



Patna



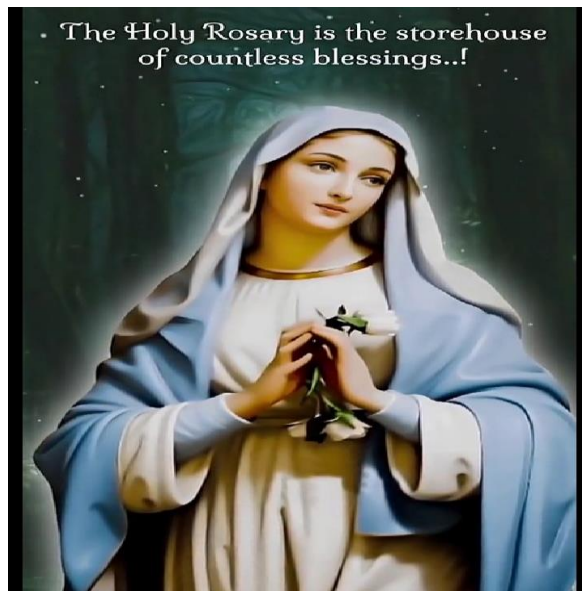
Glimpses



July – September 2023

Volume: 23

The Holy Rosary is the storehouse  
of countless blessings..!



### St. Mary's Convent Namchi

These three months were filled with graces and blessings of God for each one of us. We had the presence of many guests in our community.

After being with us about two and half months, Sr. Prisca left for Bombay. We are grateful to her for sharing her love and knowledge with us.

We were glad to welcome Emeritus Bishop William D, Souza (Patna) to our Community as he came to take sessions for Tertians. Our pre-primary students had solo dance competition in their traditional dress on the Independence Day. It was exciting scene to see our little ones on the stage.

The Teachers' Day was celebrated solemnly by the parents of pre- primary students. We warmly welcomed Sr. Reena Ekka IBVM who came to make her three days recollection. Also we were happy to receive Sr. Rincy K. Joy ( Divya CJ Nepal) in our community as she came to join her B.Ed.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of Sept. we received sad news of the loss of Sr Shobhana's brother. We joined the bereaved family with the assurance of our prayers. We participated in CRI meeting which was held in Sonada. Three of our sisters joined and were enriched by the workshop and seminar.

## St. Joseph's Convent, Bankipore

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July, Sr. Nirmala bid goodbye to us at SJC community and proceeded to Gulni, her new community, accompanied by Srs. Vimla, Pauline and Josephine. Thank you Sr. Nirmala for all that you have been and have done at SJC community, school and the parish. May God bless you and reward you generously.

The parishioners had great appreciation towards the contribution of Sr. Leshina who had made the Liturgy in the Cathedral devotional and inspiring by her melodious singing.



We remembered our dear Sr. Hildegard on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, Month's mind and offered Mass for the repose of her soul.

We gave a warm welcome to Sr. Pushpa, our new community member, who was reached here by Sr. Cecilia, on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

The birthday of Archbishop Sebastian was celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> with a Eucharistic Celebration by the Archbishop and 30 priests. The choir, led by Sr. Pushpa made the Liturgy lively and devotional.

23<sup>rd</sup> was a special day for the parishioners of St. Joseph's Cathedral. The senior citizens of the parish, including the sisters, were honoured with a meaningful and inspiring Eucharistic Celebration by the Archbishop and a few priests.



The senior citizens entered the Cathedral in a procession, were welcomed with tikka and escorted to their places. Special prayers were offered for them by the parishioners. After Mass they were garlanded and presented with a towel and bouquet of flowers. All were served breakfast thereafter.

A great surprise awaited us sisters in our refectory. The refectory was decorated beautifully and a cake, with fruits around it, looked fascinating. Delicacies were served in honour of the senior citizens.

In the evening the Archbishop and Fr. Alex entered the refectory just before dinner and offered a rose to each of the senior citizens. After dinner our sisters put up a programme – dancing, singing and a hilarious skit. The last item was a housie. We bagged a number of prizes and enjoyed all the items. Thank you dear sisters for your thoughtfulness. Isn't it good to be senior citizens?

On 4<sup>th</sup> August, on the Feast day of the patron saint of the parish priests, we hosted a dinner for the Archbishop and the community and a short social after that. All had an enjoyable evening. The Archbishop thanked the sisters for all the services we are rendering in the parish.

A hearty welcome was given to Sr. Gracy, our nurse and new community member who arrived here on the 10<sup>th</sup>, in the company of Sr. Namita.

Sr. Consolata was delighted to see her grandniece and grandnephew for a day. Even though the visit



was short they spent quality time with each other.

Another surprise awaited when Sr. Consolata – her nephew and his wife arrived here on the 14<sup>th</sup> to spend just a day with sister. They had an enjoyable time with sister and all the sisters.

On 20<sup>th</sup> August, 44 parishioners, including the sisters appeared for the Logo quiz in our school. Our presence brought a powerful witness to the faithful. May the Lord help all to come close to Him through His Word.

The Mahila Sangh (Women's Group) under the leadership of Sr. Irene celebrated the feast of their patron saint, St. Monica, on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A well organized and inspiring Mass was followed by a breakfast for all.

22<sup>nd</sup> August was a memorable day for Frs. Prem Prakash, James Rozario and Amal Raj who celebrated their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee in St. Joseph's Pro- Cathedral. The choir consisting of the sisters, girls and Brothers from the Seminary added to the grandeur of the Liturgical celebration.

From 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August we were happy to have Sr. Kiran with us for visitation. From 30<sup>th</sup> onward we had Novena to Our Lady in preparation for her birthday on 8<sup>th</sup>. Every evening we had rosary, novena and Mass for all the parishioners.

Sr. Vimla was admitted in Reuban Hospital on the 19<sup>th</sup> and she was operated upon the next day for gall bladder stones. After a day, sister returned to SJC and is recuperating. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Srs. Josephine and Mabel went to Jamshedpur to attend the ICSE Heads meeting and returned on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Sr. Irene, together with Fr. Kuldip, our Parish priest and the Mahila Sangh members, visited Padri Ki Haveli in Patna city on the 24<sup>th</sup> and distributed biscuits and fruits, tooth paste and soap to each of the children and adults. They were extremely happy to receive them.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September we bid good bye to Sr. Anita who is on her new mission in Khunti. May the good Lord be with Srs. Sudha and Anita to protect and guide them in their new venture.

We were happy to welcome Sr. Pushpita's two sisters, her sister –in-law and her mother. They arrived here on 28<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed the trips to Both Gaya and Rajgir. The Patna darshan brought to them the reality of the modern Patna.

### **SJC ICSE Bankipore – July – Sept 2023**

After the summer holidays the classes were held on online mode due to the extreme weather conditions till the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July. The admissions in class XI have declined as many are opting for non-attending classes, in which the students only register their names for CBSE +2 in some private

school. They can appear for the Board exam from that school. The whole of two years will be spent preparing for various entrance examinations.

Many zonal level interschool literary and sports events were held in the month of July and August. Our children participated in Debate, Declamation, Quiz and Creative Writing and four of them were selected for the regional level (Bihar –Jharkhand Region).



Our P.T. teacher Miss Payal trained the students for various games like Table Tennis, Carroms, Chess, Kho-Kho, Basketball, Lawn Tennis, Badminton and swimming. Karate instructor Mr. Pankaj trained the children for Martial Arts. 62 of our students won and were selected for the regional level competitions most of which were held in Jharkhand. In the regional level competitions also they did well and 15 of them are selected for national level. The karate competition at National level was conducted at Kolkata and Nandini Kumari of Class X won gold medal and Nabiha Noori won bronze medal.



Our Primary students participated in the “Flair Interschool Programme” organized by Litera Valley School where they won first prize in Drawing, Speech and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in group dance and the SJC team became the Runner up. Anahita of Class 9 was winner in the ‘Super Smash Badminton Tournament’.

In the month of July the ICSE & ISC 2023 toppers and Science Olympiad students were felicitated.

ISC 2023 compartmental examination was held in our school. Class XII students welcomed Class XI students in a colourful “Fresher’s Day Celebration”.

Personality Development Programme was conducted for the students from which the students profited a lot.

Our ex-student Akansha Ananad who qualified the UPSE exam addressed our children and motivated them during the morning assembly.

Teachers and students wished and prayed for Sr. Vimla on her Birthday. They had a short programme and prayer service for her intentions and well-being.

Dharam Dev our gate keeper got retired on 31st August after completing 39 years of dedicated service here. Teachers, students and the Administration acknowledged and thanked him for his contributions to the Institution.



Inter-house competitions like Quiz, Hindi and English debate and elocution were held class wise. Prior to Independence Day, the school conducted inter house patriotic song, group dance, skit, elocution, fancy dress, collage making etc and the winners were awarded. The prize winning programmes were shown to the primary & secondary students respectively at Independence day celebration. There was a prayer service too praying for our country.

The Primary and secondary students had Parent Teachers Meeting after the 1<sup>st</sup> Terminal examination. Srs. Sarita and Josephine made use of the time to meet the parents of all the weak and irregular students.

Our Ex-students Association (AAJ) celebrated its foundation day on 26<sup>th</sup> August with students of Anther Jyoti Blind School at Kumhrar. Srs. Vimla and Josephine joined them. They gave them lunch, snacks, and other gifts too.

Daksha Shrestha Singh of ISC 2023 batch topped the CUET (Common University Entrance Test) with 100% in all the 4 subjects. It is a national level exam in which about 15 lakh students write every year for getting admission in all the universities of India.



Teacher's day was celebrated in a grand scale. Children conducted prayer service and entertained the teachers with various cultural programmes, which lasted for two hours. They felicitated all the teachers with flowers and gifts. After the common function children entertained the teachers in their own classes and the children left at 11:00 am. Teachers were given gift from the school management and finally a sumptuous lunch at 12:00 noon after which all left.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September the parents of class 10 had a meeting with the teachers. Sr. Josephine and the teachers informed them about the decline in the class XI admissions and increasing number of non-attending students.

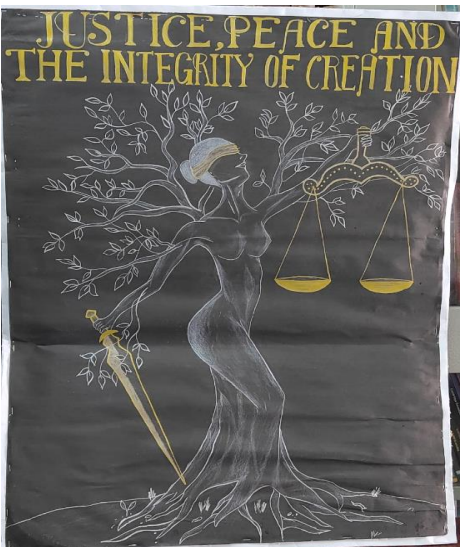
On 30<sup>th</sup> September the parents of class 10 had a meeting with the teachers. Sr. Josephine and the teachers informed them about the decline in the class XI admissions and increasing number of non-attending students.

They explained that many parents are having a wrong notion that CBSE syllabus is the base of all the entrance examinations. It was clearly made known to the parents that CBSE & ISC are having same syllabus in commerce and science and our teachers are covering also the NCERT syllabus in Arts.



On the occasion of NATIONAL SPORTS DAY, Mahi has been awarded with "बिहार गौरव" by ex-Dy Chief Minister Mr. Sushil Modi, Mr Samrat Chaudhary (MLC) & Shreyasi Singh (Common wealth gold medalist) Our students collected some provisions for the poor villagers and through an organization called Robin Hood Army it was distributed to the neighboring villages of Patna.

Members of JPIC organized a poster exhibition on the theme 'Save the Earth'. It was a beautiful set of arts, appreciated by everyone who had a glimpse over them.



### Asha Deep Bathbanga

We began the month of July with prayers and reflections .We had triduum under the guidance of Fr. Mathew SJ. On 10<sup>th</sup> July, all the hostellers were taken to forest for a half day outing. They were one with the nature as they sang, danced and enjoyed thoroughly. It lasted for four hours winding up with the refreshments served to all. On 14<sup>th</sup> July we anticipated the birthday of Sr. Flavian Since Sr.Asha had to be away for the General Body meeting of social apostolate in Jesu Jaher Dumka. The theme of the meeting was "Fundamental Rights under the Constitution of India: Implications and violations. We were 18 collaborators and some Jesuits.

The Feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated with great joy and preparation. Last three days of novena was prayed with the hostellers. Fr. Britto took initiative to tell the life of St. Ignatius every day. The Feast day celebration began with the Holy Eucharist. The main celebrant, Fr. Nabor gave inspiring points in his homily. Priests and religious from neighbouring communities and our teaching staff doubled our joy through their presence. The celebration became very solemn as our hostellers had prepared varieties of items for the cultural program. In the month of August children were affected with eye infection. We sent them home for a week but they took 2-3 weeks to come back to hostel. Srs.Flavian and Asha too were affected with the sore eyes, but soon they were alright.

Beautiful decoration and meaningful songs and prayers made the liturgy very meaningful on Teachers' day. The cultural program started at 9.30 am. The Teachers were welcomed by traditional Santhali dance from school to Hall. It was followed by colourful dances, drama and melodious songs. After the program there was an interesting football match between the students and teachers. Both the team played well but how can old bodies compete with young and energetic students; naturally the teachers lost the game.



In the month of September we had two visitors Saphara trainer (Arti Madom) from Patna. She visited Saphara teachers and students. On 28 September Jesuit Fr. Provincial visited us. His visitation was encouraging and energizing.

## Mary Ward Convent Bellamguri

From 30<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> July Sr. Jaya was at Pastoral Centre Bongaigaon for the Bodo language Crash Course for the priests and sisters who are new in the Diocese. The school remained closed for summer vacation from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July. Sr. Abha was welcomed on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July by the parishners after the Holy Mass.



We were happy to welcome Sr. Kiran our Provincial who came for visitation and missioning of Sr. Abha our community animator. On 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5.45 p.m. we came to the chapel for the long awaited event. During the meaningful prayer service, Sr. Kiran missioned Sr. Abha as the animator of the community. After the ceremony we had the solemn Mass, followed by felicitation and fellowship meal. Congrats to you dear Sr. Abha. Sr. Jaya had come from the Pastoral Centre to be part of the programme. After the supper she returned back.

On the following day Srs. Abha and Tanushree went to Bongaigaon along with the parish priest to participate in the feast day celebration of our Rev. Bishop Thomas Pullopillil. A Good number of priests, religious and faithful had gathered. After the Holy Mass, there was a short programme of felicitation followed by sumptuous meal. Sr. Tanushree stayed back at Ashirwad as she had to leave for Dumraon the next day. Dear Sr. Tanushree our sincere thanks to you for all the services you rendered to the community, hostel, school and the parish. All the best for your mission in Dumraon!

On 5<sup>th</sup> July Sr. Abha left for Patna along with Sr. Kiran and on 8<sup>th</sup> she proceeded to Pune for the leadership training program. Sr. Jaya went for home leave on 18<sup>th</sup> July. On 31<sup>st</sup> July our hostel girls came back.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August all Christian women forum of lower Assam organised candle light march and healing prayers from 4pm to 7 pm at Government High School ground at Kokarajjar for Manipur. About 6000

On 27<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated St. Monica's day in the parish. Around 315 women from 17 units benefited from half day program. After the Mass every mother was felicitated by the hostel children. It was followed by input session and group activity.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September Sr. Jaya began her journey to Thailand for Jesus Youth International Animators and Leaders Program at Camilian Care Pastoral Centre at Bangkok. All her travel arrangements were done by the international office. On 17<sup>th</sup> she returned back. In collaboration with the concerned authorities Sr. Jaya arranged a weekend retreat for St. Augustine Nursing School. From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September and one day program for St. Ann's College Kokrajhar. She had arranged the resource persons and the music team.

A group of six persons from Jesus Youth conducted the 'India Jericho March' from 24<sup>th</sup> August to 24<sup>th</sup> September. A young Priest and five laymen travelled through all 28 states of our country consecrating each state to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On 19<sup>th</sup> Sept they reached Assam at 6 pm. We had Holy Mass and the prayer of consecration. Sr. Jaya co-ordinated the program.

### St.Martin's High School Ballamguri

On the 01<sup>st</sup> August, the school was re- opened with a prayer service conducted very meaningfully by Sr.Nidhi and the students. The school welcomed Sr. Abha C.J and Sir Prem Kujur as teaching staff on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August.

14<sup>th</sup> August was exciting day for our students. Competitions were held on that day. Our little ones L.K.G &U.KG did the colouring of the National Flag. Classes I to X had competitions on fancy dress, singing, essay writing, speech etc..



On 15<sup>th</sup> August the Independence Day celebration, the school campus looked wonderful with stage decoration and patriotic feelings. Hoisting of the flag, parade and cultural program on the theme of the day and speeches given by teacher and a student added great joy and enthusiasm.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 6 pm Wednesday, India made history by becoming the first country to reach the lunar South pole. A celestial triumph echoed through history, the entire team of ISRO was congratulated for this marvelous successful mission \_ Soft landing of Chandrayan - 3 on the moon surface. St. Martin's High School students and teaching staff came to school at 5:30 pm to watch the live program landing of Chandrayan - 3 as it was suggested by Assam government.





All the students were very excited on 5<sup>th</sup> September to honour the teachers and show their love and respect by performing mesmerising cultural program. All the teachers honoured the picture of Sarvepalli Dr. Radhakrishnan while the music was played. There was football match between students and teachers. Students were the winners. Teaching staff and Classes IX, X had delicious lunch prepared by our co-workers.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, Teachers and students took pledge on the occasion of Swachhata Pakhwada to keep our home, School and surroundings clean and spread the message of cleanliness. Together let us create a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation for all.

## Chirag Niwas, Kritpura

### Graceful Handing over with gratitude in the new hands

July can be seen as a transitional month for all of us, including the staff of Chirag and the people of Kritpura and Buxar. Chirag stepped into another Era of growth. Over the last 30 years it was our three pioneers (Srs. Poonam, Sudha & Kiran) in social ministry who led the community and Chirag NGO to the new heights. The Province Leadership had to place the responsibility of Chirag in a new hand with further hope and trust. Sr. Sneha who functioned as a community member had to get into their



shoes to shoulder the responsibility. On 13<sup>th</sup> July, Sr. Kiran placed the Chirag community and its mission in the hand of Sr. Sneha in a prayerful atmosphere. Sr. Sudha who led Chirag for 20 years at different intervals bid goodbye to people, staff and community to embark the new mission in Khunti. Her 20 years of contribution has shaped many, helped many to stand on their feet, transformed the lives of many and removed the blindness of illiterate women and youth through adult literacy programmes. Her absence has left a huge vacuum and no one can replace our stalwart pioneers in the social ministry. Thank you, so much dear Sr. Sudha.

Immediately after Sr. Sneha's missioning, she left for Pune to shape herself in leadership through the programme in Ishvani called "Leadership for Mission". It was a very good programme which can be attended by every member in the communities as it calls for radical living of our vocation in the community.

### Novices for mission Experience

Four of our CJ Novices reached Chirag on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Sr. Janet accompanied them with three days of Spiritual classes and on 1<sup>st</sup> July they went to the village. They were sheltered by two families who are known to us very well. On Saturdays and Sundays when they returned to the community, they were very helpful. They were engaged in teaching the children who are attending their schooling in Government school. They visited the Government schools and found it pathetic with poor quality of education. They tried to experience and understand this exposure from a religious perspective.

### Health and Hygiene

On 19<sup>th</sup> August we were glad to have Sr. Lissy who along with Sr. Savita conducted a day of health and hygiene classes for our young girls of tailoring centres. 85 young girls who are currently learning at our tailoring centers attended the day's training. They were very appreciative of the whole concept as they felt there are no elders in their families who would explain to them all about menstrual hygiene, the process of child's growth after conception and how abortion leads to slow death of a still born. The sessions were very interactive with an open platform to raise doubts and air out their fears.



### NCS- National Career Service



On 13<sup>th</sup> of August 45 girls who completed their training in Tailoring received their certificate after completing 6 months training. Government came up with the NCS scheme for the youth who are trained in certain skills but are unable to make a career so the government provides a tool kit to start a career on their own. 93 young girls and women who learnt tailoring under Chirag registered themselves under NCS where with the approval of the documents they will be provided with tailoring machines worth Rs. 5000.00.

### ENT Health Camp

On 27<sup>th</sup> of August teaming with Vellore ENT in Patna, Chirag organized a free health camp on ENT related problems. Dr. Ashish Gourav along with his team conducted free check-up and free distribution of medicine. Our Chirag team worked hard to mobilize the people from across the villages. Many people from far away villages arrived before time. Of the many who came in, 160 people were found to have severe ENT related problems.



### Environment Day

The Chirag team set the month of August to tend to the Environment and care for our common home. We networked with the Forest department of Buxar and through their support we received 410 Teak wood saplings. This time instead of planting in the public places we tapped the houses of children and the common places in the villages at the reach of the staff and students, so that it can be cared for and tended towards in the long run. The parents and the children took active part in it and the forest department reached the plant to Chirag without charging any cost.



### **Mother Mary's Birthday**

Pastoral reach out to people is the highest priority of Chirag community. In preparation to celebrate mother Mary's birthday, a 9 days rosary and Novena was held in Chirag. Our people from Kritpura village attend without fail. Every day one or the other families requested the sisters to offer the days novena and rosary for their particular intentions and difficulties they face in the family. On the last day a rosary procession was held in the village, people of the village both men and women carried the Cart of Mother Mary on their shoulders. Bishop James Shekar along with Fr. Anil our Parish priest beautifully celebrated the Mother Mary's Birthday meaningfully bring more joy and devotion among our people.

### **Mahindra Skills Training for KYP Girls**



Under CSR of Mahindra 30 girls received training in Interview and Employability skills. This helped the girls to build their self-confidence and enlightened them to understand the various opportunities available in the outside world if they are able to move out of their constraints in the villages. A resource person was sent by the Mahindra company who trained the girls for a week and at the end of the training they were given a certificate which would offer them a job in

Mahindra company if they pass through the interview, the best five received the medals and the best girl received the trophy.

### **FAT- Feminists approach to Technology**

A Delhi based organization called FAT who have their branch in Bagahi-Itarhi, made a day visit to our KYP center in Chirag and had an interactive session with our girls. They discussed on how technology helps a girl to experience freedom as well as the challenges the girls face from the family and society when they make a choice to learn technology specially computer. It was eye opening for me as I moderated the session because most of the girls have inner conflict as the rural society thinks it's not a cup of choice for the girls because "technology looks good only in the hands of men". It was an open discussion and interaction.

### **SHG Women's training**

Our women of SHG underwent various training during these months. They had training on Account Book keeping, Government Schemes and Herbal Oil training. Herbal oil training was conducted in 5 Panchayats and two in Chirag. The response was too good. With our last year's training, many who used the oil found it very helpful for various ailments related to joint pains, nerve problems, Sinusitis etc...during the training, whatever oil was made, it got finished on the spot as well as many who experienced wellness through the herbal oil voluntarily gave witness.



### Girl Child day celebration in Thiyara and Chausa

The month of September called us to celebrate the beauty of Girl child and sensitize the community of Gender equality. On 10<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the girl child day. Children took out the rally in the market of Thiyara and in the middle of Jamauli village performed a thematic cultural programme calling the public to uphold the dignity of both the genders in its respect. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we had the celebration held in the Chausa block. Our team with the children and tailoring girls took out a march



through Chausa Market and concluded the March in Banarpur. Advocate SK of Buxar and Mukhiya of Banar threw light on Child rights and spoke about the importance of gender equality. Sr. Eblin too emphasized the various atrocities meted to girl child in the homes and in the society. She concluded saying if you differentiate between both the genders then God would differentiate us in His Kingdom.

### Mary Ward Convent Dumaraon

We welcomed Sr. Shanti as our animator. Her missioning by Sr. Joyce took place in a well prepared prayerful atmosphere. After that we had high Mass by our parish priest, Fr. Francis Quadres who offered special prayers for Sr. Shanti.



On 01<sup>st</sup> July we celebrated doctor's day. We welcomed Sr. Tanushree in the place of Sr. Tara on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. On the 7<sup>th</sup> we said goodbye to Sr. Cheryl who went for her home leave and would join her new community in Sikandra. On 14<sup>th</sup> our novice, Sr. Nirmala went back to the novitiate after her one month community experience in Dumraon.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed our new Bishop James Shekhar to our parish. The Church was packed with the faithful as the confirmation of our Catholic children took place that day. Senior citizens were honoured by beautiful towels by our Bishop James. Then we had lunch together with the parishners.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July we had a very meaningful celebration of St. Ignatius of Loyola in our chapel, Holy Mass was offered by our parish priest. We were invited for the feast day celebration to the Jesuit house in Ara. On 06<sup>th</sup> August we welcomed our Provincial Sr. Kiran on her visitation. We had a very reflective time with her.

Sr. Lilly attended a meeting at Buxar called by civil surgeon; the main theme was to eradicate T. B. by 2024 March. She is one of the members of the P.C.P.N.D.T act for appropriate authorities and advisory Committee from Buxar Dt. for e.g. to prevent unauthorised ultrasound centres, sex - detection centres etc.



On 24<sup>th</sup> we had Tuberculosis screening camp at Mary Ward health centre. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September Srs. Prabha and Shanti went to Shapur for a free medical camp. Around 185 patients came; free blood check-up was done and free medicines are given. On 25<sup>th</sup> Sr. Prabha attended a meeting in Patna “Netra Jyoti Abhiyaan” – Blindness prevention by the State Government conducted by Health Society.

On 15<sup>th</sup> of August, on the Independence Day the school had the privilege of having Shri Man Vijay Singh, the son of former late Maharaja of Dumraon as the chief guest to hoist the National Flag. In his speech he encouraged the children to come forward in building the nation. Students put up a colourful cultural program and parade.



On 2<sup>nd</sup> September we invited Bishop James to come to our convent and celebrate the Holy Mass with us. We had our chit- chat with him at dinner. On 27<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated Saint Monica’s feast. All the mothers came to the church. They had confession and took part in the Holy Eucharist followed by tea party.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September Sr. Clarice went to Buxar to give a talk on Krus veer for the Buxar diocese animators. There were 41 participants, all of them profited by her talk. On 17<sup>th</sup> September 18 Krus Veer children of our parish celebrated Krus Veer feast (exaltation of the cross). Children

made promise to spread the Kingdom of God - by practicing sacrifices, prayers and taking part in Holy Eucharist.

## St. Joseph's Convent Gulni

We had three days of recollection talks prepared by Srs. Premlata, Ancy and Pushpa. In the month of July we welcomed Sr. Nirmala to our community. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July Sr. Nirmala took charge as the headmistress of St. Joseph's school Gulni. The management community welcomed Sr. Nirmala to the school and bid farewell to Sr. Pushpa. We are grateful to you dear Sr. Pushpa for all your love, care and concern to the community, school and the people around. On 8<sup>th</sup> July Sr. Pushpa left Gulni and joined her new community.

This year summer was too severe. The planting of paddy was very difficult as hardly any supply of electricity was there to pump the water during the day. It was given at night three to four hours. We took almost 20 days to complete the paddy transplantation. Very often we had sleepless nights due to lack of electricity. In spite of all these struggles the Lord was so good to us and kept all of us in good health. Occasionally the communities of Sikandara and Gulni came together, had some fun and organized recreation and dinner together. On 15<sup>th</sup> August was a memorable day for the children and people.

There was a beautiful cultural programme put up by the students. We had the joy of celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sr. Helen, the senior most member but young at heart in our community. Teachers' day celebration began with the Holy Eucharist. All our Catholic teachers had offered prayers and they were specially honoured.. Sr. Nirmala prepared the children for the entertainment. The community was invited for the lunch with the teachers.

### Mary Ward Development Centre Gulni

**Training of the SEC learners:** The Months of July, August and September 2023 had been the busiest months for us as we had residential Awareness Building Training programs for 600 learners of the Supplementary Educational Centres from 18 villages in 12 batches for 3 days each. Each batch went through more or less the same process and activities.



They were given tips to joyful and disciplined learning in Hindi, English and Mathematics and the opportunity to read and thus gain confidence. Through experiential exercises, indoors and out door games they learned to follow the rules and ways and means to work as team. The input sessions were based on Gender equality, personal hygiene, cleanliness drive, and leadership. Short motivational videos were used to inculcate in them confidence and trust in themselves that they can make a difference in their lives and that of the other by becoming a change maker wherever they are. They have learned Actions Songs, and PT.

We also had Surf making training for SHG women from Parkibarwan, teaching them to obtain some skill for themselves to start with self employment activities.

**Teachers' day celebration:** Mary Ward Development Centre celebrated teachers' day with the teachers of SECs Supervisors, Co-workers of both the convent and the Centre along with Our Community Sisters. The short prayer service was centred on the three religious books mainly Quran, Holy Bible and Bhagavat Gita. We realized the message of every religion is to serve the humanity with respect, dignity and honor.



After the short prayer Ancy CJ warmly welcomed the gathering and addressed them focusing on the importance of the day. We had some games conducted by Srs. Ancy and Sarina. All of them were enjoyed by everyone. It was highly valued by one and all. We felicitated all of them with small gifts.

**Capacity Building Programs:** On the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Sr. Sarina CJ attended the Capacity Building of Religious Sisters' Program in Rourkala. This program on legal awareness enabled the women religious to be prepared to face the future. She came back on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Visits:** In the month of September 2023 we were very much glad to have Sr. Sherly from Amrat Talitakum India. She being the project Coordinator visited us and the project area. She interacted with the beneficiaries both in the Centre and in the villages. She was dismayed at the deplorable conditions in which the people are surviving with the bare minimum. We shared with her the information about the mission we are doing here through Arise Foundation. We shared with her our achievements and also our needs.



### **Skill Development through Vocational training:**

**Computer and spoken English Exams:** We conducted first examination for the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch computer trainees under skill development program. Most of them have done well specially in practical exam. They will make progress in theory too as we are giving them a chance to learn English as well. We have begun with 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of computer training. We are glad that we get learners for each batch. While the tailoring course of the girls is also coming to its completion, we are glad that through our intervention many young girls and boys are getting skilled thus they would be able to find livelihood opportunity to better themselves, under the banner **'FIT FOR JOB FIT FOR LIFE'**

**Visits to the villages:** We also took time to visit some villages of all our operational area. We conducted meetings with SHG women and monitored the SEC which is integral to all our programs. Each visit helps us to understand the progress they make and the changes we need to bring in if any.

**Membership in the Patient Welfare Committee (Rogi Kalyan Samiti) at Pakaribarawan Block:**

In the month of September Mary Ward Development Centre, the active NGO in the area was invited by the District Health Coordinator to be a member in the committee. This Committee has the decision making power with the smooth functioning of the Primary and Community Health Centers of the Block. This is also recognition of our contribution and our presence in the Block with the many interventions we make to better the life situation of the people.

**Participation at the (*Jan Savad*) Dialogue with the people :** Ancy CJ and Cecilia CJ the animator of the community attended the *Jan Savad* program arranged and carried out by the District Administration in Pakaribarawan Block. The purpose was to create awareness among the people on the various schemes and welfare measures of the Central and State Government. Hence each department heads like District Magistrate, DDC, and Superintendent of Police and so on explained their responsibilities and how to get the things done. It was indeed a good orientation for the public. There was also the platform to raise the concerns, loopholes and the grievances to any department to which the leaders responded positively. Ancy the Coordinator raised the concern of the people like migration due to lack of job opportunities leading to human trafficking and the breaking down of the families. The concern regarding the faulty implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was also taken up.

Our presence in the crowd as Church personnel was quite conspicuous as the people on the dais talked among themselves “church people are also here”. We felt happy to be among the citizens of the Nation with the issues of the people, claiming our constitutional rights.



**The team of Mary Ward Development Centre**

### Marv Ward Convent Kattibari

Sr.Tara was missioned as the superior of the community on 1st July by Sr.Ancy during a prayer service. After the breakfast Srs.Ancy and Helen left for Gulni. On the same day Sr.Jasinta too went to Patna to write her BA final exams.

We were able to transplant our paddy by 8<sup>th</sup> July since we had a few shower. Sr.Sangeeta our 2nd year novice who was with us for her community experience was of great help at this time.





Sr.Tara was away from the community for almost two weeks along with five other superiors who went to Pune to attend leadership course. Sr.Reshma was called by the TOR fathers to re-join the school after the completion of three years leave without pay; so on 17<sup>th</sup> July after the three months of hurdles, she submitted the application to rejoin and began the regular teaching.

There was a deanery meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July to discuss about the forth coming programme of the Godda deanery. In the absence of Sr Tara, Sr.Jasinta attended the meeting along with Fr.Daniel our Parish priest. In this meeting they decided to have Mahila Sangh Rally in 'Agiya More ' from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 03<sup>rd</sup> October and Krus Veer Rally in Kattibari.

As usual the 15<sup>th</sup> August was celebrated with great joy. There was a solemn Eucharistic celebration to mark the day. People participated in the Mass and honoured our Mother Mary requesting her intercession for our country. After the Mass We had Flag Hoisting, parade and many other cultural programmes, which were enjoyed and well appreciated by all. The feast of St. Monica was celebrated by the parishioners. The women and men dressed in their traditional dressess danced and welcomed all the women as it was their day. The Church was packed and all enjoyed some tea and snacks after the Mass. They also had some games to entertain them. The CRI president had arranged a day of recollection for all the CRI members of Godda deanery. Srs. Lynette, Tara and Jasinta joined the recollection.

The teachers were remembered and honoured by the students on 5<sup>th</sup> September. It was a joyful event to see our students dancing in their traditional dress leading their teachers to the church yard where they were welcomed according to the Santhal custom. After the Mass, all gathered in the newly built hall. The children staged beautiful programmes and thanked the teachers for their dedicated service. All enjoyed a sumptuous meal before they went home. We had an enjoyable evening with our hostelers too. They entertained us by their songs and dance. All of us were given gift each as a token of their love.

Sr Tara is busy getting ready to go to Ireland. She has to make a few journey to different places to get her work done. Hope everything will be completed soon.

Our cook left the job due to personal reason, leaving us without anyone to cook. We managed for few days till we got a girl to help us with cooking and taking care of the things. We still look for a girl who will remain with us for longer time.

Our motor for the boring was not working for three days due to electricity problem; so all of us learnt the value of running water. We had to manage everything with rain water and hand pump.

Sr.Jasinta accompanied the women to Agiya More for their gathering. The ladies participated in the Quiz competition and dance based on Bible. They all had good time. They shared their views and ideas; they were encouraged to be faithful to their call.



## Mary Ward Convent Lohardaga

On 30th of June Sr. Shalini was missioned by Sr. Anita as the Sister –in charge of the community.

We are grateful to Sr. Lissy and community for freeing Sr. Mukti from her duties from Itarhi and sending her to Lohardaga to take care of the boarders in the absence of Sr. Shalini. It is highly being appreciated.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Fr. Thomas' feast was celebrated with great pomp. The day began with meaningful Eucharistic celebration with Sisters, teachers and students. Sr. Amala conducted a meaningful prayer service followed by mesmerizing cultural items. On 16<sup>th</sup> July Mount Carmel feast was celebrated in Lievens Academy with a meaningful prayer service conducted by Sr. Pratima CJ. On this occasion Sr. Devashree AC, the Principal spoke to the students about the importance of this feast, their Charism and Mission which was highly appreciated by many students and teachers. The day's programme was concluded with lunch for all staff. As our hostel is named as "St. Alphonsa's hostel" on 28<sup>th</sup> of July, the hostel day was celebrated with meaningful Eucharistic celebration. The children were wished by fathers, sisters and teachers.



The school had been preparing for the great jubilee - opening for months. Due to this, the teachers' day was not celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> of September in Lievens Academy. But for our surprise our boarders put up a wonderful teachers' day programme for Srs. Shalini, Amala and Pratima. We highly cherished their talents and abilities especially the way they organized the entire event. The students stole some time to wish Sr. Amala on her birthday. The celebration ended with cake cutting. On 8<sup>th</sup> September, the Birthday of Mother Mary was celebrated with great piety and devotion. We recited the Holy Rosary along with fathers, sisters, residential staff and boarders followed by evening Mass. On the feast of Our Lady of Sorrow we recited the rosary at Pieta. During the rosary we contemplated the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady and we had special litany. It was followed by delicious 'kheer' served for all.

Month of September was extra special and memorable one for each Lievenites as the entire school was involved in preparation for the silver jubilee opening of Lievens Academy. Each and every person hard to storm the heaven for a favourable weather as we had constant shower. On 18<sup>th</sup> of September the inaugural opening ceremony of the silver jubilee celebration was held in Lievens Academy with great fanfare. There were extinguished guests and dignitaries present for the occasion. We were honoured to have His grace Archbishop Felix Toppo SJ, the Archbishop of Ranchi Archdiocese and the president of Lievens Academy His Lordship Rt. Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas SFX the Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi and Sr Marie Therese AC and many other distinguished guests. A journey of 25 glorious years! It was a significant milestone symbolising remarkable 25 years of dedication and perseverance in the field of education. It was a time to reflect and give testimony of Lievens Academy's endurance, growth and great achievements in the field of education with gratitude and look forward to a promising future.

During the celebration every one who is part of Lievens Academy in the past and present were specially appreciated. They are teachers who tirelessly imparted knowledge, the students who have embraced learning and the parents who have entrusted us with their children's education.

It was a proud moment to proclaim together that we have achieved numerous milestones and created a community that values excellence and character. To express their gratitude and appreciation for their existence here for the past 25 years the pupil put up a wonderful cultural programme.

Through this, the school aimed to bring out the best talents in the students and to foster a sense of unity and appreciation for diversity within the school and the country.

We were delighted to welcome Srs .Sudha and Anita the pioneers of Khunti mission. We pray and wish for God's choicest blessings on their endeavours.

For a short while all the programs stand still as our students are getting ready for their second term exam, followed by Pooja vacation. One of the most astonishing thing about the month of September was all of us experienced God's intervention in whatever we prayed for. It helped each and every one to increase one's faith and trust in the Lord.

## St. Catherine's Community, Shahpur

Our community is enriched by the presentations of Srs. Mariette, Prasana and Ramya on Interculturality and Religious Life.

We were in solidarity with Sr. Rachana who lost her nephew, died of heart attack. He is survived by wife and 3 children. She had gone home for few days to be with her dear ones.

We were privileged to have Sr. Kiran for the visitation. She arrived here on 9<sup>th</sup> August. The next day early in the morning, Sr. Poonam developed breathing difficulty. She was rushed to Patna for the treatment. We are happy that she is back here after 44 days staying in Mary Ward Infirmary. We thank Sr. Nisha & Provincial House community, Sr. Gemma & community for taking care of her. Twice she was admitted in the Heart hospital for the treatment. We thank all those who took care of her day& night in the hospital.

**St. Monica Day:** St. Monica's feast was celebrated in the Church. The previous day, Fr. Anand came for the talk and confession. Around 40 women participated in this celebration.

**Nativity of our Lady:** Prior to the feast of Nativity of Our Lady, we had three days Novena. On 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. we had Holy Rosary followed by Holy Mass in the evening. Four priests concelebrated this Mass with Fr Bhaskar our parish priest.

On 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sr. Jyotirmayee left for Thailand to attend Jesus Youth Animator's Learning Programme. She was back on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.

On 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, we welcomed our new Bishop James Shehkar to our parish. 10 priests concelebrated Holy Mass with him. After Mass he blessed the statue of sleeping St. Joseph which is placed in front of the Church. A short cultural programme was held followed by a fellowship meal for everyone in the parish. The meal was sponsored by the family members of Late Michael Master in honour of their father.

Our Social Action and Convent building got a face lift by constructing a beautiful struts over the terrace which was leaking since some time. Our Chapel also underwent repair. The ceiling and the walls also were repaired. Children from our parish participated in the Deanery level Bible Mahotsav competitions in Piro. Sr. Lucy along with teachers prepared them for the event.

**Social Centre wing:** On 5<sup>th</sup> of September, we celebrated Teacher's Day in our Social Action Centre. We conducted different games for the teachers. The winners got prizes and we got dispersed after a good refreshment. On 11<sup>th</sup> September we started a new tailoring centre for the girls in Gangadhar Village.



A free medical camp was organized by Dumraon Hospital Team. (Dr. Sr. Prabha. Sr. Shanti and few others). Around 180 patients profited from this free camp. Tests for haemoglobin and blood sugar were also done.

## Nirmala Shiksha Bhawan

On 15<sup>th</sup> August, Independence Day was celebrated. On this occasion, patriotic songs, fancy dress, speech and dance competitions were organized. It was based on the themes “Love and Loyalty to the Nation, Unity in Diversity and Responsibility of a True Citizen of India”. Our freedom fighters were remembered with gratitude and prayed for. It was a memorable day for each one of us.



A seminar was organized for the students of Classes 6 – 10 on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. Miss. Devopriya Dutta and Mrs. Aarti Singh from Tarumitra were the resource persons. Miss Devopriya spoke to the students about biodiversity and how to take care of our environment. She told the students that they should be the leading force for doing Eco-friendly activities in the school and at home for 365 days and be the role model for others by adopting the Mantra of Habit Change for Climate Change via practical activities such as organic farming, community herbal and medicinal kitchen garden, tapping solar energy for harnessing electricity and water. She spoke to them about 5 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repeat and Refuse and protecting mother Earth and celebrating all occasions, birthdays, anniversaries in an eco-friendly way. Mrs. Aarti Singh (known as Mrs. India & Mrs Bihar) taught many yoga exercises to the children. Children were very happy and gained a lot from this seminar.



On ‘Raksha Bandhan Day’ a special prayer service was organized during which the volunteered children pronounced pledge to mother earth, expressing their desire to care for the wellbeing of the environment and to plant trees. After the prayer service, the children tied rakhi to the trees.



Teachers' Day was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. The children put up a meaningful prayer service expressing their gratitude towards their teachers. Through their prayers, speech and skits they showed the contribution of teachers in the field of education: The teachers impart to them the light of knowledge and wisdom. It is the teachers who make the highest contribution in shaping the future of society.



### St. Theresa's Convent Sikandara

The month of July, August occupied us with a number of activities and programmes. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July Srs Vimla, Pauline and Josephine from St. Joseph's Patna came for a short visit. Also, Srs Ancy and Helen from Gulni. Since the rain god had visited us, our boring which had dried up for more than a month and we had much trouble for water, started functioning. We were overjoyed to see water coming out from our boring. Now it is functioning well. Our Provincial Sr. Kiran's arrival was another joyful event. She came for visitation. She met the sisters and the staff.

Farewell and Welcome

Sr. Gracy was given a fitting farewell by the community and also in the parish. She served about six years in Sikandra. She was in-charge of the Mahila sangha in the parish. The parish priest Fr. Anil and some of the parishoners appreciated and praised her for her selfless service in the parish and in the mission. She was honored with flower bouquets and garlands. On 10<sup>th</sup> August she left for Patna on transfer. We wish all the best to you Sr. Gracy. Sr. Cheryl came on transfer on 7<sup>th</sup> August and was welcomed warmly by the community. On the following Sunday the parish priest welcomed her during Mass and wished her a happy and enjoyable stay in Sikandra mission.

Our house has become fifty years old and it has undergone a thorough repair to be ready for the Golden day. We thank Sr. Kiran for her help and support.

In preparation for the birthday of our blessed mother Mary we, with parishoners started the Novena and rosary for nine days in front of the grotto. On 8<sup>th</sup> September birthday of our blessed mother Mary, we, the parishoners assembled in the school compound and proceeded to the church in procession carrying the statue of our Lady praying the rosary and singing hymns to our lady. The statue was placed in the church and every family of the parish offered their gifts and paid respect, followed by Holy mass. A good number of parishoners were present. Meal was served for all in honor of Mother Mary's birthday.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August Bible Mahotsav was celebrated on a grand scale. There were some competitions and our parishoners took active part in it. The quiz competition was conducted in the parish, our Roshni got the first prize in her group and was given a prize by the parish priest Fr. Anil in the parish.

In the month of July school started regularly. Election of the head boy, head girl and other house captain was taken up. Investiture ceremony was grand. Each of the leaders was given the responsibility. Dance competition was held house wise.

This year Independence Day was celebrated well. Varieties of cultural programs were being performed by the students. Many parents came to celebrate the day. After the program sweets were distributed. Along with the various activities first term examination was conducted. This year children themselves prepared for the Teachers' Day celebration. It was a double celebration as our Parish priest birthday falls on the same day.

## St. Mary's Convent Singla

Farewell to our dear Miss Tulsa !

On 17<sup>th</sup> July Miss Tulsa was admitted to the hospital as she had severe pain and stomach upset. Although the doctors advised her people to take her to Siliguri, seeing her improvement, they thought she would recover. But her body continued to swell up and the pain on her right side became worse. On 27<sup>th</sup> they decided to take her to Gangtok. That morning, being a holiday, Sr. Vibha thought of paying her a visit. She met her and spoke about the arrangements made in the school in her absence. Miss Tulsa was very happy about her substitute.



By 11am they took her to Gangtok instead of to Siliguri. Miss Tulsa could not withstand the strain of that long journey and passed away by 12.30. Just at that moment Sr.Reena made a call to her phone and she heard people crying. As she was wondering about what has happened we had another call to tell that Miss Tulsa was no more.

Fr. Pappadil was with us at that time. He had come with his nephew on a visit. The news was a shock for Fr. Pappa as well. The next day after the prayer service at her home we brought her body to school and the students and teachers gave her a fitting farewell. Miss Tulsa was a talented and dedicated teacher and served the school from the very beginning. Taught and employed by Sr. Amalia, Miss Tulsa became an accomplished teacher with training and practice along with three other teachers and Sr. Veena. On 12th August Sr. Reena organised a memorial Mass in the school having Fr.Pappadil as the main celebrant. Miss Tulsa's people also attended the Mass.

### Village Experience

On 01<sup>st</sup> September Sr. Chetana brought 3 Tertiaries for village experience. They were reached to their villages next morning. They went away on 16<sup>th</sup> after having a real experience of the life of the Tea Garden workers and being a great help to our Catholic people of our Parish. They also helped with the flower arrangement in the Church for the Parish Feast on 10<sup>th</sup> September.



17<sup>th</sup> September was a big day for us as Sr. Reena organised the Annual Day combining it with the visit of E S A group from Japan. The group consisted of five people including three students. One of our ex students who is learning Japanese language also joined the group. They enjoyed all the cultural program and interacted with the parents of the students whom they are helping.

We request your prayers for Sr. Reena as she is cooling her heels for the up gradation of the school. May the Spirit of wisdom enlighten the hearts and minds of the officials concerned in our favour.

### Mary Ward Convent Bongaigaon

In the Month of July Sr. Kiran our Provincial came for her visitation to our community along with Sr. Leshina as our new community member. We all had lovely time in each other's company .



Ours in Bongaigaon is a Training Centre. In the month of July and August we had training programs from SeSTA and ASRLAM Staff. We have Electricity and water problem due to making the flyover and widening the high way; therefore we were compelled to purchase a generator for the smooth functioning of the training centre.

Sr. Kiran our Provincial and Sr. Jaya had an appointment with the Bishop to make the amendment in the agreement for both houses Bongaigaon and Ballamguri. It was a pleasant and successful meeting. We are happy that we have the renewed and amended Agreement in our hands now. We had 17 Catholic girls who had come for the retreat in Pastoral Centre. They were with us for the night stay for three days.

On 31<sup>st</sup> of August we had Rosary Procession towards the cause of Manipur. We all gathered in good number. It was conducted by the Parish Church. On 11<sup>th</sup> of September Beauty Therapist Program has begun for four months. It is running as a Govt. programme under ASDM (Assam Skill Development Mission) Sr. Leshina too joined this training to equip herself to be a future trainer for Beauty Therapist.

On 17<sup>th</sup> of September, the day for the Tree planting was set aside by the Government. We planted many trees outside the gate, all along the boundary.

“The Best and most,  
Beautiful things in the  
World cannot be seen, nor  
touched....but are  
Felt in the heart.”  
Helen Keller.



## St. Joseph's Convent Provincial House ,Digha



The provincial house community welcomed Sr.Nisha as the animator of the community on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. We wish her God's blessing and assure our co-operation and support.

Sr.Manisha having returned from the Formators Course in Rome got ready to proceed to Allahabad. Our candidate Anjali Minj is under her guidance along with two candidates from Nepal in the Postulancy. On 15<sup>th</sup> of July we had the final roof casting of our 'Mary ward Home' in Digha. Though the rain disturbed the smooth work extending to midnight, thanks to His providence no harm took place .



Our co-worker Mr.Celestian had a miraculous escape when he came across with bare wires and got electrocuted while pumping the water to the terrace from the pond. The workers at the construction site were given great acknowledgement as they did the first aid to him, saving his life before we rushed him to hospital. It's God's marvellous protection!

The Provincial house community spiritually prepared with the triduum to celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius under the guidance of Fr.Raneesh SJ.

As Sr. Sudha was recuperating from her gall-bladder operation, we had to rush Sr.Harshita for the same, as she was in great pain. Thank God both are well and back to their mission!





We celebrated the Independence day with great joy. Our candidates put up a small yet meaningful short programme which was enjoyed by all of us.

Many of us from our community attended the local CRI meeting at Navajyothi Patna. It was a good gathering as we gained first-hand information on the Manipur issue.



Sr.Kiran had her contribution on 'Safeguarding Policy' as she stressed on its importance at every Institution. She also brought the awareness to the members of different Congregations how it can be made use of, in time of need.

Our community has become more alive and active as we have regular organised recreation. Each takes the turn to make it more enjoyable and participatory. On 03<sup>rd</sup> September our B.Ed students Goretta and Vandana were asked to be judges over the various cultural items performed by our Catholic students during the Bible Mahotsav.

The formees gave us an entertaining evening, honouring their teachers on 'Teachers' Day' The most spotting ones were the freshers among them.

In September Srs Kiran and Ajaya joined the other CJs in Prerana Bangalore to attend the leadership programme which was well appreciated by all



## Novices Corner ...

### **First year Novices' Spiritual Voyage.....**

We the first year novices embarked on a spiritual voyage from 1<sup>st</sup> of August to 30<sup>th</sup> of August. In this voyage God himself was the captain of our ship and he directed us under the able guidance of Sr. Manju. Unlike any other journey undertaken so far, on this journey He touched our hearts and minds and helped us to experience the unflinching assurance of His love and care. As we sailed ahead we discovered for ourselves the genuine love and tender care of the Trinitarian God and His concern for the sinful humanity and especially for each one of us. Thus we explored new experiences, insights and inspirations for our personal life. How beautiful were those days and peaceful too as we experienced God very personally and intimately.

Having experienced His unconditional love, forgiveness and His countless blessings the sounds of gratitude echoed in our hearts as we listened to the chirping of the birds and the blowing of the winds. God whispered to us in the stillness of our hearts and He cared for us that we had a peaceful atmosphere all through our journey.

This retreat strengthened us to be strong in our faith and to be deeply rooted in the love of God. The infinite love of our Abba Father enabled us to accept ourselves because He loves us just as we are. The love which we experienced during those 30 days helped us to live in the present, to cherish the love of God and never to regret the past; to live in freedom and to place all our trust in the providence of God.

Our greatest realisation during this expedition was that what makes our life worthwhile is the unwavering personal relationship with the person of Jesus and we were able to build up that personal relationship with Him.

We are grateful to God Almighty for keeping us healthy all throughout. We are thankful to Fr. Rajesh SJ, for offering the Holy Eucharist for us and for inspiring us with his well prepared homily each day. We are indebted to Sr. Manju for guiding us, each and every sister who made it possible for us through the prayerful support and help.

With immense love and gratitude

Srs. Monica, Sebati, Kiran and Likhita (First year Novices).

### **Village Experience**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July we the second year novices along with Sr. Manju set out for our village experience to Buxar. We stayed in our Chirag community till 31<sup>st</sup> of July where Sr. Sneha oriented us for our stay in the village. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August we went to stay in two different villages in Buxar. We were two each in two families. This stay helped us to understand each other and to help and support each other. We give all credits to God Almighty for guiding us, accompanying us and supporting us all through our stay.

We were much anxious, worried and uncertain about the new places, culture and language of the people. We were also alarmed about the happenings in our country on the basis of faith, religion and politics. But God strengthened us with his assuring words that He will be with us always. At the beginning of our experiment we found it very difficult to adjust with the life style and facilities of the village but soon we could easily adapt to the given situations. We were blessed with good, caring, loving and protecting family members. They accompanied us everywhere and supported us much.

Our stay in the village taught us many things for our lives. There were people who were for us and against us. We learnt to adjust with their culture, places and customs. This also enabled us to remain rooted in our faith and to hold on to our Christian traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church. Staying one with the families we came to know their struggles and difficulties. Lack of sufficient rain, money, proper education system, job opportunities, gender inequality and superstitions are some of the major problems faced by them even today. We were happy to see some of the development taking place in many villages where our sisters have reached out with their selfless services.

We are sure this firsthand experience of our stay in the village will help us to be more effective in our mission. We have learnt to be happy with what we have and to share our resources with others. We are grateful to all of you dear sisters for your prayerful support during our stay in the village. Our sincere thanks to Sr. Sneha, and all the sisters of Chirag Community, for seeing to all our needs, both spiritual and material and for making all the arrangements for our stay in the village. Thanks for making it happen.

With much love and gratitude,

Srs. Prianka, Sarita, Nirmala and Sangita (Second year novices)

### *My Experience In Jesus Youth Animators Learning Programme:*

International Jesus Youth Animators Learning Programme for the 14<sup>th</sup> Batch was held at Camillian Pastoral Care Centre at Bangkok, Thailand. It began on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.2023. Fifteen participants from nine countries took part in this learning programme. Twenty-five Jesus Youth Leaders who had arrived from 11 countries were already present for their learning programme from 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept, 2023. The International Jesus Youth Team Members including Sr. Jaya CJ were the resource persons.



The session began with an opening Holy Eucharist presided over by 5 priests. First 3 days were very intensive and soul searching inner journey. On these days we were led into reflective study on

- **Holy Spirit** (Karigma, gifts and fruits of Holy Spirit, charismatic gifts, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Gift of Tongue etc.),
- **Unbound for personal healing through 5 Keys** (Repentance & Faith, Forgiveness, Renouncing the works of the enemy, standing with the authority we have in Christ and Receiving the Fathers blessing),
- **Leading a Life of Integrity and witnessing**

On the third day we had a special adoration. During the adoration we were led through unbound prayers for personal healing. It was very Divine and moving.

After the spiritual renewal, we began learning about the Jesus Youth Movement & Its Statutes and Safeguarding. Some of the topics dealt during our Learning programme are as follows:

- Role of Ecclesial Movements in the Church
- Call to Evangelization
- Worldview and Youth today  
Jesus Youth Movement
- Youth Ministry- Youth Animation
- Nurturing Leaders in the Movement
- Evangelizing Mission of Jesus Youth: Form Christ in the young hearts
- Role of Jesus Youth Animators:



Care and foster the Youth particularly the Jesus Youth in the Church. Today's world is influenced by the kids and youth. Youth are more realistic. They do not want to accept fairy promises. They accept all that seems real to them not some imaginary things. So, in order to dialogue with them, we have to go where the youth is.

Create an atmosphere where they will feel comfortable, loved, cared and accepted just as they are; Get Into Their Shoes, come to their levels and relate to them as equals, let them experience you as real. **Do not advise them** until they are convinced of you. In order to give them Jesus, first of all we need to have first hand encounter with Jesus and be real in our life examples. Be equipped with word of God and Church teachings and be acquainted to the present trends. When they see these realities in us, then they will listen to us.

Different activities involved during the course: Discussion, action songs, group sharing, case studies, clarifications, movies and evaluation

We were divided into 3 small groups. Every day the sessions began at 7 am with Morning Devotion and ended around 9:30 pm with the Adoration. As the sessions were going on, resource persons had chain adoration before the Blessed Sacrament interceding for the entire participants. On the other side, a team was set apart for the personal prayer ministry. The participants were encouraged to meet this team to be prayed over and be guided. We were encouraged to share and pray within our small groups during our free time. So, during the break after having taken meals, the participants gathered in their groups to strengthen each other through the sharing and prayed together. It was a very beautiful experience to see each Jesus Youth participant filled with different gifts of the Holy Spirit, seeking for the guidance of the Holy spirit in prayer ( trying to know the will of God), vibrant in spirit and enthusiastic for evangelization. The Learning Programme ended with HOLY EUCHARIST and COMMITMENT CEREMONY during which we pronounced our pledge of commitment and received the certificate of the Course.

Other than the spiritual activities, almost every day we had games for 45 minutes, a day of outing and a cultural evening which ended with a party. Everyone maintained a prayerful atmosphere in spite of lots of fun and laughter.

I express my deepest gratitude to Sr. Kiran, our Provincial Superior and her team for giving me this opportunity of learning. I learnt a lot and feel enlightened to care for the youth. I extend my sincere gratitude to my Community members, for they took my responsibilities upon themselves and freed me for Jesus Youth Animators Learning Programme. I am grateful to each one of you who assisted me in different ways to take part in this programme. Thank you one and all. God Bless You.

Gratefully,

Sr. Jyotirmayee CJ

### Fall in Love

Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, that is, than  
falling in love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination,  
will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read,  
whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in love,  
stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.

Attributed to Rev. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

