



CONGREGATION OF JESUS



VOL. 19/1

PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

JAN. - FEB 2025

From the provincial's desk...

Remembering our loved ones who have passed on ...

Sr. Mary John's brother, Mr. Jose (60)
 Sr. Isabel's brother Mr. Thommachen (60)
 Sr. Stephanie (86)
 Sr. Vandana's mother, Mrs. Aleyamma (78)



In need of prayers for healing and wellness...

Sr. Tarsicia, who is recuperating after her surgery

Special prayers requested for...

- ✓ Our sisters who will be writing their exams
- ✓ Sr. Deepa, who will be installed as the Provincial Superior on 3rd May 2025

ST. FRANCIS', JHANSI

We welcomed the New Year with a fervent prayer that 2025 would be a year of hope, peace, and brotherhood.

On 6th January, Bishop Wilfred Moras was formally installed at St. Anthony's Cathedral, marking a momentous day for the Diocese of Jhansi. The event was characterized by pomp and splendour, attracting a large crowd.

An enlightening orientation was conducted for teachers on the 8th, focusing on Project CACA (Child Against Child Abuse). Miss Famyra, the resource person, addressed the critical issue of child abuse, highlighting children's rights, safety, and prevention measures. The orientation emphasized the seven core principles of Project CACA: mental

health and well-being, gender equality, child rights, safety, health and hygiene, emotional intelligence, and moral values. The seminar concluded with the powerful message: "Empowering children with knowledge, confidence, and self-esteem is key to creating a safe and secure society."

On the 10th, Mrs. Amita Sharma, a marketing resource person from Orient Black Swan, led an impressive and educational session on *Early Childhood Care* for teachers of classes LKG to 2. She delved into the crucial aspects of early childhood development, highlighting the importance of creating a stimulating environment that fosters children's linguistic, cognitive, emotional, and social growth. The session underscored the significance of play-based learning, nutrition, and health in early childhood and offered strategies for promoting holistic development.

The 10th also witnessed the District Sports Competition, in which several of our students participated and won prizes, returning home jubilantly with the runner-up trophy.

The 74th Indian Army Day was celebrated on the 15th at Hathi Ground, Jhansi, where our 26 NCC



girls were invited. The celebration showcased a

grand display of military might. Seeing the weapons from close quarters and learning about their capabilities and the critical role they play in modern warfare, were an incredible experience for them. This experience served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the Indian Army and instilled a sense of patriotic fervour in the students.

Two of our students, Jasman Kaur and Samira Roberts, along with Miss Gardener, attended the three-day National JPIC Conference, centred on the theme "Fostering Inclusivity," hosted by Loreto School in Asansol, West Bengal, from the 15th to the 18th of January. The conference featured insightful presentations showcasing the JPIC initiatives of each school, valuable input sessions supported by workshops, and dynamic activities aimed at nurturing skills, along with group performances addressing social challenges like bullying and discrimination. The conference concluded with a declaration of collective goals for the year 2025, emphasizing the advancement of inclusivity and sustainability. Their experiences will inspire future initiatives and actions to promote social justice and environmental stewardship.

On the 22nd, we received the joyous news that Sr. Deepa was appointed as our Provincial. Congratulations, Sr. Deepa! Our prayers accompany you.

We fondly remembered Venerable Mother Mary Ward during the Mary Ward Week. Inspiring prayer services led by students and sisters were a regular feature of the week. The FMW conducted various activities, and our students amazed us with their creative and innovative ways of paying tribute to her.

On the 25th, we organized a highly successful interdisciplinary exhibition, featuring outstanding works in Arts and Crafts, Science and Mathematics.

Republic Day: This proud and joyous day was enthusiastically and patriotically celebrated. Sr. Merlin, the Principal, unfurled the National flag while the entire school stood proudly, paying their respects to the tricolour. A unique and creative assembly organized by Class 7 focused on

celebrating our democracy, our unity in diversity, and our unwavering commitment to upholding the values enshrined in the Constitution.

On the 24th, our school marked *UP Foundation Day* by hosting a *Road Safety Awareness* program, which aimed to raise public awareness and promote road safety. Esteemed guests included the DIOS and the Deputy Controller of Civil Defense. In recognition of their exceptional efforts in promoting road safety awareness, 12 students were honoured with medals.

On the 28th, a group of 15 students from JPIC and FMW, accompanied by Sr. Merlin and five



teachers, visited the MC Sisters. The residents warmly welcomed them, and their resilience amidst challenges deeply touched the hearts of both students and teachers. The students interacted with them, listening to their stories and distributing snacks and clothes.

On the 29th, an orientation session was organized for the students and parents of the Board examination classes, focusing on strategies to avoid examination stress. Mrs. Pratibha Malhotra, an expert child psychologist, conducted the session, which provided students with effective time-management skills, strategies, and stress-management techniques to ensure a smooth and successful Board exam experience. Both the children and their parents appreciated the session.

On January 31st, a district-level Science Model Exhibition was held at Suraj Prasad Inter College in Jhansi. It featured 117 models from various schools across the district. Tanisha Sharma and Jasman Kaur represented our school. Their models were awarded 2nd and 4th place, respectively, thus qualifying them for the next level of competition.

Farewell: February 1st was a special day for the students of class 12. The students of class 11 and their teachers made it a memorable occasion. The students left the school, carrying with them sweet memories of the time they spent together in SFC. In the evening, we joined the long-awaited golden jubilee celebration of Sr. Doreen.

In terms of workshops and meetings, Sr. Digna had the privilege of attending a workshop on *Safeguarding* at Loreto Convent, Delhi on the 3rd and 4th, while Sr. Assunta attended the CJ-IBVM *Growing Together* program in Kolkata.

The JPIC club organized an assembly and interactive session on the 6th to promote values that counteract hatred, violence, and injustice. This session helped students reflect on one of history's most tragic events - the Holocaust - and raised awareness of the dangers of hatred, discrimination, and indifference, reinforcing our collective responsibility toward building a just, peaceful, and inclusive society.

On the 7th, the JPIC members enthusiastically celebrated the *International Day of Education*, with this year's theme being '*AI and Education - Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation.*' The program began with a documentary screening that highlighted the importance of education, the challenges faced by students worldwide, and the role of learning in shaping a better future. The event inspired students to embrace learning with enthusiasm and gratitude.

The 8th was an unforgettable day for SFC as Most Rev. Wilfred Moras, our new Bishop visited us for the first time. He was welcomed with great enthusiasm and colourful celebrations. The cultural program organized in his honour was both enthralling and graceful.



February 8th was significant for another reason as well - the retirement of Mrs. Tripat Walia. A



farewell program was organized to honour her remarkable contribution to education over 31 years, recognizing her as an understanding, compassionate, and dedicated teacher.

Sr. Vinita took a keen interest in preparing a few children from our Parish for the Bible recitation and explanation competition on Holy Childhood Day. Congratulations to the children who won prizes!

On the 15th, a staff outing to Gwalior was organized, to provide a welcome break from work-



related stress and recharge for the demanding days ahead. They returned home in the evening feeling refreshed.

In addition to sharing our vocation stories with members of another CJ or IBVM, we also shared our stories within our community on our recollection day. This helped us become more understanding and loving toward one another.

A special prayer service was organized on the 22nd to thank God for the numerous blessings the school has received and to seek blessings as the students were about to begin their final examinations.

During this season of Lent, let the words of St. Paul guide us: "*Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*"

NIRMALA, JHANSI

The New Year 2025 was welcomed with fresh dreams, hopes, and expectations mingled with echoes of the Church's long-awaited Jubilee Year. On January 1, 2025, along with the Church, we dedicated ourselves and the year and our Congregation to the powerful and motherly hands of our Blessed Mother, imploring her to watch over us and guide us on our pilgrim journey.

On the 3rd, our Congregation Day, we prayed for the entire C.J. Family and made it a day of thanksgiving and celebration. On the 5th, we had the Christmas Tree celebration in our Parish.

January 6 was an important and solemn occasion for the Jhansi Diocese as the new Bishop, Wilfred Moras, officially took charge. Ten bishops from neighbouring dioceses attended the Holy Mass and subsequent ceremony, as well as a large gathering of parishioners, priests, and sisters from near and far.

On 8th January, after their pre-board exams, classes 10 and 12 participated in a *Career Guidance* session conducted by Rev. Fr. Jerome SDB. It was informative and engaging, and the students responded well.

There was a special Recollection Day on the 10th for priests and sisters, with talks centred on the Documents of Vatican II. Two documents, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* and *Dei Verbum*, were explained.

Sr. Alka joined us for a few days to write her exam at the University. She returned feeling satisfied and relieved. On the 14th, the SFC invited us to a movie show at Natraj Theatre, a free event exclusively for priests and religious people. The movie *Swargam*, meaning heaven, depicted two modern families: one knit together in love and understanding, and the other plagued by disunity, misunderstanding, and selfishness.

On 16th January, the Brothers of St. Jude's School, Prem Nagar, invited us to a special memorial service in honour of Bro. Lawrence on his 25th death anniversary. The school gratefully remembered him for his significant contributions as

a pioneer and founder of their institution and his tireless efforts to uplift the neighbouring villages.

On the 23rd, we began Mary Ward Week with great fervour and enthusiasm. Various classes conducted assemblies focused on the life and legacy of Mary Ward. We concluded the week on January 30 with a meaningful prayer service, and many children participated in a Mary Ward drawing competition and won prizes.

On 1st February, we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Doreen, with our three C.J. communities in attendance. Fr. Ronald Tellis was the main celebrant at the Eucharist, assisted by three other fathers from the Cathedral and Fr. Rinoy, our chaplain. The co-workers and teachers honoured Sr. Doreen in their own special ways.

Candlemas Day was celebrated at St. Jude's Shrine, featuring a candlelight procession from the Bishop's House to the church - a proclamation of our faith in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Rev. Fr. Sahayanathan served as the chief celebrant, with many priests concelebrating. On the 5th, Sr. Doreen left for Kolkata to participate in the *Growing Together* programme and returned on the 11th.

On the 8th, we held a farewell programme for the outgoing class 12 students. Class 11 entertained them with skits, dances, jokes, and games. The following days were busy with practical exams for science students.

On the 16th, we held our monthly recollection for February. Sr. Doreen guided us in reflection and prayer with the theme "Kiss Goodbye" to our unpleasant and painful memories which is essential for all of us, as it makes our lives joyful and pleasant. In the evening, we attended the Silver Jubilee wedding anniversary celebration of our teacher, Tresa Highfield, at Prem Nagar Parish.

We attended the funeral service of Sr. Audrey CTC in Hazari on the 19th. Sr. Audrey, who was 95 years old, remained active until the end and was loved by everyone.

The board exams for Classes 10 and 12 commenced on the 24th, with Hindi being the first paper. Our candidates returned with broad smiles, indicating

that the start was promising. On the 25th, Sisters Poonam and Remya travelled to Delhi for a Council meeting.

The results of the Diocesan Bible Festival competitions for the formation houses were announced, and our formees performed exceptionally well in all categories. They received medals, certificates, and cash awards. Congratulations to all!

Receiving the NOC for our English Medium CBSE provided a fitting conclusion to the month. The Lord has heard our prayers! Praise the Lord!

Wish you all a fruitful and grace-filled time during Lent! Remember the three Rs: Reflect, Renew, Resolve!

ST. MARY'S MAURANIPUR

Sr. Martha spent two days with us after her retreat at SFC. We had a pleasant time together. On January 8th, we celebrated Sr. Deepika's birthday, during which the school organized a small cultural programme to honour her.

The Superintendent of Police, Mrs. Sudha Singh (an ex-student of SMC, Allahabad), recently promoted to the rank of DIG, visited our school and spoke about Women's Empowerment. The students interacted with her, asking relevant questions, to which she responded with a smile.



The School Band often receives invitations to perform at various rallies and was recently rewarded by the police department for its performance.

Sr. Reena and Fr. Vincent joined SFC to watch a movie titled "Swargam".

The Navodaya Entrance Examination was held in our school on the 17th. Although busy, we dedicated a day for recollection on January 19th, with the theme "Put God First."

On January 22nd, we were delighted to learn of Sr. Deepa's appointment as the next Province Leader.

Sr. Lucy's focus was on wrapping up the annual report in collaboration with community mobilisers.

We dedicated Mary Ward Week to thoughtful reading and reflection, engaging deeply with the provided materials. Teachers, parents, and students attended the flag-hoisting ceremony on the 26th.

On January 30th, we observed Mother Mary Ward's death anniversary with a Mass in our chapel. We also held a small candle procession, wanting to illuminate the world with our light and life, as Mary Ward did.

On 1st February, Sr. Deepika attended Sr. Doreen's golden jubilee in Jhansi. Sr. Lucy joined the *Growing Together* programme in Kolkata along with Srs. Doreen and Assunta.

Class IX students had an educational tour of Jhansi, where they visited the Rani Lakshmi Bai Fort, the Space Museum, Atal Park, and Dhyana Chandra Park. They also visited St. Jude's Shrine and SFC, accompanied by six teachers and Sr. Deepika.



Sr. Deepika and Fr. Vincent attended the birthday celebration of Bishop Wilfred Moras on the 13th. The following day, we joined the hospital community for a sharing session on *Growing Together* led by Sr. Lucy, followed by dinner.

The Class XI students hosted a farewell party for the outgoing Class XII students, presenting a memorable short cultural programme and a delicious lunch. At the end of the event, everyone danced together and thoroughly enjoyed the day before bidding goodbye to the school, teachers, and juniors.

On February 22nd, we joyfully welcomed the General Superior of the MSST sisters, accompanied

by her council member and two sisters working in the Badagaon mission in Jhansi. A team of officers from our Municipality visited our school to examine our waste management system. They were pleased with our setup and offered additional suggestions, commending, "If private schools can implement this, why can't government schools as well?"

Sr. Reena's birthday was celebrated on the 25th, with the hospital community joining us.

Sr. Lucy left for Delhi on the same day to attend the Council Meeting.

We wish you all a grace-filled time during Lent.

MARIA BHAWAN, HOSPITAL

As we bid farewell to 2024, we took a moment to thank the Lord for the blessings, graces, joys, and sorrows we experienced throughout the year. We welcomed the new year, 2025, with great hope and expectation.

On the 3rd, we celebrated our Congregation's feast. Sisters Julita, Sushmita, and Sujata returned from their trip to Kerala on the 4th with refreshed minds and hearts. On the same day, Sarita, our kitchen help, returned home for good.

Christmas tree and New Year celebrations were held in the parish on the 5th. On the 10th, Srs. Julita, Shanti, and Sushmita attended the recollection arranged by the Diocese of Jhansi for priests, religious, and laity. The following day, Sr. Sujata travelled to Pune to attend a two-month course on *Personal Growth and Renewal for the Mission*.

On January 22nd, we joyfully received the news of Sr. Deepa's appointment as our new Provincial Superior through a letter from Mother General.

On the birthday of Mother Mary Ward, we held a special thanksgiving liturgy to express our gratitude for all the blessings received by our Congregation. During the week, each of us took turns leading prayer and offering fitting reflections. We concluded the *Mary Ward Week* with a Holy



Eucharist in the school community and enjoyed a fellowship meal.

Sr. Georgina stayed with us for a few days, getting IV injections for cellulitis. After a week, she returned to SFC, feeling much better.

Srs. Gladys and Teresa made their annual retreat in the Provincial House, Delhi. Sr. Juliana, after her final profession, spent a few days with us, helping us out during Srs. Gladys' and Teresa's absence. We offered a special Mass for her intentions.

On the 14th, we received the sad news of Sr. Stephanie's passing. May her soul rest in peace.

Sr. Shanti went to Jamshedpur for a 10-day course on *Financial Administration*.

Our little garden in full bloom proves that *where flowers bloom, happiness flourishes*. It brings joy to our eyes and peace to our hearts because the earth laughs in flowers.



ST. MARY'S, KABUGANJ

The New Year brought immense joy and happiness to our community. We began the day on a sacred note, participating in the Holy Eucharist, to thank the Lord for His blessings in 2024 and to seek His graces for the New Year.

On January 2nd, the community came together to wish Sr. Geetika a Happy Birthday. After the Holy Mass in the evening, we gathered with our Parish Priest, Fr. Jesuraj, and the Auxilium sisters to enjoy a delicious meal together.

The following day, we were filled with anticipation as we prepared for our visit to Mizoram, thanks to the generosity of Fr. Santiago, who arranged everything for us, including our stay at the Bishop's House. We visited several beautiful churches, and as night fell, we made our way to the terrace, where we were treated to a breathtaking view of the hill, its slopes glittering with a thousand lights. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip and returned with wonderful memories of Mizoram.

On the 12th, Srs. Geetika and Anima visited one of the villages along with our Parish Priest. The youth conducted a prayer service, followed by Mass and a warm lunch. Their hospitality was outstanding. On the 16th, we were happy to welcome Fr. Christy and his sister Cynthia from Kerala, who had come for some work. They returned to Kerala the next day.

On the 19th, we held a day of recollection, reflecting on the topic "Put God First", guided by Sr. Rose. On the 23rd, we celebrated the birthday of our Foundress with a Holy Mass, expressing our gratitude to God for the wonders He has worked through her in our Congregation.

Later, we embarked on a delightful trip to Ting-Tong with our teachers and support staff. Everyone enthusiastically participated in preparing lunch, while some ventured to explore the scenic tea gardens, capturing beautiful memories along the way. After a delicious meal, we returned home with hearts full of joy, singing and dancing on the bus, cherishing the wonderful day we had spent together.



On the 30th, we gathered for the Holy Eucharist in the church, joined by the Auxilium sisters and the boarding students. During the celebration, Sr. Rose highlighted the virtues of Venerable Mary Ward, her struggles, and the mission work that continues through her sisters in our Congregation. Sr. Anima led a meaningful prayer service and prayed for the needs of the Congregation, the Church, and the world. After Holy Mass, everyone came together to enjoy a wonderful dinner, sharing joy and fellowship.

On 2nd February, during the Holy Mass, we prayed for all our sisters. With grateful hearts, we thanked the Lord for our vocation and spent the day joyfully counting the endless blessings of God.



The 9th was a momentous day for our Kabuganj parish, as we all gathered to witness the Eucharistic Lord in a grand procession. Rev. Bishop Joachim Walder was the main celebrant, joined by several priests who concelebrated the Holy Mass and led the procession. The celebration concluded with a shared meal, as lunch was served to all, fostering a spirit of unity and joy.

Sr. Rose travelled to Guwahati on the 10th for a Principals' meeting. It was a valuable experience, providing insights and knowledge on effectively managing and caring for schools.

The 13th was a joyful day for the community as we celebrated the birthday of Sr. Anima. During the Holy Mass, we prayed for her intentions and well-being, asking the Lord to bless her abundantly. The Holy Mass was followed by a joyful gathering, where we came together to wish Sr. Anima a happy Birthday. Cake and sweets were also shared with the boarders, adding to the joy of the occasion. The celebration concluded in the evening with a delightful peanut party, where the sisters and boarders came together in a spirit of happiness and fellowship.

16th was a day of reflection. Sr. Anima led us in contemplation, reflecting on God's abundant blessings. She reminded us of His constant provision of both spiritual and physical nourishment, encouraging us to be open to experiencing His goodness. We concluded the recollection by offering our gratitude to the Lord for His countless gifts.

Our students immersed themselves in their studies, diligently preparing for their annual examinations. The exams commenced on the 17th and concluded on 28th. On the same day, our boarders left for their homes.

ST. MARY'S NAINITAL

The New Year dawned with new hope and joy. We welcomed the year with a Solemn High Mass. On 2nd January, Sr. Tarsicia was rushed to Krishna Hospital, Haldwani, with a heart problem.

On the 3rd, we celebrated *Institute Day*. On the 7th of January, Sr. Sherly travelled to Delhi for a

pilgrimage organized by an international prayer group of which she is a member. They had arranged visits to Rome, Fatima, Lourdes, Portugal, and Medjugorje, among other places. She prayed for everyone and interacted with the youth and parishioners during her time there and returned on 5th February.

On the 10th, Sr. Grace was excited to leave for a two-month renewal course in Pune. On the same day, Sr. Manjusha received news of her elder sister's illness and promptly rushed home to be with her.

On the 11th, Sr. Tarsicia was discharged from the hospital and was taken to Lalpur, as advised by the doctor, to avoid the high altitude of Nainital. Sr. Nirmala accompanied her to provide care. Srs. Elsy and Renata visited Sr. Tarsicia, which brought her much comfort and joy. On the 13th, Srs. Elsy and Renata visited Nainital, and their brief stay was a much-needed boost for the community, which had been feeling the absence of six sisters and was down to just seven.

On the 16th, Sr. Tarsicia returned to the hospital for a check-up, and the doctor was pleased with her progress. On the same day, we received the sad news that our former driver, Mr. Mahesh, had died of a heart attack. May he rest in peace.

On the 25th, Sr. Tarsicia was taken to the hospital again for a check-up and was admitted to emergency care due to high potassium levels. By evening, she was feeling much better and was discharged, returning to Nainital.

On February 4th and 5th, a renowned motivational speaker, Mrs. Reena Charles, led an orientation programme for teachers, setting the stage for a



successful academic session in 2025. This comprehensive programme aims to rejuvenate

educators and equip them with the latest teaching methodologies, best practices, and essential tools for excelling in their roles. The orientation covered various topics, including effective classroom management, lesson planning, and strategies for engaging students. Teachers also gained insights into the importance of professional learning communities, teamwork, and building positive relationships with students, parents, and colleagues.

The boarders' return brought the school compound to life, filled with the sound of laughter and the sight of beaming smiles. This year, we began the new academic session on the 10th. Class XII began their board exams on 13th and Class X on 18th.

The renovated Children's Park and indoor playground were inaugurated on the 19th, a step towards providing holistic education to the children.

Sr. Tarsicia was taken to Apollo Hospital, Delhi, on the 16th for further consultation and treatment. She underwent a surgical procedure for the removal of a tumour. Following her week-long stay hospital stay, she was taken to Jesu Bhawan after being discharged. She extends her heartfelt thanks to the entire community at Nainital, Lalpur, and Jesu Bhawan for their loving care and companionship during her illness.

ST. ANTHONY'S JEOLIKOTE

On the eve of New Year 2025, we gathered with the parishioners before the Lord for a 'holy hour' to thank Him for the blessings of the past year and to pray for a new year filled with hope and renewal.

During the winter vacation, which lasted until January 15th, Srs. Mariella, Shobha, and Maria made their annual retreat while Sisters Laura and Crispina successfully underwent cataract surgery. Srs. Tessy and Maria went on a pilgrimage to Goa to venerate the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier.

As the parish church, we had the privilege of hosting the Youth Cross for veneration for five days. On three of those days, the youth conducted prayer and adoration, which several parishioners also attended.

In our 'Growing Together' initiative, searching for a Mary Ward Sister to share the vocation story has added a **new tinge to the process.**

Narayani (a former kitchen helper), her daughter's family, and Bharati and Abhilasha (former hostel students) spent a few days here during this short winter break.

We celebrated Mary Ward, a Pilgrim of Hope, through reflections and prayers during Mary Ward Week. A special Mass was held on January 23rd, and the priests from our parish joined us for lunch. It was a happy coincidence that the name of the new Provincial was announced on the same day!

On February 2nd, after a three-day recollection



guided by Sister Remya, Sister Juliana and Monica professed their vows in our Church. Their families, relatives, several CJ sisters, and parishioners from Jeolikote were present. The Mass was concelebrated by seven priests, with Fr. Derick Pinto, the Vicar General of the diocese, as the main celebrant. Sr. Monica made her first vows while Sr. Juliana made her final commitment. Sr. Elsy, our Provincial Superior, received their vows. It was particularly joyful for us that Sr. Monica is a former pupil of our school (Classes 8-12). The occasion was celebrated

with a festive meal for all who came to share in their commitment to God in the Congregation of Jesus.

In February, Sr. Laura fulfilled her long-cherished desire to meet Sr. Mildred, her novitiate companion in Kanpur. This visit also allowed her to explore Lucknow, Allahabad, and Fatehpur communities.

On February 12th, some of us watched the film "The Face of the Faceless," which depicts the impact of the life and martyrdom of Sr. Rani Maria on the people she served. Many lay people from the deanery also attended the screening our Bishop sponsored. The faith, courage, and sacrifice of this missionary moved everyone. It's an inspiring film that everyone should see!

On 16th, we symbolically opened the Jubilee door in our Church. Parishioners gathered at the school gate and walked in procession towards the church while reciting the rosary. The parish priest opened the main door, inviting the community to open their hearts and begin the celebration of the *Year of Hope*. He also briefed us about the upcoming programs for the Jubilee year.

On 23rd, Sr. Pratibha attended the deanery-level Nurses' Gathering at Suchetna, Kathgodam. Fr. Nelson, the dean, addressed the 130 nurses in attendance and expressed appreciation for their compassionate service, presenting them with a token gift.

Srs. Tessy and Maria attended a seminar on Lumen Gentium arranged for the deanery on 26th. They were impressed by the enthusiastic participation of the laity.

School Events:

In January, the Hans Foundation organized a free eye camp on our campus, where around 130 people received free eye check-ups and medicines. However, the promised cataract surgeries for those who needed them are still pending.

Being a Sunday, the Republic Day programme was relatively simple. However, Fr. Nicholas Runda, the Chief Guest, shared a powerful message highlighting the fundamental principles of our

Indian Constitution: Freedom, Justice, Equality, and Fraternity. He cautioned everyone to be 'wise as serpents' in recognizing false prophets and leaders and their tactics. All the parishioners attended the programme.

The school celebrated Mary Ward Week with various activities, including prayer assemblies, skits, poems, speeches, and dances, showcasing Mary Ward's life and legacy. A quiz for Christian students tested their knowledge of Mary Ward's life, work, and values, and all teams received full marks.

On January 30th, the school commemorated the visionary leaders Mahatma Gandhi and Mary Ward with a prayer service and a short cultural programme. The students reenacted the historic Dandi March, recalling Gandhiji's courageous struggle against injustice and significant moments from Mary Ward's life that inspired us. Class 7 saved money and provided food rations for three needy individuals after the programme.

The senior students had the unique opportunity to attend a fascinating Space Architecture workshop based on Origami patterns. The hands-on experience following the lecture allowed them to explore the intersection of Math, Art, and Engineering in building structures that are functionally efficient and aesthetically pleasing. This workshop, arranged by the Astro Pathshala Group, provided a glimpse into the future of space exploration and the potential of origami-inspired designs.

On 21st, the **Scouts and Girl Guides** of Cl. 6-8 celebrated the birth anniversary of Baden Powell with a meaningful programme which included a formal inauguration ceremony, Inter-religious prayer, an Initiation Ritual for the new entrants, some cultural events and concluding with a meal prepared by the students themselves. The same evening, six of our *Scouts and Girl Guides* left for Dehradun to receive the Governor's Award for their best performance in the test camp held in August 2024. Six out of the eight who qualified for this award from Nainital District are from our school.

In February, we had a series of quiz competitions, the last of which was the Dr. C.V. Raman Memorial

Science Quiz, held on 28th February, National Science Day.

ST. MARY'S RUDRAPUR

We welcomed the year 2025 with a Holy Mass, praying for the year ahead. On the 3rd, we visited our sisters in Jeolikote and Nainital, celebrating the congregation's feast in their company. While returning, we visited Sr. Tarsicia, who was hospitalized in Haldwani. On the 6th, Srs. Lorna and Sanjana returned from Jhansi after their retreat, having had a fruitful time with the Lord.

On 7th, Sr. Tarsicia was discharged from the hospital and brought to our community. Sr. Nirmala and Sr. Manjusha took turns staying with her to render all the necessary help. Srs. Elsy and Renata from Delhi and ours from Puranpur, Nainital, and Jeolikote visited Sr. Tarsicia, which made her more energetic.

On 13th we, along with our teachers and a few students, visited the leper colony at Rudrapur and distributed rations. It was a moment of joy for all of us that we could do some act of charity to them. On 14th Sr. Anita went home to be with her dear ones. The school reopened on 15th after the winter break.

On 22nd our Bishop Rev. Ignatius D Souza and Fr. Royal Antony paid a short visit to enquire about the health update of Sr. Tarsicia.

Mary Ward Week was celebrated both in the community and at school. Assemblies conducted by



various classes during the week helped the students as well as the teachers to know Mary Ward better.

Sr. Tarsicia returned to the Nainital community on 25th after spending a few restful days with us.

A meaningful assembly was conducted by the students on the occasion of Republic Day to show

respect and reverence for our country. Our Principal, Sr. Rayna unfurled the flag in the presence of our teachers and students, thereafter, we distributed sweets to the students.

On the 30th, sisters and the FMW teachers attended a virtual prayer meeting. It was a golden opportunity for our teachers to learn about FMW members from other schools.

On the 31st, a free medical check-up was conducted for the students of Nursery, LKG and UKG.

2nd February was a joyful day for all of us. We rejoiced with Srs. Juliana and Monica in Jeolikote as they made their profession, surrendering their lives to God's service. We spent quality time with our sisters who had gathered for the profession ceremony.

Sr. Rayna's birthday was celebrated on the 5th. The day started with a Solemn Mass praying for her and her family. The students prepared a meaningful assembly with dances, songs and a skit. The final exams for classes 8 & 9 commenced on the 10th. We attended a seminar on *Lumen Gentium* conducted in our parish. 14th was a day of prayer, reflecting on 'The meal of relationship'. The meaningful talk reminded us about the importance of spiritual and physical meals.

ST. JOSEPH'S, PURANPUR

We ushered in the New Year with the Holy Mass, praying for God's blessings on everyone. Sr. Deepa, along with Fr. Rajesh and the support staff, celebrated the new year with a few games and a delicious lunch that they prepared together. Sr. Sudeepti returned on the 7th after her retreat in SFC, Jhansi. On the 8th, the teachers returned to school after the short winter break.

Srs. Deepa and Sudeepti and our parish priest met Sr. Tarcisia in Rudrapur and returned with Sr. Mary John, who had gone home to be with her ailing brother. Two days after her return, we were saddened to hear the news about the demise of her dear brother. May his soul rest in peace, and may Sr. Mary John and the family members receive strength from the Lord to bear this great loss. The order of the District Magistrate extended the winter

holidays due to severe cold and fog. Finally, the classes resumed on 18th January.

It was with great delight that we received the news of Sr. Deepa's appointment as our new provincial, a milestone for our province. We wish her abundant blessings as she takes on this new responsibility.

On the 24th, we had an internal inspection of our school conducted by Rev. Bp. Ignatius D'Souza, Fr. Royal Anthony, and their team. During the assembly, the Bishop congratulated and honoured Sr. Deepa with a shawl and a gift in recognition of her new appointment.

The inspection team was pleased to note the improvements made by the school at various levels, thanks to the extra time and effort put in by Sr. Deepa, along with the principal and the office staff, to update all the files.

The school celebrated Sr. Deepa's birthday, with students praying for her good health and happiness. As Republic Day fell on a Sunday, the celebrations were anticipated and held on the 25th. The students showcased their talents through songs, dance, and drama.

The Class 12 students received a fitting farewell; lunch was served for all after the entertainment programme. The Mary Ward Week booklet was well appreciated and used for our daily prayers.

On February 2nd, we were happy to attend the profession ceremony of Srs. Juliana and Monica in Jeolikote. We joined the Shahjahanpur Deanery to watch the film "The Face of the Faceless," which is based on the life and ministry of Blessed Rani Maria. It was truly an inspiring and thought-provoking film.

On February 14th, the school gave a heartfelt farewell to Sr. Deepa and Mr. Manbir Singh, the senior Maths teacher who retired from teaching. Sr. Deepa's selfless service and commitment to the



betterment of the students were greatly appreciated, as showcased by the students. Mr. Manbir Singh, as an efficient Maths teacher, made a significant impact on the students' lives through his human qualities and effective teaching methods, making the subject engaging and accessible.

The month-long Board Exams began on February 15th. Home exams are scheduled for the days when there are no board exams.

Wishing you all a grace-filled Lenten Season. May this time of grace be a blessing for all of us, drawing us closer to the Lord who has called us to continue His mission.

MARY WARD BHAWAN, MAYUR VIHAR

As the clock struck midnight, we joyfully welcomed the new year, eager to embark on a fresh journey. We began the year by visiting cribs in nearby parishes and the day ended with the Jubilee year (2025) inauguration ceremony and Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. On 2nd Sr. Anjali left for Jhajjar for her annual retreat while Sr. Alka was busy with her M.A. exams in Jhansi.

On the 5th, our parish celebrated Christmas Tree with various games organized by the Youth. Everyone enjoyed it to the fullest, and the celebrations ended with a fellowship meal. On the same day, Mr. Kruz Augustine, one of our parishioners, passed away. Srs. Deepti and Alka attended the funeral Mass and burial at Paharganj cemetery.

The school reopened on the 6th after the winter break.

Sr. Deepti attended the annual JPIC meeting in Asansol along with Ms. Gincy and two students and returned refreshed with rich memories. Students learnt much from this coming together, meeting other students, and



sharing their experiences.

This year too, the birthday of Mother Mary Ward was marked with a special assembly organized by Class 8C. Kudos to the Class teacher, Sr. Alka, and



the students for their captivating performance, which included a thought-provoking tableau, Dance Drama, poem recitation, etc. Students vividly depicted the challenges and triumphs of her life. The 'Mary Ward Week' celebrations included various competitions like bookmark making, sketching, collage making, recitation of maxims, etc. to familiarize the students with the life of Mary Ward. The primary students too conducted a colourful and beautiful assembly.

Republic Day was celebrated in our school with great vigour and enthusiasm. On 26 January, we went to Jhajjar for the Mary Ward women's get-together. Indeed, we had a lovely time with the Loretos.

On 2nd February, we attended a CRI meeting at DCC Hall to celebrate *World Day for Consecrated Life*.

On 7th February, we were greatly happy to welcome Rev. Fr. Martin OIC, the first priest from our



school. He offered the Holy Eucharist in the school after which he was felicitated by the school management, staff and students. Fr. Martin, while

addressing the Marians advised them 'To Listen' and 'To Be Attentive' to their inner voice. The day was made momentous by the presence of his former principals, Srs. Elsy and Joseline. He placed on record the loving services of Rev. Sr. Benigna, who had sown the seed of vocation in him.

Meanwhile, we had a few flying visits from Srs. Tarsicia, Sherly, Shanti, Sheryl, Damian, and Sheeba. They were on their way to various places/missions.

On the 22nd, we were happy to attend the wedding of one of our parishioners, Mr. Jerin Joy, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. On the 25th, we visited Sr. Tarsicia in Apollo Hospital, and from there, we proceeded to Jesu Bhawan. The month ended with the beautiful Silver Jubilee celebration of Sr. Vandana on the 26th.

We bid a fond farewell to two of our teachers, Ms. Reema Marwah and Ms. Parul Nautiyal, who took voluntary retirement. The school management and the staff wished them the best for their future endeavours.

Senior and primary students held befitting Thanksgiving assemblies to mark the end of the academic session. Let's pray for our students as they prepare for exams.

We wish you a fruitful and meaningful time of Lent.

ST.XAVIER'S, SHAHABAD

With open hearts and minds, we ushered in the new year, seeking God's blessings upon each one of us through Mass and morning prayers. Srs. Marisha and Vandana made their annual retreats during the winter vacation.

On January 5th, we attended the first Mass of Fr. Akhilesh SJ, an ex-student of St. Xavier's School, Shahabad. His sermon and testimony inspired the youth and parishioners. We can proudly say that he is a true Jesuit who follows the spirituality of St. Ignatius. Mother General Sr. Veronica and General Assistant Sr. Estella were also present for the Mass and were welcomed and honoured by the parishioners on this special occasion.

Srs. Alice and Vandana spent a day at the Provincial House, assisting the community during the Mother General's meeting with the Provincial team members. Sr. Anita spent a day with us on her way to Kerala on home leave.

During Mary Ward week, each of us took turns conducting prayers. On the 26th, we travelled to the Jhajjar for the CJ-IBVM gathering. On January 30th, we invited the SJ fathers from the Shahabad community and sisters from the Provincial House for dinner.

On February 1st, Sr. Alice left for Jeolikote to attend the Profession Ceremony of Srs. Juliana and Monica. Srs. Marisha and Vandana had the opportunity to vote, and Srs. Joseline and Anu also came to cast their votes. On Sr. Elsy's birthday, we joined the Jesu Bhawan community for Mass and prayed for her good health. In the evening, we had dinner together.

Sr. Anita returned from Kerala and stayed with us for a few days before going to Jesu Bhawan for her annual retreat. Sr. Alice also made her retreat at Jesu Bhawan. We were delighted to welcome Srs. Mary, Gladys, and Teresa, after their retreat.

On the 20th, Fr. Varkey Perekatt SJ fell ill and was rushed to the hospital by ambulance. His sugar levels had dropped, and he was struggling to breathe. Thankfully, he is better now but is still confined to his room.

Sr. Mariella visited us after the Education Co-ordinators' meeting in Jesu Bhawan.

Sr. Vandana's Silver Jubilee began with a *Thanksgiving Mass* in the community chapel on February 25th, the day before her Jubilee. On the 26th, the jubilee celebrations took place at Jesu Bhawan. Sr. Alice welcomed



the gathering in her introduction and highlighted Sr.



Vandana's spiritual journey from Kerala to Uttar Pradesh and her service in various communities over the past 25 years. With great dedication, Sr. Alka coordinated the hymns and singing practices, striving for perfection in every respect.

The Solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Glenn SJ, the superior of the SJ community in Shahabad, and his fellow Jesuit priests joined him.

Gratitude filled the air as Sr. Vandana took the opportunity to express her heartfelt appreciation to Sr. Elsy, the Provincial Superior, the CJ family, SJ fathers, Brother Gyan, and the Loreto sisters, who joined the Mass and celebration.

Following the Sacred Liturgy, there was a touching moment of recognition, featuring a greeting song followed by cake-cutting in a beautifully decorated hall. After lunch, everyone dispersed to their respective places.

ST. MARY'S, JHAJJAR

We welcomed the new year with Sr. Joseline attending a retreat in Jhansi while the rest of the community prepared for their retreat. We organized our community's first-ever retreat, providing a unique opportunity for introspection, connection, and renewal. During this time, Sr. Joseline conducted a two-day workshop for the teachers. The winter holidays were extended until January 16.

Class X underwent a series of preparatory examinations for their board exams. On 18th, Classes 9 and 10 enjoyed a picnic in Delhi.

Both teachers and students participated in the "Mary Ward Week" celebrations, which included special assemblies focused on the life of Mary Ward.



We were privileged to host the gathering of the Mary Ward family this year, with full participation from all four communities. The conclusion of Mary Ward Week was made memorable by a procession featuring a bust of Mary Ward, with children standing on either side of the road singing, "Lead us on, Mary Ward."

On February 1, Class IX bid farewell to Class X, the first batch of students set to appear for the board exams. Excitement filled the air as the elegantly dressed boys and girls entered the school. The nine students who were with us from the inception received special awards.

On the 14th, Classes 3-8 enjoyed a day's outing at "Rangmanj," a beautiful picnic place for children. On the same day, students from XLRI conducted a Career Counselling program for Class IX. The next day, students showcased an exhibition of their projects and artwork, which the parents appreciated.

Before the roof of the school's new block was cast, Fr. Dayal S.J. blessed the site in the presence of the sisters and staff. On the 21st, XLRI hosted a seminar, encouraging the girls to pursue higher studies with available scholarships, in which ten students participated.

17th was a day of fun and frolic for the little ones of nursery to Class 2. The following day, Sr. Sheryl left for Jamshedpur to attend a course on *Financial Administration* and returned with new knowledge and clarity. On February 26, we joined Sr. Vandana in celebrating her Silver Jubilee.

We wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent.

JESU BHAWAN, DELHI

The first blank page of a 365 page book opened up to new possibilities, aspirations and dreams as we welcomed Sr. Veronica and Sr. Estela back to Jesu Bhawan. Visits to Agra and Loreto Convent, Delhi, the presence of the Provincial team and Sr. Amita were all part of the first few pages of this new book. Srs. Veronica and Estela returned to Rome after the visitation of our province. We are grateful to them for their graced presence, ever availability and flexibility and above all the beautiful companionship.

Srs. Elsy and Renata visited Sr. Tarsicia who was recuperating after her angioplasty in Rudrapur. Srs. Joseline and Anne were also happy to visit our sisters, especially the veterans in Patna and returned with our novice Monica.

Srs. Kiran and Divya embarked on a 15-day vocation promotion tour to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and returned enriched through their interactions with the youth and the hospitality of priests, religious and families.

We were able to distribute some warm clothes knitted by our students in Nainital and a piece of cake each to the migrant labourers around our house.



The Mary Ward Week began with a Eucharistic celebration and daily reflections on the booklet. The culmination of the week was in Jhajjar where our cluster communities and Loreto sisters gathered.

Sr. Juliana returned after her tertianship in Namchi and together with our novice Monica proceeded to Jeolikote for the immediate preparations for their profession. Sr. Elsy was in Jeolikote to be part of these celebrations.

5th was the State Election in Delhi. Srs. Juliana and Monica returned after their Profession. Sr. Juliana proceeded to the Hospital Community to help out for two weeks in the absence of Sr. Gladys and Sr. Teresa.

Eight of our sisters made their annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. Joy Pulikunnel SJ here.

The community had a day's outing to Amrit Udyan and the Tulip Show in Delhi after the retreat.



Srs. Damian, Digna, Assunta and Mariella were here for four days, giving a final touch to the Employees' Service Rules.

Jesu Bhawan was privileged to host the Silver Jubilee celebration of Sr. Vandana. Sisters from our cluster communities, Loreto sisters, Srs. Deepa, Anita and the Shahbad Jesuit community were present for the occasion. The presence of Fr. Savari SJ, a Jesuit priest from Pune province and a classmate of Sr. Divya, added to our joy.

The Provincial Team had an outing to Bhopal. They returned rejuvenated.

Sr. Tarsicia was with us for two weeks recuperating after her surgery in Apollo Hospital.

May this year open to us many possibilities, reasons for joy, love, laughter and many amazing memories.

WORKSHOP ON SAFEGUARDING

Sr. Digna and I had the privilege of participating in a Safeguarding workshop held at Loreto, Delhi, on February 3-4. The session was expertly facilitated by Miss Beatrice Mumbi and Sr. Monica Suchiang IBVM. From the outset, we were warmly welcomed, and the homely atmosphere made us feel comfortable and secure, allowing us to openly share and engage with the group.

Initially, our understanding of safeguarding was limited to protecting our students and coworkers from sexual abuse, primarily by outsiders. However, through the workshop, we discovered that safeguarding encompasses a broader concept: protecting the vulnerable, including children, adults, women, and the environment.

A striking moment came when we realized that safeguarding begins within our community, focusing on the well-being of our fellow sisters with whom we live daily. As Sisters shared their past

experiences, we acknowledged that many Religious Sisters carry unhealed wounds and hurts.

In the face of aggressive behaviour, victims often feel helpless and bitter. While forgiveness and prayer are essential, safeguarding has taught us the importance of voicing out and assertiveness in breaking the cycle of abuse.

This newfound understanding has empowered us to prioritize the well-being of our Sisters and foster a safer, more supportive community.

We were deeply moved by Sr. Monica's profound conclusion: 'Ultimately, safeguarding is about love, love towards the wellbeing of all.' This resonated deeply, and we came to understand that safeguarding is not only about creating a safe environment but also about healing one another's wounds, promoting dignity, and fostering joy in our community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our facilitators, Mrs. Beatrice Mumbi and Sr. Monica Suchiang IBVM, for guiding us with love, sensitivity, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Your dedication has empowered us to return home as enlightened beings, equipped to make a positive impact in our communities.

We also express our sincere appreciation to Sr. Igora and the Delhi community for their exceptional hospitality and love. Your warmth and generosity made us feel welcome and at home.

Sr. Poonam CJ

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sr. Shanti and I had the privilege of attending a course on Financial Administration in Jamshedpur from 9-28 February. The course provided a comprehensive understanding of financial management principles and practices in institutions and organizations. It covered a wide range of topics such as Learning Accounts, Bank Reconciliation, Study of Balance Sheet, Financial Planning, Tax Laws and Statutory Financial Compliances, Investments, FCRA Rules & Regulations, Legal Implications of being a Registered Society, General and Property Administration, Documentation, Tally, etc. The importance and benefits of the 12AB Certificate for societies and recent changes in the income tax provisions especially applicable to societies were also covered during these days.

The course was highly relevant and challenging. We are confident that the knowledge acquired will significantly contribute to our roles in the financial administration of our Institutions, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Elsy for giving us this great opportunity to enhance our knowledge in dealing with accounts and update ourselves on the latest developments in financial administration.

Sr. Sheryl CJ

**“Lent is a time to listen more deeply
to what God wants to say to us
and then to cooperate more deeply
with what He wants to say through us.”**

