepa, Anne and Nibedita from Jesu Bhawan doubled our joy as they visited us and participated in the church feast.

Sr. Poonam attended a meeting of youth which was for the annual planning of their activities. Along with the youth council members she started visiting families of the youth in the parish on every Saturday and Sunday. It became a fruitful mission as we could get to know the parishioners.



On 25th September the school Jubilee year was inaugurated through a meaningful Mass offered by Rev. Bishop Anil Couto and auxiliary Bishop Rev. Deepak Valerian D'Souza along with many priests of the diocese. Most of our teachers and the school captains attended the celebration. Soon after the Mass we had a virtual musical programme followed by a sumptuous lunch.

On 28th we, along with our sisters from the provincial house and Shahbad community visited and prayed at the grave of Sr. Benigna on her death anniversary.

The school streamed many meaningful virtual assemblies on different occasions such as Gandhi Jayanti, Dusshera, Eid etc. These not only gave chance to various students to come on the screen and enhance their talents but also spread a meaningful message to all bringing gospel values.

On 4th October onwards we started offline teaching for classes 9—12 with blended learning following the covid protocol. The rest of the school is continuing with the online classes.

Sr. Elsy came here for the visitation and we had few visitors too; our sisters Sheeba, Damian and Sherly had a happy time with us. Our silver jubilarians Srs. Neelu, Regina, Neetika, Jyotika, Maria Rose and Merlin gathered together in the community here before they left for their renewal programme in Mysore. It was a great joy having all of them together.

Mayur Vihar Community

MARIA BHAWAN CONVENT, MAURANIPUR

First September brought back Sr. Pushpita after her home leave. We had our monthly recollection on 5th guided by Sr. Shanti on the theme ‘Eucharist’. We celebrated the birthday of our Blessed Mother on 8th, we ended the day praying Rosary for the entire human race for peace and wellbeing. Sr. Julita left for her home holidays, first one after the demise of her dear brother. Sr. Pratima, the junior mistress, came on her mission of meeting our two junior sisters, Teresa and Juliana. We as a community spent some time in reading, reflecting the Laudato Si seven goals.

The month of October set in with a call to pray Rosaries for peace, harmony and brotherhood in the universe. Throughout the month we gathered around our Mother as a family in the evening. Our provincial Sr. Elsy came for visitation. Her presence gave us joy, time for sharing and relaxation. After completing her mission in both the communities she left for Jhansi on 9th Oct. This month’s recollection was organized by Sr. Sushmita on the theme ‘The Shadows in Religious Life’. It was very inspiring and meaningful.

Srs. Sushmita and Celine withdrew from their daily busy schedule and went to the provincial house for their annual retreat which was directed by Fr. Varkey S.J. Visitors are rare in Corona period; sisters from SFC paid a short visit and we enjoyed the company of our Srs. Isabel, Anjali, Rose and Divya. Sr. Julita came back after her home leave; floods in Kerala had restricted her movements to different places.

The SDM of Mauranipur came to our Ultra Sound Department for a sudden investigation; there weren’t serious findings. We had a small fund-raising activity through auction on Mission Sunday. We felt happy for the effort we made and the result we got. As all of us know that the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus in Jhansi attracts thousands of devotees every year. We also in different groups went with our prayers, praises and petitions to him. The feast was celebrated in a grand way without much pomp and show. Srs. Assunta and Pratima paid us a short visit on 29th and Srs. Jessy and Smitha from Nepal and Remya on 30th. We enjoyed the company of our dear sisters. Sr. Maria Rose went for a renewal programme in Mysore with her silver jubilee companions.

We were in a way over joyed to see and hear the news that PM Modi met our Pope Francis and invited him to visit India, and Pope gave a gift to him for his mother. Great is our Pope and his thoughtfulness.

We concluded the month of October with common Rosary and 'kheer' was served for all. We wish you all a good winter season and grace filled Advent as well.

NIRMALA CONVENT, JHANSI

Teachers' Day was celebrated in the school with a colourful programme and prayer service organized by classes 9 to 12 expressing their love and respect for their teachers. In honour of Our Lady of Velankanni, the sisters and candidates attended the novena in the Cathedral. It was a graceful moment to be present in the Church after the lockdown for many months.

With great joy we would like to announce that we have reopened the English medium school starting with LKG and UKG for the children of this locality.



We celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows; this day being the birthday of our animator Sr. Alice, we offered special Holy Mass for her intentions and wished her. The school staff conducted a prayer service and they were given tea and snacks. On 16th September we had heavy rain and the school had rainy holiday.

There was a special assembly by the JPIC club through which they explained the Laudato Si 7 goals to the whole school and the members of the club took the oath to carry forward the goals laid down by this organization. On 25th September Parent Teachers Meeting was held and quarterly report cards were distributed to the children. The community had the monthly recollection on the theme 'Shadows of Religious Life'.

We welcomed Sr. Elsy, our provincial superior who came for visitation on 29th September and we were blessed by her presence for few days.



On 3rd October we celebrated the 75th Birthday of Srs. Shalini and Camilla. We were very happy to have Sr. Elsy with us during this celebration. On 5th October Sr. Alice went to Hyderabad to see her ailing sister and she was lucky to be with her sister before her death on the 12th October. May she rest in peace!

On 8th September Sr. Jyotika began the M.Ed. final exams. On 12th Srs. Mary and Camilla went to Jesu Bhawan, Delhi for their annual retreat. They enjoyed their stay in the provincial house and made a fruitful retreat directed by Fr. Varkey Perekatt S J.

On 12th October we welcomed Sr. Shweta the provincial of Allahabad who came to meet the postulants. Sr. Elsy returned from Mauranipur and both the provincials met the postulants and candidates in Krist Jyoti Niwas.

On 19th October we the sisters and candidates went to St. Jude's shrine to attend the 1st day of the Novena. Thereafter everyday five sisters continued attending 9 days' novena. 24th Sunday was our

turn for the singing in the shrine and the sisters and candidates performed well under the leadership of Sr. Lorna. Many people attended the Novena Mass and we had the solemn procession inside the campus on the last day. Many of us experienced the healing and received special grace and blessings from St. Jude. Having refreshed in mind, body and spirit Srs. Mary and Camilla returned from Delhi after their retreat. We were very happy to meet Sr. Assunta who paid a surprise visit. Sr. Jyotika had her viva on the day of St. Jude's Feast and she performed it well.

Sr. Jessy and Sr. Smitha from Nepal and arrived on 29th to meet the postulants. Next day they went to Mauranipur to meet the sisters and they left for Nepal in the evening. On the 31st we had special guests from Rajasthan, Fr. Sebastian Assarikudi SJ, Sr. Remya's uncle and his family friends.

Nirmala Community

MOUNT ST. MARY'S, RUDRAPUR

The Month of September commenced with the celebration of Teachers' Day; being Sunday we anticipated the celebration through virtual assembly and a small entertainment programme prepared by the students to express their gratitude and respect.

Maria Jayanti – birthday of Mother Mary being a diocesan holiday, we kept up the National Girl Child Day celebration on 9th honouring our girl students by conducting a special assembly.

The virtual meeting organized for the principals of UP/UK was very informative. It is worth noting what each letter in the word **principal** stands for:

P: provides with enthusiasm **R:** respects **I:** indicates **N:** networks **C:** consults effectively

I: instructs **P:** participates **A:** attracts **L:** leads.

It was indeed a thought provoking session by Fr. Sundar Wilson OFM Cap. On the occasion of 'Hindi Diwas' - 14th September, the students prepared speeches and slogans to highlight the significance of the Day. Mrs. Anita Sharma, our teacher, concluded the day motivating the students to give due importance to their mother tongue.

We spent a day reflecting on the theme 'Transforming our wounds into wisdom'. Sr. Seema helped us to pray by conducting a meaningful adoration.

We were happy to welcome Sr. Elsy, who came on visitation to our community. Having spent two days with us she left for Puranpur accompanied by Sr. Assunta. On the same day we welcomed Sr. Pratima who came to meet the Benjamin of our community, Sr. Josephine.

We welcomed the students of Classes 1 – 5 for regular offline classes after the long lockdown. Both teachers and students were excited to come back to the school. We have resumed the transport services too.

On 28th we organized a seminar for our teachers on Personality Development and Lesson Planning. We are ever grateful to Fr. Royal Anthony of the diocese of Bareilly, the resource person for his generosity and availability. On 2nd October we honoured the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi

and Lal Bahadur Shastri and remembered their valuable services to the country by a short assembly. Each class teacher briefed the students about the life and the commendable services rendered by these great leaders. Thereafter the students had competitions to mark the significance of the day.

On 15th October we were happy to welcome Sr. Josephine's brother, Mr. Cornelius and his family. They were fortunate enough to have a short visit to the hills and to see the snow range. Soon after their departure we experienced the nature's fury in its worst form. The rain which started on Sunday evening continued for 36 hours. On Tuesday morning we were simply shocked to see our entire campus submerged in water. We could not step out of the house but in the meantime our workers came wading through the waters and gave us another sad news that all our fowls too had been drowned. By evening the water receded and we took a sigh of relief with a grateful heart to the Lord. The torrential rain brought about so much disaster: the surrounding paddy fields of the people which were about to be harvested was devastated; the people in the colonies on the low lying areas had to be shifted in the wee hours of the night; the basements of the shops were flooded; the traffic was disturbed as the roads were in water. Our two Bengali employees had to run to the roof top as the flood water gushed into their homes. We raised our hearts to God asking Him to protect everyone.

We had the Pastoral visit by our bishop Most Rev. Ignatius D'Souza after the Mission Sunday celebration in our Rudrapur Parish. On the same evening Sr. Assunta left for Jhansi to participate in St. Jude's Novena and Feast.

Srs. Seema and Rayna attended the synodal preparatory meeting held at Kathgodam for all the priests and religious of the Diocese. Our Diocese has started head on with the synodal preparations.

We were happy to welcome some visitors in the past weeks which brought much joy to our community. May Mother Mary and St. Joseph bless and intercede for all of us.

Rudrapur community

