



DELHI DISHA

Vol.15/6

PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

Nov. – Dec. 2021

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK...

Kindly note the following and pray for them

- Srs. Kiran and Alka will be making their final commitment on 30th January 2022 in St. Anthony's Cathedral, Jhansi.
- Srs. Teresa and Juliana will renew their vows 30th January 2022 in St. Francis' Convent, Jhansi.
- ✚ All the best to Sr. Remya as she will be attending the training programme for formators in Rome from 24 January to 30 June 2022.



*Thank you, dear **Sr. Seraphina!** You were an epitome of **compassion and sacrifice.** Your **commitment and dedication** in serving the sick and the poor is a path for us to follow. May you enjoy the Eternal Bliss with your Lord and Master.*

meloy

News From Communities

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, NAINITAL

Saints are the ones who march to the drum beat of God and not to the drum beat of the worldly wisdom. We are privileged to be called to become saints.

The month of November was full of celebrations, enjoyments and also a time to pray and remember all the departed souls. On 1st November, the school celebrated the silver jubilee of our teachers Ms. Asha Kandpal and Mr. Arjun Bohra and the retirement of Ms. Poonam and Mr. Shah. The children entertained the teachers with felicitation programme which was indeed appreciated by them. Thereafter, there was lunch for all the teachers. The same day four priests from Jhajjar paid a short visit to us. The school closed for Diwali holidays. Many of our boarders went home to celebrate the festival with their dear ones.

On 2nd Nov. Sr. Manjusha left for Delhi to attend the council meeting. Sr. Deepti went home on 4th to take care of her ailing mother who had a fall and on 8th we received the sad news that her mother is no more. May her soul rest in peace and may she intercede for her family.

We, the sisters, resident teachers and boarders celebrated Diwali with lighted lamps all around the grotto, enjoyed a few fireworks and sweets were distributed to all. The final exams commenced from 11th November for the middle section. The exams were offline and the students were happy to write their offline exams after a long break of the pandemic. Since the Children's Day came on a Sunday, the programme was online as the children were busy studying for their remaining exams. The Ramnee teachers gave a befitting programme which was appreciated by all the children.

Sr. Anupa from Lucknow community paid us a visit and we were happy to have her with us for two days. Sr. Manjusha's birthday was celebrated solemnly with the teachers playing the instruments at Mass. As it was a holiday, there was an online programme by the students which was very creative. The sisters and teachers had the festal lunch with the birthday baby. Birthday celebration was concluded with a short programme by the boarders in the evening. Completing their annual exams on the 20th the boarders left for home for their winter vacation. Classes X and XII boarders arrived on the same day for their 1st semester exams. Emeritus Archbishop Rev. Albert D'Souza of Agra Diocese accompanied by Bishop Isidore and two priests blessed us with their presence. On the 25th, the school staff gave the sisters sumptuous lunch to express their gratitude at the end of the academic year 2021. We had our community recollection on the first day of advent, a good start of the season to wake up from our slumber, watch and wait in hope to meet our new born babe in Bethlehem.

All of us appreciated the webinar on Synodality organised by our province leadership team. We gained more clarity on the subject and the process of this journey. On December 8th Feast of Mother Mary - we celebrated the birthday and the feast day of our dear Sr. Nirmala. Sr. Marisha along with some of the parishioners went on a pilgrimage to Bana, a remote mission station. There was a large gathering of priests, sisters and parishioners from the various parishes. Like in the past, the Bishop

organised Christmas get together for the religious. Srs. Digna Marisha, and Maria participated in the celebration. The students of class X completed their board exam and the boarders went home. The same day we received the sad news of Sr. Seraphina going home to her Father in heaven. May she rest in peace. We celebrated Christmas with the poor - rag-pickers, potters, boatmen, rickshaw-pullers and the inmates of the leper colony in Haldwani. They were very happy with the grocery items and a blanket they received as gifts. We visited Jeolikote, Rudrapur and Puranpur to greet our sisters



personally with Christmas gifts.

On 21st December we had the grand Christmas celebration with the teachers. It was a unique celebration conducted by Sr. Manjusha and team.



Lake church Carol singers came in announcing the happy tidings of Christ's birth. On December 23rd Christmas was celebrated with our co-workers. On the same day Sr. Nirmala left for her home leave. We celebrated Christmas in a creative and reflective manner. Christmas Day kept us busy with the influx of visitors who came to wish us. We were happy to have the priests with us for the

delicious lunch lovingly prepared by Sr. Caroline.

After all the celebrations our Srs. Digna, Maria, Tarsicia, Marisha and Caroline left for their well-deserved home leave. We wish you all a prosperous New Year invoking God's blessings on each one of you.

Nainital Community

JESU BHAWAN, DELHI

The month of November came in with a reminder, 'remember that you are dust and into dust you shall return.' As a community we prayed for all our sisters who have gone to their eternal reward. The consultants came together for their deliberations and discernment. As usual Sr. Elsy was away to meet the sisters in various communities.

The month of December, a month of expectation provided us with opportunities to renew ourselves. A well-prepared day of prayer was organized in the parish and we made use of it well. The parish feast was celebrated in a simple but meaningful manner. The new Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi Archdiocese was given a warm welcome and he administered the sacrament of Confirmation to many children of the parish.

The webinar on **Synodality; Synod 2023** organised for the province was very enlightening and enriching. Fr. Ronald Tellis of Jhansi diocese explained well the **preparatory document and the vade mecum (handbook)** in an informative way that everyone understood the content of them. Another webinar we attended and appreciated greatly was on **Mary Ward family living Laudato Si**; it was very inspiring.

When Sr. Deepti returned from home she joined our community Jesu Bhawan; though for a short stay, we wish you a happy time in Delhi, Deepti. The Advent services on Sundays and the recollection day were focused on 'waiting with hope' to receive our Saviour. We shared the joy and love of Christmas with our two neighbouring communities. The Sisters of Destitute (SD) take care of 53 women who are mentally retarded and the 'Sisters of Birds of the Air' look after orphan children. Our short visit to Mayur Vihar, Shahbad and Jhajjar communities strengthened our bonds.



We were part of the Christmas celebrations in the parish. We enjoyed the Christmas lunch with our sisters from Shahbad community. Before Christmas, Sr. Elsy took her well deserved home leave and so we missed her presence in all our celebrations in Jesu Bhawan. The year ended with Thanksgiving Adoration which was guided by 'Good Shepherd' prayer group and a meaningful Holy Eucharist. We raised our hearts to God with a prayer on our lips, ... **save this world from pandemic.**

Deepa cj

ST. ANTHONY'S CONVENT - JEOLIKOTE

The month of November began on a joyful note. 1st November marked the celebration of All Saints Day with a solemn Mass imploring God's blessing through the intercession of All Saints. On 2nd November feast of All Souls, we had few visiting priests from Delhi who joined to celebrate the Mass for all the Souls. Soon after the Eucharistic celebration, the graves were blessed. It was indeed a beautiful sight to see the grave yard clean, wreath being placed on each grave and candles lit. We appreciated the special effort of Sr. Pratibha under whose able guidance our co-workers cleaned up the graveyard. Some of us were privileged to take part in three Holy Masses which was celebrated in three different places, in our Parish Church, Pastoral center and in the graveyard.

On the same morning the school celebrated the **Festival of Lights** with a meaningful assembly, praying for the whole world, very specially for the deceased who passed away with the pandemic. Sr. Deepika addressed the students with the final message “To be the light of the World.”

We had our monthly recollection on 5th Nov, Sr. Rekha chose an effective talk about “Community Life” bringing out its depth and beauty, our understanding of it from the point of the Church, family and of the humankind as a whole that we need the other and relationship has to be cherished.

On 7th Nov. we received the sad news about Sr. Geetika’s brother Markus Masih who passed away after a long suffering. Four of us were part of the funeral service. We were happy that we could be a comfort and strength to the family.

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt 19:14); with this our parish priest Fr. Uday welcomed and greeted the children of our parish on 14th Nov. as we celebrated Children’s Day. They took an active part in the Liturgy. Prior to this the parish had a day of faith formation for children in which they had some games, action songs and were presented with gifts.

With great zeal we celebrated the feast of Christ the King on 21st. Nov. The banners were put up from the parish house till our campus. The procession began from the parish house with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as we prayed and sang hymns in praise of our Heavenly King Jesus. As upon entering the Church we had the adoration during which the congregation was moved by the spirit.

We were very happy to welcome Emeritus Archbishop Albert D’Souza on 24th Nov. He offered the Holy Eucharist and joined us for breakfast after which he paid a visit to the graveyard in our campus recalling the contribution of our deceased sisters to this mission. The boarders were thrilled to learn a song taught by Bishop in that short duration, and finally received his blessing.

27th November was a Red-Letter Day for the Community as we celebrated the **Quasiquicentennial** of our mission here. We had the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11.30 am with ten priests and Emeritus Bishop Isidore. The sanctuary looked heavenly with beautiful flowers and lit candles. The choir added more devotion to the solemnity. We were happy that our sisters from Nainital, Puranpur and Rudrapur could be present with us. The parishioners took a very active part in making the celebration a memorable one. After thanking God for His bountiful blessings over the 125 years, we moved on to enjoy a sumptuous feast day meal. We missed the presence of our sisters from faraway communities.

This time CRI (Conference of Religious India) meeting was held in our place on 4th December. There were around 60 Religious. Fr. Rudolph of Bareilly diocese gave a very beautiful talk on the Synodal Church, after which we had the Eucharistic celebration followed by lunch.

On 5th Dec. Sr. Sheeba and Sr. Deepika took part in the pilgrimage to Baspur to the shrine of Mary our Mother. There was another pilgrimage on 8th December to Bana Church to conclude the year of St. Joseph, in which Srs. Sheeba and Damian represented the community.

On 15th December the school had Carol singing and Christmas tree competition. The very next day there was crib making competition followed by Christmas celebration with a prayer assembly. The following day the students acted out some scenes of Christmas, ending with a powerful Christmas message by the parish priest. At the end of the day the boarders had an enjoyable evening of fun and games and exchanged gifts to their Christmas friends and ending the day with a sumptuous Christmas dinner.

The results of the half yearly exams were given on 18th and the boarders went home happily with their parents. The same day we got the sad news of one of our orphan girls Mrs. Tara who was ailing passed away to her eternal reward. Srs. Sheeba and Deepika went to console the bereaved family and attended the funeral. They were happy to see some of our orphan girls who had come for the funeral.

We celebrated Christmas with the teachers - we had prayer service, games and concluded the day with a delicious agape. On the same day Srs. Laura and Deepika went home for their home leave. We thank God, this year on Christmas eve, we had the usual night service with carol singing and solemn Mass after which cake and coffee was served. Christmas morning too there was a good gathering of people. The whole day long friends, well-wishers and students poured in to pay their homage to baby Jesus and to greet us.

On 26th December we were invited to the parish house for Christmas dinner. The same evening five of us entered into their annual retreat. Two days later Srs. Sheeba and Pratibha left for their home leave. We ended the year 2021 with adoration and Eucharistic celebration.

We would like to end this news bulletin wishing you all a very happy, peaceful new year 2022.

ST. FRANCIS' CONVENT, JHANSI

November brought in fond but painful memories of our dear departed sisters especially sisters Regis and Jessy and we visited the graves of all our sisters and prayed for them.

We were happy to celebrate the feast day of Sr. Anjali in a fitting manner. The entertainment programme put up by the teachers on Children's Day was highly appreciated. November saw sisters



Georgina, Marcellina, Anjali and Geetika making their online retreat while the rest of us supported them with our prayers.

The feast of Christ the King was a joyous day for us as few of our students received first Holy Communion and confirmation on that day. We invited the inmates of Krist Jyoti for a special evening the following day. After tea we gathered in front of the grotto of Our Lady, sang, danced and had lots of fun which rejuvenated even our senior sisters.

Caring For the Sick: - We are grateful to the Mauranipur hospital community for nursing Sr. Pratima back to health after her surgery of the lump on the right side of her neck. We were happy to look after Sr. Renata after her cataract operation. Our dog Rani too went through an ear operation. She had to be taken to the doctor daily for injection for about two weeks which we did with much love. We also took time out and visited some who were admitted in the hospitals and some others who were sick at home. Our presence and prayers made a difference to them.

The whole month kept us busy studying materials on Synodality. The webinar on Mary Ward family living Laudato Si was informative and insightful. The passion with which some of our sisters live out their mission was inspiring. We all felt enriched by it.

On 1st December our senior NCC girls of class XII returned from their ten-day camp jubilantly carrying with them trophies for badminton, volleyball and drill competitions. Congratulations girls, we are proud of you!

Sisters Irene and Priya from Patna were received with great joy on their arrival here. After spending two days with us they left for home along with Sr. Marcellina. 8th December was a red-letter day for our Diocese as two deacons – Br. Karthik and Lourdu Samy were ordained priests.



It gave us great joy to see our JPIC team taking out a cleaning drive outside the school compound. The enthusiasm with which they did it was marvellous.

The birthday of Srs. Georgina and Rose were celebrated with much joy and enthusiasm. We made both days memorable for them by a meaningful celebration of the Eucharist in a beautifully decorated chapel, an hour of special prayer and a festal meal.



We entered the world of the poor in a deeper way this year. It was our dream – our deepest desire to do something beautiful for God. This dream came true when we handed over the keys of the two houses we built, to Bajju and Poonam, our co-workers.

Our teachers, students and a few ex-students contributed generously for the poor in the form of blankets, cardigans, other clothes, sacks of wheat flour and rice. Srs. Pratima, Isabel and Rose visited Madawara village, Jharia, Meharoni and Panari. Sisters Isabel and Vijaya visited the



families of 52 Cantt. and gave them the necessary help. We had Christmas Vigil Mass at 7 pm on 24th. It was heartening to see the Church packed to capacity and Christmas was celebrated without curb. A large number of students and ex- students visited us and we were happy to give Jesus to them.

On 27th Dec. 15 of us from 8 communities (Delhi/Allahabad) set out on a spiritual journey accompanied by Fr. Joy Pulikunnel S.J. This inward journey awakened in us the desire and determination to follow Christ in a radical way, to stand up for justice unafraid.

We are happy that we could be a host community to our sisters going and coming back from home visit via Jhansi, the last one of the year being Sr. Rosily. You bring many blessings on us dear sisters. Thank you.

Sr. Vijaya CJ

MARY WARD BHAWAN, MAURANIPUR

“The mirror never loses its ability to reflect even if it is broken into two pieces or thousand pieces. So never change your originality at any situation...” We observed the All Souls Day meaningfully attended Holy Mass and visited the graves of our sisters specially the recent ones Srs. Suchita , Regis, Jessy and Louisa.

Srs. Pushpita and Gladys took time aside from their busy schedule and spent fruitful time with the Lord while they attended the online retreat from 4th Nov.to 11th under the guidance of Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ.

Usually, we go to Jhansi for the advanced treatment but Sr. Pratima did something opposite, she came to us for a surgery of a cyst on the right side of her neck and she stayed with us till the stiches were removed, meanwhile she regained her health as well.

A fruitful recollection guided by Sr. Gladys on the theme ‘Our Vocation, a Call to Holiness’ was an inspiring and challenging one. The study on Synodality kept us busy, at the same time we were enlightened on the process of it.

Srs. Julita, Renata and Pratima along with Fr. David James our parish priest went for a mission tour to our close by mission stations. They returned happily, relishing the hospitality and love of the fathers and sisters. We were happy to render our hospitality to our dear Srs. Irene (Patna), Teresa and Rose (Allahabad) as they visited us on their way home for holidays. After recuperating from the surgery Sr. Pratima went back to her community SFC. Our candidates and postulants along with their mistresses Srs. Manisha and Remya came and spent some enjoyable time with us on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

The webinar on Synodality by Fr. Ronald Tellis was inspiring and enriching. The recollection of the month was guided by Sr. Maria Rose on the theme, ‘Conceive Jesus and deliver him to the world today’. Religious life was well explained through the metaphor of a pregnant woman. On the feast of Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary, we celebrated the feast of Sr. Shobha. A well prepared Holy Mass gave a meaningful tone to the day and the delicious breakfast added taste to it. On 12th our renovated church was blessed by Bishop Peter Parappullil and 20 priests concelebrated the Mass and a good number of sisters, parishioners and teachers attended it. After the inauguration and Holy Mass, a sumptuous dinner was served for all.

On 15th noon we received the sad news of the demise of Sr. Seraphina. Srs. Julita, Shobha and Pushpita were happy to be part of the funeral service in Allahabad.

This year we had carol singing in the houses of our parishioners and with that the hustle and bustle of Christmas set in, everyone was busy preparing for it. On 23rd we had Christmas prayers for the co-workers followed by tea-party and Christmas gifts were distributed to them. After the celebrations Srs. Lucy, Julita and Sujata joined SFC community for their annual retreat.



Fr. Mathew SDB along with Srs. Alice, Mary and Manisha visited us on their way to visit some mission stations of the diocese.

“Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow”. On 31st December we had a meaningful thanksgiving Holy Hour followed by midnight Mass welcoming the New Year 2022.

Sr. Lucy

NIRMALA CONVENT, JHANSI

In the month of November, we remembered our dear sisters who have gone ahead of us to eternity, visited their graves and prayed for their souls.

Srs. Manisha, Shalini, Jyotika and Mary celebrated their birthdays and feast days which was an opportunity for us to celebrate their lives. Srs. Rose, Tina and Arpita from Allahabad on their way home paid a short visit and we were indeed delighted to have them in our midst.

The school celebrated Children’s Day with great joy. The teachers entertained the students with singing, dancing and through a fashion show. The students enjoyed the day thoroughly. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated in the cathedral with a solemn procession within the campus. During the Mass 85 children of the parish received First Communion and Confirmation including our two boarders Namita and Amita.

Congratulations to you Sr. Jyothika for completing your M. Ed with flying colours. Srs. Camilla, Shalini, Annette and Lorna left for their home leave. We wish you an enjoyable time with your dear ones. We were happy to attend the ordination of Decan Lourde Swamy and Kartik. Few of us were happy to join the celebrations at Mauranipur as they inaugurated and blessed the renovated church.

The school celebrated Christmas - A tableau on nativity scene depicted by the students was much appreciated by all. A few competitions like dance and Carol singing were held through which Christmas message was given to all. The teachers gathered before the Crib and a meaningful prayer service was conducted for them after which they enjoyed the Christmas party. Srs. Alice, Mary and Manisha went for a mission tour in Jhansi Diocese and returned happy and refreshed.

We concluded the Year 2021 by joining the parish adoration and Mass and welcomed the New Year with lot of hope.

Prison ministry - Due to the pandemic Covid- 19 our prison visit had come to a standstill. After a long break we were able to visit the prison. As usual the Children collected biscuits and soaps for distribution. Six of us from our team visited the women’s wing who were in tears telling us of their loneliness since no visitors were allowed for the last one and half years. Our visit was a great consolation to them. Weekly visits are still restricted. However, the Superintendent was kind enough to invite us for a Christmas programme. Our students enthusiastically prepared a nativity scene and a few Carols. Fr. Ronald Tellis and Fr. Rinoy accompanied us. Fr. Ronald gave an encouraging and

inspiring message to our friends in the Jail. There are about 1600 inmates but only 250 could be allowed to come for some entertainment etc. The Jailor and the Superintendent were very kind and gracious to us. We hope and pray that we will be able to continue to visit our brothers and sisters behind the bars.

Nirmala Community

ST. MARY'S CONVENT, JHAJJAR

We try to keep celebrating the blessings of life while conscious that '...an exhausted world is struggling to stem the spread of virus and that we will have to learn to co-exist with a virus that is not going away'.

In November we celebrated **Haryana Day, Diwali and Children's Day** trying to understand the significance of each and its applications for us today. Prayers, Dances, Singing and other cultural activities both by students and teachers were entertaining and educative. We were truly blessed to have at least some students for all these celebrations, despite the on and off lockdowns.



The office-bearers of the Delhi CRI (Conference of Religious India) Unit visited us to discuss the possibility of starting a separate unit. Now Jhajjar has received a new status as a Sub-Unit of the Delhi CRI. Our unit has two Religious Congregations of Men and five of Women. Our first meeting was hosted by XLRI (Jesuits) and Fr. Thomas Kuriakose SJ gave a good exposition on Synodality and a Synodal Church.

XLRI having become a Quasi-parish has begun to organize all the liturgical services and ceremonies in 'proper form'. Confessions for parishioners and carol singing in families were appreciated by all. Our Christian community consists mainly of staff residing in our campuses.

The school celebrated Christmas with the students of Classes 6 and 7. The Catholic teachers presented the Nativity Play. We also had the Charismas agape with the staff. We were delighted to have our sisters from Jesu Bhawan and Shahabad for a Christmas Get-together here on 26th Dec.



We have been able to shift the generator to the new site and set up the electrical panels and correct the cable lay out problems. We were also kept on tenterhooks to produce and provide any and every certificate the Town and Country Planning and the Education Departments asked for in order to obtain the completion certificate for our buildings and School Recognition.

Sr. Grace was privileged to celebrate Christmas with her dear ones at home as she is on home visit. Sr. Mariella ended the year 2021 and began the year 2022 in the company of our Loreto sisters as she attended their Province Congregation in Kolkata.



With warm greetings for a happy and healthy New Year and God's choices blessings in abundance,
Mariella CJ

MARIA WARD BHAWAN, MAYUR VIHAR

We honour all the saints and pray for all the dear departed throughout the year, but particularly during the month of November on All Saints' Day we sought their intercession and on 2nd November remembered and prayed for all those who have gone before us.

A virtual assembly on the festival of lights was streamed digitally on 3rd November by the E-Marians bringing out the message very powerfully. All the clubs of the school especially the JPIC Club came forward bringing awareness about a cracker free, pollution free green Diwali. Students were serious about this campaign and tried to put into practice what they preached during this Diwali.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had organized a 'Clean India Campaign' in which the NCC Cadets from our school actively participated in a cleanliness drive done in and around the school. As part of the cleanliness drive, cadets made posters and wrote slogans on 'No Use of



Plastic'. This campaign aimed at creating awareness not only among the students but also to mobilize people about this initiative.

Children's Day was celebrated virtually by both junior wing with the theme, 'imprints on your heart' and the senior wing with the theme, 'Children: You are enough'. School commemorated the CONSTITUTION DAY on 26th November. The landmark moments of our Indian Constitution were relived once again on a virtual platform by our students and the preamble to the Indian Constitution was read and depicted exceptionally well by a few students.

School Toppers were felicitated for their outstanding performance in class 10 & 12. As part of Schools' Silver jubilee, **Fr Alex Toppo Memorial Scholarship and Mary Ward Girl Child Scholarship** was introduced. The first scholarship is in honor our first manager – Late Rev Fr Alex Toppo. This Scholarship is to acknowledge the efforts of all well-deserving students who are economically weak. This year the scholarship was awarded to Agnel Anthony and Akash Biju. In order to carry on the legacy of our Foundress Mother Mary Ward, **Mary Ward Girl Child Scholarship** is introduced to help two best girls performing well in the board exams every year and in need of financial help. This year Anuja Lakra and Naina Kumari were awarded with this scholarship. On 8th December School Feast Day (St. Mary's Day) was celebrated in a fitting manner. A few events like a live assembly, virtual assembly and a digital quiz was hosted for the Marian fraternity to honor the School Patroness Mother Mary.



As usual the Christmas joy and spirit of sharing was creative and quite satisfying. Students and teachers contributed ration for the poor and we distributed the ration to Kichripur JJ colony which is adopted by the school for its community outreach programme. A few JPIC and LTS representatives, sisters and teachers visited the Kichripur slum and sang the carols and distributed rations for them on 18th December. Since the classes are held online, students brought the groceries to the school gate and we also distributed the items to a destitute house, an orphanage and to all our needy neighbours.



Thought provoking Christmas assemblies were streamed online for the students, various Christmas competitions were organised and online class parties from KG - XII made the Christmas celebration complete for the students. On 22nd & 23rd Dec. school management organised a meaningful offline Christmas celebration in the school for the staff and the support staff and after which we dispersed for a short winter break.

The Solemnity of Christ the King was celebrated in the parish on 21st November and on the same day our parish priest inaugurated Synod - 2023 in our parish and explained the theme for a Synodal Church which is Communion, Participation, and Mission.

28th November was a day of great joy for all of us. After a long gap of three years, the children of the parish received First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The children were prepared by Sr. Tomsy and the catechism teachers. The main celebrant of the Eucharist, our new Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro was warmly welcomed by the parishioners.

In the month of December prior to Christmas all the parishioners, youth and the children had a day of prayer and recollection separately. We the CJ sisters were privileged to conduct the prayer, recollection and input sessions to the children. We could motivate them on vocation to religious life as well. This year due to the pandemic, carol singing was organised on a lower scale and parish youth took the initiative to sing carols in their houses. Sr. Poonam, parish youth animator joined the parish youth for the carol singing. Despite the Omicron threat, Christmas and new year celebrations went on smoothly.

Sr. Merlin attended the Silver Jubilee renewal programme in Mysore from 2nd November to 9th November. Srs. Deepa, Deepti, Susan, sisters from Shahabad and Provincial house visited us. Advent service was held on all the Sundays with an earnest desire to make our hearts ready for Jesus' birth. On 5th December Community attended the webinar on Synodality and it was a great opportunity given by the province and was enriched and enhanced by the input sessions. We had a spirit filled and meaningful Christmas and new year celebration despite the dark clouds of uncertainty caused by the omicron threat. Our mission at school and Parish keeps us active and busy always and we remain blessed by various exposures and experiences.

Sr. Merlin CJ

ST. XAVIER'S, ROHINI

The month of November began with celebration of Diwali through a special assembly by the students under the guidance of their teachers. They performed well through songs, dances and quotes on Diwali. The celebration was followed by Diya decoration competition conducted by the class teachers.

Srs. Vandana & Sanjana made their annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. Varkey SJ. On 11th a seminar was organised for the teachers. Dr. Sangeet Sharma was the resource person who introduced well the topic 'Emotional Wellness in Life.' All the staff members benefitted from the wisdom shared

by the speaker. Children's Day assembly was conducted on a virtual platform through a number of items performed by all the teachers. The students were happy and excited to see the teachers in colourful dresses performing various items expressing their love for them. A parent from our school greeted the students and appreciated them for making through this pandemic situation.

A task was given by the CBSE to prepare the Art Integrated Learning reports and the teachers fulfilled it with much dedication by conducting different Art Integrated activities. An offline meeting was held in the school for the staff members to discuss and explain the guidelines related to the Board examinations. Board duties of invigilators and evaluators were thoroughly explained as our school was the centre for Board exams. Around 475 students appeared for Board exams in our school. We were happy to welcome Fr. Susai Mani, the Jesuit Provincial of Delhi province as he was on visitation.

The month of December commenced with the onset of preparation for the feast of St. Francis Xavier. Students prepared a beautiful online assembly to mark the importance of the day. After the assembly various competitions were organised by the class teachers. 12th December was a day of prayer and recollection for the whole parish. Fr. Deepak Christo IMS enlightened everyone as he preached on the theme Repentance which helped us to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas meaningfully.

A special assembly was conducted by the students of class III on Christmas as they performed the Nativity scene. The whole event collectively shared the beauty of Christmas. A Christmas get-together was organised for all teaching and non-teaching staff members of the school. The celebration was filled with fun loving games, exchanging of gifts and meaningful carols. A delicious lunch was served for all. After Christmas we visited our sisters in Jhajjar and Mayur Vihar community and shared our joy with one another as we spent the day with them. On 31st we had adoration and thanksgiving Mass in our parish Church for all the graces received in the year 2021. We wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year 2022.

Vandana CJ

Discovering the Spirituality of Silver Years by the Silver Jubilarians.

With deep gratitude towards God our loving Father for preserving our vocation to religious life, we the six silver jubilarians of 2022 (Srs. Regina & Neethika Allahabad Province, Sr. Neelu Nepal, Srs. Maria Rose, Jyothika & Merlin Delhi) gathered at Xavier Sadan, Mysore for a renewal programme from 2-9 November. It was a time of coming together and sharing of how God has accompanied us all throughout these years to be women of grace, sacrifice and substance. When the programme coordinator, Fr. Anil D' Mello SJ came to know that we are celebrating the silver jubilee from our entry into the novitiate, he was pleased to arrange our programme with a group of novices from Mysore giving us a reliving experience of ourselves as novices. Fr. Joseph D' Mello SJ was the resource person for the first two days and he dealt with various topics like, Spirituality: A faith journey, Spiritual journey - a pilgrimage, three layers of human reality, three elements of Christian spirituality and six components of a spiritual journey. Keeping these topics in the frontline he guided us to reflect our Spiritual Journey from the novitiate days to till date. Step by step, layer by layer he

led us to find out and focus on the **Core Grace Moments** of our life. Keeping the Novices before us, we were invited to relive the transformational journey in Congregation of Jesus. Rest of the days Fr. Freddie D' Silva SJ guided us through the topic 'Maturing in Religious Life'. His input sessions were relevant and soul searching. Various dimensions of maturing in religious life from a teenage novice to a middle-aged religious sister was unfolded to us in its totality.

These days of renewal and coming together broadened our interior knowledge about who we are as religious, where we stand from a novice of 1997- to a 2022 silver jubilarian, what are my responses to the two pillars of religious life i.e., community life and the personal prayer. These reflections helped us to find out the exodus experience in the process of maturing as religious and finally we were affirmed with the truth that silver jubilee is a moment of rebirth wherein one needs to be grateful and rejuvenated for the upcoming years. We were also asked to reflect on the following - how am I entering into the silver year of my religious life from 2nd February 2022- 1st February 2023. Is it with a deep sense of joy and gratitude or regrets and heart breaks?

Discussions in our own groups helped us to express our views, concerns and challenges with one another. Silent adoration and time for personal prayer helped us to be in touch with the Divine in us and meet the Lord who accompanies us at every moment of our lives. Coming together almost after 15 years was a time of grace and joy, sharing and caring under one identity 'C J'.

Discovering the spirituality of silver years was concluded with a meaningful jubilee Mass offered by Most. Rev. Francis Serrao Bishop of Shimoga, Karnataka who came on a visit to Xavier Sadan. At the end of the renewal programme we are enriched and refreshed to enter into this silver year of our religious commitment with a deep sense of gratitude and joy for His accompaniment in our religious life all throughout these years.



We are grateful to our provincial superior, Sr. Elsy for giving us this golden opportunity and we owe our gratitude to our communities for relieving us of our responsibilities and doing the needful in our absence. We are grateful to Mayur Vihar community for the warm welcome and the hospitality we received as we arrived there. We took the decision to assemble together in Mayur Vihar with the desire of travelling together as a group from Delhi to Mysore. We had a memorable train journey together after a long gap of 15 years.

Srs. Maria Rose, Jyothika and Merlin.

Congratulations