



Patna



Glimpses



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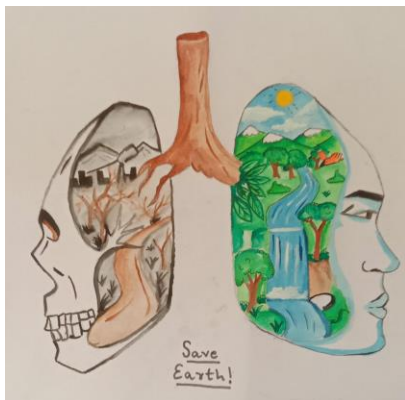


April – June 2024

Volume 26

Mary Ward Convent, Bellamguri

In the month of April Sr. Jaya went along with the parish priest for the Easter house blessing moving from village to village. Easter blessing of the Convent and the hostel was done on the 3rd of April.



Our school campus was filled with laughter, tears and excitement as the new and old students along with their parents came to the school on 8th April for the new academic year. This year for the first time Nursery was started with 25 children. On 22nd April the school celebrated “**World Earth Day**” with a verity of activities such as creative acting, singing, poem recitation and drawing, related to the theme.

We were privileged to begin the **month of rosary** in our Convent with about hundred and twenty Catholics of our neighbouring villages and the hostel girls. During this month we went in turn to different families to pray the rosary.

Two from the community, Srs. Abha and Jaya were present for the installation ceremony of Sr. Bindu as the 6th Provincial Superior of Patna Province. Sr. Jaya thanked the outgoing Provincial team on behalf of the province which was appreciated by all present. We felicitated the new team with Assamese towels.

Sr. Jaya the diocesan Y.C.S animator, was away for Y.C.S animators training program of North East from 24th to 26th May. On 26th Srs. Prisca, Marcella and Jaya paid a short visit to Archbishop emeritus Rev. Thomas Menaparambil SVD at St. John’s Hospital, Guwahati. His joy had no bounds to see Sr. Prisca, the then Provincial Superior when our mission was started in Assam and Sr. Jaya the pioneer.



“**World No Tobacco Day**” was observed on 31st May, organized by the Director of Health Services of Chirang district; our students participated in Essay writing and speech competition on the theme. On 3rd June, **Environment Day**, Sr. Nidhi CJ, the Head Mistress and one of the teachers conducted an awareness program for the students. As we celebrated “**International Yoga day**” on 22nd June; two of our teachers taught our students ten yoga movements.





On 17th June our community gave **farewell to Sr. Mary Paul** who had been earlier in Bellamguri community for eleven years as pastoral sister and animator. Sr. Mary Paul along with the Ashirwad community visited some of the families whom she wanted to bid good bye before she left for her new community at Gulni.

In the month of May and June we planted about 960 arecanut saplings in our garden. Hope in future we will have greenery and pure air to enjoy.

On 28th June Sr. Jaya left for Thailand for **Jesus youth** international leaders' and animators' training program.

Asha Deep, Bathbanga

As the month of April began Sr. Asha, the Animator of our community, moved on to take charge as the Headmistress of St. Joseph's School, Gulni. On the same day Sr. Manisha joined our community to substitute for Sr. Pragya until she arrives.

Sr. Bastina was given farewell by the hostellers as she was leaving Bathbanga to get ready for her tertianship programme. Sr. Rekha attended the teachers orientation programme in Sahibganj at St. Xavier's for a day. Sr. Pragya joined the community on 14th June and Sr. Anita Sanad on 19th June. In the absence of Sr. Pragya, Sr. Flavian took care of the community. Sr. Manisha who was here in the place of Sr. Pragya left for Patna to take care of the postulants. She was a great support to all of us. The same day, Sr. Pragya went to Kodma to attend the first training session of the Saphara project. In the evening the Fathers had invited us for a meeting, to discuss about our mission.

Mary Ward Convent, Dumraon

April 7th and 14th were happy days for us, from four communities from Bhojpur as we went for picnic in two groups. On 13th April we had farewell dinner for Frs. Francis, our Parish Priest and Fr. Agish; Srs Manju and Claris went to reach them to Kovath parish. Labour Day was celebrated on 1st of May celebrated with our supporting staff, we had high tea party sponsored by Mary Ward Health Center. On 5th May Srs Manju, Shanti, Arpita and Tanushree went to Patna for the installation of Sr. Bindu as our Provincial. With the presence of a good number of faithful the parish started devotions to St Antony of Padua popularized in our parish by Fr. Basker.

Mary Ward Hostel Dumraon - On 23rd April the hostel children organized a farewell program for Frs. Francis and Agish as they are transferred to Kovath parish. On 3rd May children had oath taking ceremony. The girls were proud to be ministers and promised to fulfil their duties well in the smooth running of the hostel.

Mary Ward Convent, Kattibari

In the month of April being holidays we the sisters went for community picnic to Bongadih. It was beautiful to see the culture of the Santhal tribe. We also visited the house of Sidho Kano the freedom fighters of Santhal in Jharkhand.

Thank God we got 30 admissions in the hostel. We gave farewell to Sr. Jasinta on 3rd April. Sr. Pragya went to Patna later to join the Provincial team to go to Kashmir. Sr. Rosemila came to substitute Sr. Pragya in the school. We thank God for Sr. Rosemila for her readiness to help us out.

In our parish 25 children received first Holy Communion and about 15 adults were baptised on 7th April. On the 11th of April Srs. Lynette and Reshma went to Sikandra to take part in jubilee celebration of Sr. Precilla. We managed to visit some of the parishes for vocation fostering which bore fruit. This year 85 students appeared for metric exam. All except three passed with good marks.

Sister Tara returned to the community from Ireland after the renewal programme on 29th April. Thanks giving Mass was offered for Sr. Pragya. Srs. Reshma and Pragya were privileged to attend Sr. Bindu's installation as our Provincial.

We celebrated workers day; lunch was served to them. Sr. Namrata was here to keep company with Sr. Tara until Sr. Reshma returned after her retreat. We are grateful for her availability. We used our right to vote, Sr. Tara even going up to Dumraon for it. When Sr. Tara returned Srs. Nilima and Elisona came along with a working girl and she was reached to the hospital for her further treatment. A few times we visited her with some financial assistance. Sr. Tara's niece and family paid a visit. We reached Sr. Pragya to Bathbanga as she was missioned to the community there as animator.

Mary Ward Convent, Lohardaga

We the Mary Ward community was privileged to have the presence of our Provincial Sr. Bindu, Srs. Soumya, Vinaya, Namita, Rita and Roshni from different communities, Fr. Thomas's Sisters and Fr. Kuldeep Kumar the Parish Priest of Patna Cathedral church.

Two candidates on their way to Patna stayed with us for a week. On 25th May Sr. Pratima went to Odisha in Mayurbhanj (Dt) to help out Sr. Anu CJ (Delhi Province) in her research work. On 8th of May Sr. Shalini accompanied Sr. Irene to Delhi Apollo Hospital to have the treatment for her leg. Sister stayed with her almost a week.

At present we have 26 children in the hostel. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of Fr. Augustine SAC for his occasional visits to us with fresh vegetables and fruits from his garden. He also promotes vocation for us through his contacts.

On 1st of May was marked with multiple celebrations. The School celebrated 25th foundation day of Lievens academy and Fr. Thomas's presence in the Academy as the administrator for 25 years; a meaningful prayer service was conducted by Sr. Amala. On this day we remembered Late Cardinal Telesphore P Toppo, and paid homage to him for his contribution to bring up Lievens Academy to its heights. International labours day and Investiture ceremony were part of the celebrations of the day. On the same day the band troop had the ceremony of ascending the stage. Everyone was astonished by their meticulous performance. In the evening there was a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration as we completed the 25years of excellence along with all the staff and co-workers. We are now getting ready for the closing ceremony of the silver jubilee of the school.

On 17th of June an **orientation** programme was organized for the branches of Lievens Academy with over 100 participants on the theme class room management and joyful learning by Mrs. Devlina

Lahiri. We had our TRIDUUM on 28th, 29th and 30th. Now we are spiritually renewed and entered into a new month.

Mary Ward Infirmary, Bankipore



Hearty Congratulations.

The much-awaited blessing of the Renovated Mary Ward Kindergarten building took place on 2nd of April, 2024. Sr. Kiran, our Provincial Superior, cut the ribbon and inaugurated the new building; we joined her, with a deep sense of gratitude and excitement. Fr. Kuldeep blessed the entire building. Thank you Sr. Kiran for daring to dream the almost impossible dream and Sr. Gemma for your courage, determination and faith in God and in yourself saying with St. Paul, "I can do all things in Him, who strengthens me." Thank you for the careful planning, the endless hours of supervision and sleepless nights. Every effort has paid a rich dividend. The Magnificent, Eco Friendly, Tall and Stately Building says it all. We are grateful to S.J.C Jethuli for shouldering the major expenses of the Renovation. Srs. Mabel, Pragma and Vianney were very prompt in paying up all the pending bills.

The **Renovated K.G Building** has a long history. The foundation for renovation was laid on the 30th of October; 2021. Due to the proximity of the building to the River Beds of mighty Ganges, our Engineer D.P. Sinha took no risks, but laid the foundation for a strong and sturdy building. The elaborate auditorium and its roof alone took about one year for completion to make it Earthquake Resistant.

Sr. Nilima had planned out the opening so well that Nursery, L.K.G and U.K.G children were welcomed individually on different days.

Meeting of the parents of 710 students were arranged in the new auditorium on the 6th of April. Sr.



Nilima gave introduction to the C.J Education. Mrs. Nandita explained about the proceedings of J.P.I.C, and urged the parents to take care of Mother Earth. The parents were given ample opportunities to clarify all their doubts.

160 Nursery children entered the premises for the first time on the 8th of April. The spacious activity room, full of paintings, multi – colored mats for squatting and games is the greatest attraction. We are ever grateful to the Ex-students of S.J.C Bankipore, for

anticipating the 1st of May, and for gifting all our co-workers with gifts and snacks; we had lunch with the co-workers. On 05th May, most of us were privileged to attend the missioning of Sr. Bindu, as the 6th Provincial Superior of Patna Province. We also congratulated Sr. Nilima on being appointed as one of her counsellors.

J.P.I.C was introduced in our school on 6th May 2024. Children were encouraged to save money and to share it with the underprivileged. They happily contributed Rs. 10 each and put the money in the saving box, with their own hands. For the second project, the children were made aware of **3 R's** i.e. **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**. A team from **Apsara company** co-operated and gave new Apsara extra dark pencils to all the children, in exchange for their small pencil. Children were happy and excited doing both the projects.



We had regular Rosary in the Cathedral during the month of May. On 1st of June our elderly sisters had many visitors who had come from far and near for voting. On 2nd June Srs. Nilima, Elisona and Tara accompanied Miss Kiran Kisku, our new cook, who was critically ill, to Katibari, her home village.

Delicious Malda mangoes were distributed to S.J.C, Digha, and Bishop's House, Fatima Retreat Centre, Tapovan sisters and others, who relished them and expressed their gratitude. Srs. Rufina and Marylin from Nepal visited Sr. Josepha and our elderly sisters. On 20th June, Fr. Amal Raj offered the thanksgiving Holy Mass for Sr. Nilima, as we thanked her for her dedicated and loving services in the school and community for 4 years.



On 21st June 2024 the staff of M.W. Kindergarten combined the Farewell programme for Sr. Nilima and Welcome of Sr. Sarita. Sr. Nilima was reached to S.J.C

by Sr. Gemma and community. All our co-workers too joined us in bidding farewell to Sr. Nilima who had been intricately woven into the fabric of M.W community and school. Thank you Sr. Nilima for the loving care you gave to each one of us, especially the sick and elderly sisters.

On June 24th Srs. Bindu, Vimla, Nilima and companions accompanied Sr. Sarita to M.W Infirmary at about 9pm after the completion of the installation ceremony of Sr. Nilima, the newly appointed superior of S.J.C, Bankipore. On 28th June, we extended a warm welcome to Sr. Vimla to our community.

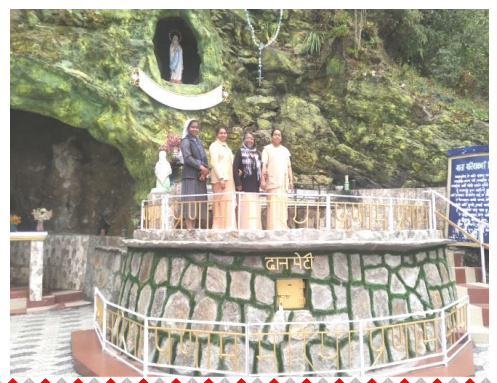
On June 29th, we had the combined celebration of Sr. Sylveria's Feast day and the Birthdays of Srs. Anna Mary and Elisona. The presence of many sisters from S.J.C and Digha added felicity to the gathering.

Please continue to pray for our sick and elderly Sisters Josepha, Prerita and Sylveria.

St. Mary's Convent, Namchi

These three months were full of activities. On 17th of April we the Sisters went for the centenary pilgrimage to Kerseong.

It was very exciting event to see when Pre-primary had fancy dress with different theme such as super-hero, vegetable, fruits, and Angels.



Sr. Shobhana represented our community in the happy event of installation of Sr. Bindhu. It was our pleasure to welcome newly appointed Jesuit provincial Superior of Darjeeling Province. Sr. Shobhana had an opportunity to relax by joining Jethuli Community for picnic to Kerala. Sr. Divya along with her B.Ed. companion Sr. Divya (Nepal) visited Nepal Communities during her holidays after the three months of Internship teaching practice.



We were glad to welcome Sr. Vinaya to our community who joined for Retreat to Kalingpong with Sr. Shobhana during School Holidays. The BEC group of our Parish conducted Rosary in our Convent's Grotto. Sr. Shobhana attended **BEC meeting** which was held in one of the Parishioner's house. On the occasion of **world Yoga day** our pre-primary students participated in doing the yoga (exercise) which was conducted by the teachers. We also happily welcomed the tertians from Allahabad and Delhi and Sisters Chetana and Bastina the following day.



The B.ed students celebrated the 30th Annual day of their college participating in various activities. The sisters and the tertians joined in their celebrations.

We ended the month having lots of joyful experience and spending our three days completely with God reflecting and praying under the guidance of Sr. Prisca.

St. Catherine's Convent, Shahpur

The new academic year 2024-2025 began on 3rd April. The tiny tots coming for the first time to school were anxious of altogether a different atmosphere. For this academic year, the Social Centre admitted 19 new students in various classes of the Primary section of NSB under the "Modesta Help India Foundation" sponsorship programme.

WELCOME:



Sr.



Nirmala, the new principal of our school, joined our community on 5th April. On 6th April, the school staff welcomed her during the staff meeting headed by Sr. Bindu. On 16th April Sr. Nirmala was officially declared as the new Principal of Nirmala Shiksha Bhawan (NSB) by

Sr. Vinaya, during the school Assembly and then on she took charge of the school.

After the welcome ceremony, on 16th April, five school toppers of class X Examinations conducted by the Bihar Board and their parents were honored.

St. Magdalene's Church, Shahpur, welcomed Fr. Soosai Raj, the new parish priest on 15th April.

FAREWELL:

'For every meeting, there is a parting.' Since five years Sr. Bindhu had been a core member of the NSB family, tirelessly working to take the school to its height. God found her worthy of shouldering higher responsibility; therefore, the parting. A solemn Farewell program was organized in the school during which the staff and the students expressed their gratitude to Sr. Bindhu and wished her tearful adieu. Thank you Sr. Bindhu. You are very much missed in NSB.



Fr. Vijay Bhaskar after serving for 7 years as parish priest in St. Magdalen's Church, Shahpur, was missioned in Dumraon as the Parish priest. On 14th April, the parishners expressed their gratitude to Fr. Vijay Bhaskar and

also to Sr. Bindhu, the Principal of NSB and bid them farewell. Fr. Bhaskar left for Dumraon after the Sunday Holy Eucharist.

PICNIC: Sisters from four communities (Chirag, Dumraon, Itarhi and Shahpur) organized a tour to Jalander. We made the trip in two groups. Thanks a lot to our community animators for taking this initiative



ORDINATION: God's special blessing upon Ganj village was seen in the person of Fr. Anand Kumar, the son of Mr. Prabhudas, who was ordained on 24th April at Varanasi Cathedral for Varanasi Diocese. He is the second priest from Shahpur. Three of us sisters were present for the Ordination at Varanasi and on 20th May; the community was privileged to have him offer Holy Eucharist for us.

On International Worker's day,

our coworkers in the school were honored with notes of gratitude for their service and the support for the wellbeing of the school and the community. A short prayer service was conducted for them by the sisters in the convent chapel followed a fellowship meal served for them.



In the **social center**, we studied the Hindi version of the policy document "POCSO"-Protection of Children From Sexual Offences, cleared our doubts and at the end all our staff members signed the document indicating their understanding and commitment, as it is also made mandatory by the Funding agency that all their collaborators and partners sign the document.

During the Summer holidays Srs. Andrea, Nirmala, Lucy, and Jumila along with Fr. Soosai Raj, our Parish Priest went for an outing, visiting and familiarizing themselves with different mission stations, priests and religious working in Buxar diocese.



As is the practice every year, on 19th May, the Feast of Pentecost the members of the 'Jesus Youth' gathered in Fatuha Church to renew their commitment. Eight Jesus youth renewed their commitment and seven more youth committed themselves for the first time. Sr. Jyotirmayee was present to prepare the youth for this event.

The entire Community was on the move back and forth, up and down exercising their citizenship rights in participating in the General election of the country.

From 13th to 15th June, we had **triduum** under the direction of Fr. Francis Palli SJ. Sr. Vinaya's term of office as animator of the community was extended for one more year. Hence she took break for a few days from 5th June to 27th June. During this time, she was away from the community to make her annual retreat at Kalingpong and spend some time with our sisters in Namchi, Sikkim. She was back to the community fully renewed on 27th June.

Sr. Selina, our community member received a warm welcome as she arrived here on 28th June. Sr. Jumila moved to Gulni on 2nd July. Thank you Sr. Jumila for the dedicated services you rendered to the community and to the people around.

St. Mary's School, Singla

On the evening of April 14th, we all stood shocked at the sad news of Riwas, Sr. Leshina's brother-in-law who was drowned. Sr. Amalia went to Siliguri to fetch Srs. Sarina and Leshina and reached them to Leshina's sister's house at midnight. Sr. Vibha attended the funeral on the next day.

The school organised a fete on 28th of April. Our ex-students who were much excited about it came in great numbers on the previous day and helped to get the stalls ready. The fete was inaugurated by our Parish Priest Fr. Ansolam who led the crowd in. Fr. Pappadil along with the Principal of North Point College and Loreto Sisters were specially invited guests. With the money raised, we bought fans for the class rooms.



There was an **Interschool football tournament** for the girl students with the Loreto students in the Loreto ground. Our students got 2nd prize and bagged the trophy for the best player.

Bishop Stephen Lepcha made his Pastoral Visit to our Parish on 12th May. Seven students from our school received the Sacrament of Confirmation along with other parishners of the village.

Singla Tea garden is adorned with rivers around the hills. On 18th of May organized by our Parish Priest the sisters along with the youth and the hostel children enjoyed an exciting picnic to the riverside. Sr. Grace enjoyed doing **Yoga** with the children in the shallow flowing water.

On 28th Sr. Grace and Sr. Reena went to Kolkata for the work related to the up gradation of the school. On 11th June, Sr. Reena went to Kolkata with Sr. Vibha, again for the up-gradation work. Due



to the late running train they had to spend the whole night at the station but it was worth it as our work was done.

The Environment day on 5th June each student brought and planted two trees in the school premises.

On 20th June Srs. Roseline, from Namchi, Sr. Monika (Nepal) and Sr. Vinaya visited

us. Sr. Vinaya stayed with us for two days. On the same day Sisters from Loreto, Sr Barbara with their new Principal Sr. Punita and Sr. Igora from Delhi paid us a surprise visit.

We had very fruitful and interesting **recollection** days with Sr. Prisca as our meditations started with holding a cup in our hands, reminding us that we have to be like a cup which can be filled and used by anyone who needs to be refreshed. We really experienced the Father's hands as we were going to Darjeeling Northpoint to have confession and concluding Mass with Fr. Pappadil and Fr. K.L George S.J. After the Mass we were supposed to go to the Loretos as they had invited us to meet their superiors who had gathered for a meeting and to have tea with them. On our way Sr. Vibha was saved from an accident, as the driver moved the vehicle that was still open. We got a shock of our lives and we couldn't get out from the vehicle as we were surrounded by vehicles on all sides. By the time we got out, the driver helped Sr. Vibha to get up. She had knocked her hand and head on bamboo poles and was in pain especially on her back. We thanked God for protecting her from major injuries. The confession, Holy Mass and meeting with twenty Loreto Superiors revived our shocked spirits; one can imagine the fun and laughter we had meeting close friends, special friends and familiar friends, unknown friends, all Mary Ward Friends!

The next day Sr. Prisca and Sr. Grace were reached to Namchi; Srs. Cecilia and Grace attended an online tally course. Thank you Sr. Shobhana for providing us with good network facilities.

St. Joseph's Convent, Bankipore



The month of April was marked by celebrations. 13th April was a memorable day for our diamond Jubilarian Sr. Mary, Golden jubilarians Srs. Clarita and Lynette and silver Jubilarians Srs. Soumya and Vijaya. The presence of Sr. Soumya's brothers, and Sr. Vijaya's B.Ed companion added to their joy. The jubilee Mass began at 10.30 am with Archbishop Sebastian Kallupura and fourteen priests moving to the altar in procession led by the brides, their relatives and our sisters.

1st May being the worker's day, we had a prayer service for our supporting staff followed by lunch. On the 2nd Sr. Soumya was given farewell as she is appointed the Provincial Secretary; she was reached to the Provincial House the same evening. Thank you Sr. Soumya for your generous and selfless service to us.

On 22nd we received the sad news of the departure of Fr. Thomas CMI, Sr. Genevieve's brother for his eternal home. He was ailing for some time. May he enjoy eternal bliss.

On 7th June we celebrated the **96th birthday of Sr. Lydia**. Dear Sr. Lydia your 96 years of wisdom, love and kindness have touched the lives of many around you. May you experience the companionship of Jesus always.

As Sr. Iren's legs gave her trouble Sr. Shalini took her to Delhi for treatment on the 9th May and returned on 14th feeling better.

A farewell Mass was offered by the community for Srs. Vimla and Sarita on 20th June. A big thank you to you dear sisters for all that you have been to us and done for us. May God bless both of you and keep you under His powerful protection in your new home.



Our new Superior **Sr. Nilima** was installed by Sr. Bindu our Provincial Superior on 24th June at 5.15pm followed by Holy Eucharist by our parish priest Fr. Kuldip Kumar. Thereafter dinner was served for all of us and the

fathers of the Archbishop's House. May God's blessings be on you dear Sr. Nilima as you shoulder the responsibility of guiding and leading our community.

SJC, ICSE Board

During the staff meeting on 1st of April, before the new academic year began Srs. Vimla and Josephine addressed the teachers. On the same day the teachers celebrated the birthday of Sr. Josephine the Principal.

In this academic session the school introduced for the first time Robotics and Artificial Intelligence for the students of Classes 9 and 10. In the 2nd week of June Sr. Sarita along with the teachers conducted an orientation programme for the parents of the newly admitted students to familiarize them with the rules and regulations of the school.

Our school auditorium was the venue for the felicitation of the Major Archbishop of Syro Malabar Church, Rt. Rev Archbishop Raphael Thattil. Many bishops, Priests, religious and the Syro Malabar Catholics were present. On 20th April a workshop on "**Knowing the glory of Mother India**" was



organized for the teachers of SJC (ICSE & Bihar Board Bankipore), SJC Jethuli and Mary Ward Kindergarten. The resource person, Fr. Lawrence Susai SJ, spoke on the contribution of various religions to Indian culture and the development of India.

The new **school cabinet members** took oath on 24th April during a prayerful ceremony.



The alumnae association of Josephites felicitated our supporting staff on **Labors' Day**. They conducted various games for them and were given gifts.

SJC Bankipore organized the zonal level debate

competition and our students performed well and were qualified for the regional level. The management and the staff of SJC gratefully thanked Sr.Soumya for her service for the past three years and wished her God's blessings in her new mission. The school community also welcomed Sr.Ajaya as the new treasurer of the school. May God accompany you in your new mission.

ISC Toppers 2024



AYUSHI PRIYA 96.25%
Topper XII Arts

ISC Toppers 2024



ZAHERA PARWEZ 96%
2nd Topper XII ARTS

ICSE Toppers 2024



ZOYA IMAM 99.4 %
2nd Topper Class - X

ICSE Toppers 2024



SHREYA JHA 99.6%
Topper Class - X

The long awaited result of Class 10 & 12th Board examination was announced on 6th May 2024. It was a proud moment for the school as Shreya Jha scored 99.6% stood 2nd Nationally and Zoya Imam with 99.4% attaining 3rd in the national level. Ayushi Priya with 96.2%, Irfa Khan with 95% Zahra Pervesh with 90% topped in class 12.

A team of 20 teachers along with five sisters enjoyed six days in God's own country, Kerala.

During the month of May the school conducted summer camp for the interested students on various games and martial arts.

The SJC school community bid farewell to Srs. Vimla and Sarita and welcomed Sr. Nilima our new manager and Sr. Pushpa the Primary in charge. We wish them God's blessings as they take up new responsibility.



SJC - BIHAR BOARD We began our new academic year on 1st April with an official meeting with the manager Sr. Vimla CJ. This year we started LKG classes with 47 students keeping in mind that as per the NEP 2020 we need to start the play school in coming years. The new academic year brought us the good news of 100% result for our matric students. Daniya Fatima stood 2nd in Patna district.

For the smoothly running of the school we need the support of the teachers and students, keeping this in mind we had the selection of new moderators and cabinets of the school. On the 16th of April we had an **oath ceremony of the school cabinets**. On this day we introduced the school band too which was a long cherished dream come true.



India is a country where we find many religions and cultures playing an important role in the life of the children and society. In today's scenario it's the prime duty of the teachers to give deep and vast knowledge of Indian culture and religions to our students so that we learn to live in peace and harmony with each other respecting each other's religions and cultures. Keeping this objective in mind Fr. Lawrence Susai SJ, conducted a day's seminar on the topic "CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAJOR RELIGIONS TO GROWTH". It was indeed an enriching programme.

As part of on-going training of the teachers we had an orientation program for our teachers on NEP 2020 given by Mrs. Anjali Singh. She stressed that "Today we teach the students physical hygiene but as a teacher we have failed to teach them mental hygiene". She convinced



us that the students who sit in our class today must be able to solve the problems of tomorrow.

Providing opportunities for the all-round development of the students, we had summer camp organized by our karate teacher and PT teacher for classes 3-9; the camp concluded with some competitions and display of their skills. We celebrated world **yoga day** on 21st of June. Daily practice of yoga leads the person to inner peace and serenity.

On 29th June we the staff and the students happily welcomed our new manager Sr. Nilima CJ in our midst with a short cultural event and wished her God's blessings as she begins her new mission.

Scripture Course for the Young CJs

With the theme, 'Fall in Love with Jesus' under the guidance of Fr James Dabhi SJ we 12 Juniors of Patna Province and Sr. Priyanka from Allahabad Province, seven Novices and One candidate had six weeks of Bible literature classes during the months of April and May 2024; three weeks of Old Testament studies and three weeks of New Testament, followed by eight days of Spiritual Exercises. From first part we came to know God as Creator, Giver of Vocation, liberator and Provider, the history of the Israelites and their struggle for freedom. We understood that the God of the Old Testament whom we think as a punishing God, is actually a God who is very patient, loving, fatherly and a God who always gives us His children many opportunities.

In the New Testament we met the poor, helpless, rejected, humble and mission oriented Jesus. We learned to imagine the Word of God in detail - not only what is written but also what is not written. We learned to see our life in the light of the Word of God.

We learned the Map of Israel which helps us to make our imagination or contemplation more realistic and locate the places where Jesus was born, engaged in His mission and finally gave His life for us. We learned that each and every word in the Bible has meaning and we learned to read the Holy Bible with understanding and with imagination.

During the retreat we looked into our lives in terms of our Vocation, Talents, Community life, Mission, anger, fear, jealousy and pride, three Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience reconciliation, and Love.

We thank God for our former Provincial Sr. Kiran and Sr. Chetana the Junior Director who arranged this special programme for us. We are grateful to our communities for freeing us from our responsibilities. It was truly a great learning for us. Kindly keep all of us in your prayers so that we may keep up this enthusiasm in knowing Jesus through His eternal words in the Bible.



FROM THE HILLS OF NILGIRIS

A Song of Magnificat

My soul rejoices in the Lord
 And my whole being is filled with His joy.
 He looks at me as His beloved
 And I am enveloped in His love for me.
 As He called Mary of Magdala by her name
 He calls me by my name 'Kiran'
 And I am thrilled at His loving gaze at me.
 His hold over me is so firm
 That I can cherish His bondness over me.
 He doesn't recall any of my past days of sin and selfishness
 But invites me to join His band of followers.
 As I set my feet behind Him on His path
 He missions me to go out and be His Good news to the whole world.
 I am His being now no more mine;
 He in me and I in Him.
 I will proclaim to the world
 That His paradise on this earth is possible
 Spreading His forgiveness, love, joy and peace wherever I go.....



With my love and gratitude
 Sr. Kiran CJ, Ooty, Nilgiri Dt.
 Tamilnadu - India
 (At the conclusion of my 30 days retreat, June 2024)

St. Theresa 's convent Sikandra

This year too we experienced shortage of drinking water as our bore well dried up in the month of March. Our only source of water was a hand pump. On 6th April our hearts were delighted to see water gushing out from the new bore well!

On 11th April Sr. Priscilla's silver jubilee was celebrated. Her brother, sister in law and little nephew added to our joy. Sr. Namita, while on home visit had the joy of triple jubilee celebrations— her own silver jubilee anticipated, the 25th wedding anniversary of her sister and the Golden jubilee of her parents' wedding.

We bade farewell to Sr. Roshni as she is going for her B.Ed. Sr. Namita reached her to Patna and on 22nd June we welcomed Sr. Rosna to our community.

School news: On 3rd April school reopened for classes LKG to V. The classes VI to VIII were closed down as the school will be changed in to English medium. The next year classes I to V will be closed down completely and English medium will be officially commenced from the next academic year as per the plans of the Diocese.

Novitiate Corner



The month of April, May and June was a time of spiritual renewal for all of us. On 1st of April we welcomed Sr. Roselette to the Novitiate community as our new guide (Novice Directress); the day started with a Holy Eucharist and ended with a cultural evening. It was also the occasion to thank Sr. Manju for all that she had been to us. "Letting go of things and persons are the toughest task." We are grateful to Sr. Manju for the past 6 years of her selfless service as the Novice Directress. On 3rd of April we bade her farewell. She left Patna on 5th of April.

Along with all the juniors of Patna Province and Sr. Priyanka from Allahabad, we were given a chance to taste the divine glory of God through Bible studies. On the 8th of April, the initial studies on Bible began with Fr. Jimmy Dabhi SJ as our resource person. His classes helped us to fall in love deeply with Jesus. This spiritual voyage which renewed and refreshed our understanding of the Holy Scriptures helped us to identify ourselves with Jesus. Bible studies concluded with 8 days retreat. On 26th May with a solemn Eucharist the short journey of Bible studies came to an end. We are grateful to Sr. Kiran and Sr. Chetena who made it possible for us to be a part of this study.



On the 5th of May, the missioning of Sr. Bindu as the new Provincial of Patna Province was held which was followed by a solemn Mass. In the evening a short recreation was prepared by all of us. On 7th May, Sr. Roslette went for her home visit and returned on 30th May a spending happy time with her loved ones at home.

Being the last day of the month of Rosary, Mariam Tola centre organized a Jericho Rosary on the 31st of May. We were happy to be part of it. The procession began from one of the families and concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Mariam Tola centre.

As the proverb wisely says “Experience is the best teacher.” On 22nd of June our 2nd year Novices along with Sr. Sneha headed to Chirag for a village experience. Their absence was felt yet we pray and wish them an enriching experience.

Chirag Niwas, Kritpura

Inter community picnic to Jalandhar: The month of April provided some rest and relaxation to some of the community members as they joined the CJ members of neighbouring communities for a picnic to Jalandhar. It was organised in two groups so that it didn't affect the mission of the community. Watching the Indian and Pakistan Armies parade at Wahga border at Punjab was heart throbbing experience and put us all in great patriotic spirit and increased our admiration for the country's security forces.



Children's Parliament: Chirag has 10 children's parliaments in the villages of Chausa Block. On 17th to 20th April, we organised 3 days intense training for these 10 groups. The children took responsibility to prevent school drop outs, care for the environment and the cleanliness of the surroundings. On the last day we had a children's parliament team elected for the CHIRAG and they would be part of programme planning for the villages.

Farewell to Fr. Anil: On 18th of April Catholics of Kripura village gathered in Chirag campus to bid farewell to Fr. Anil our parish priest. He had been a very good pastor - people centred and had been very supportive for all the spiritual needs of the community and for the people of Kritpura.



Summer Camp: From April 20th to 10th May we had organised summer camp for the children of class four and five from our supplementary centres. Around 500 children in 5 batches took active part in the three days residential programme. The main focus area was building self-confidence. It was learning, through fun and laughter.

May Month for Mother Mary: As the whole month was dedicated to Mother Mary, Chirag had rosary with the people every day in front of Our Lady's grotto.

POCSO ACT: On 6th of May Sr. Cynthia was invited to train the young brothers of Buxar Diocese on POCSO Act. On 29th of June Sr. Cynthia was the resource person for a day of training on POCSO Act for the teachers of Bellaon School.



Trainings of SHG women: In the month of June Chirag team was engaged in training SHG women on Government Schemes and detergent making. More than 500 women took part in it. Some of the women who attended the same training last year and received the benefits of some of the

schemes gave witness and encouraged other women to work towards it patiently. We also had training for 350 women in 3 villages for making detergent.

GOALS Through Education

Sponsorship: It's a new project which we received after waiting patiently for the last two years. Through this project we were able to admit 7 children of our



non-formal centres in Sr. Mary's Hindi medium. Most of these children's parents work in brick kiln and it was one

of the happiest experiences for us to see the children in their formal school uniform. Through the same project we are also supporting three youth for their professional courses- nursing, B.Ed and ITI.

St. Joseph's Training Centre, Khunti

On the first itself Sr. Anita Samad went with Fr. Sunil O.Prem for vocation fostering to Simdega and met girls studying in class 8 & 9. Sr. Anita Michael went to Patna to join Sr. Kiran and team to go to Srinagar at the conclusion of our term as the Province Leadership team. Repair work started in April as there are number of cracks developed in the building. On 11,12&13 people celebrated **ljgqy ipZ** worship of Sal trees. All over they put the **ljuk** flags, red stripes on white – town or village, all over it was very colourful. Sr. Prisca made a short visit to us when she came to give a programme to the IBVM Sisters.

We celebrated 1st May, St. Joseph the Worker as our Institution feast enjoying dinner with our immediate neighbors the CTC Sisters, OCDs & the Norbertines. On 7th Sr. Sudha together with Sr. Kiran visited Asha Kiran in Muzaffarpur. Fr. Dominic SJ took us to the different vocational training centers, and explained the working of it. Sr. Sudha returned on the 10th; the same day was the foundation laying of the SABS (Adoration sisters) of their formation house. From that day Sr. Arpita SABS started staying with us for supervising the work. 13th May was election day in Khunti. The whole diocese had worked hard, conducting meeting in all the parishes and villages to strengthen people's will to vote for the right leaders. After casting the vote late afternoon Sr. Anita with her brother-in-law went home to celebrate her parents' Platinum Jubilee.

Sisters Vinaya and Harshita paid a short visit. Sr. Sudha joined Sr. Harshita to Chaibasa to get 2 candidates. Next day they returned to Patna with lots of vegetables.

Sr. Sudha went to Buxar to cast vote. On 4th June all were glued to the mobiles to know the result; the long-awaited day when the election result was out.

On 8th and 9th Srs. Bindu and Soumya paid us a visit. They went around the building took note of cracks, materials used and other things, went around seeing the land. In the afternoon of the same day and the next Srs. Anita and Sudha took them to two of the villages for family visit and a study of the local conditions. 13th being the feast of St. Norbert, we went to the parish for Mass, in the evening we had dinner at the parish. Srs. Namita and Roshini spent a few days and visited the famous Patratu Dam. We had the farewell Mass for Anita Samad as she was leaving for Batbanga in the evening.

St. Joseph's Convent Provincial House, Digha Ghat

The Provincial House community welcomed **Sr. Roselette CJ** as she assumed the responsibility of the COIN Novice Directress. We wish her God's blessings in her new mission of forming our future generation and expressed our gratitude to Sr. Manju who guided our young ones for the past 6 years and left for Delhi.

Due to firecrackers set off by the wedding party procession on the road, there was a fire in our campus late on April 20th. With the Divine intervention, the fire was extinguished by the fire engine and all the sisters. During the chaos to put off the fire, Sr. Vandana fell and fractured her right ankle; she was hospitalized and had to undergo a surgery.



also honoured with gifts and a delicious meal.

May 1st Workers day was celebrated expressing our gratitude and appreciation for their contribution to us; we had a meaningful prayer service with them. They enjoyed the meal served and the gifts given to them. On the same day the contractors and labour involved in the construction of the Mary Ward Home (seniors' home) were



May 5th was a significant day for the Patna Province; **Sr. Bindu Pulianthuruthel** was missioned as the 6th Provincial Superior of the Province. A large number of sisters gathered in the Provincial House to witness the missioning. On behalf of the Province, Sr. Jaya



conveyed our appreciation to **Sr. Kiran and the team** for their invaluable contributions over the past six years towards the Province's growth.

The Solemn Holy Mass was offered for special blessings on Sr. Bindu and her team for the coming 6 years. Fr. Donald SJ the Provincial of

Patna Jesuits was the main celebrant. On the same evening, the sisters and formees presented a cultural program.

The Provincial team had three days of orientation from 27th – 29th May directed by Archbishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. William D' Souza SJ.



St. Joseph's Convent, Gulni

Survival in the rising temperature: Amidst scorching heat Mary Ward Development Centre tried to reach out to the people in far and nearer villages making lots of adjustment along the way. However, in the month of June the heat was unbearable and all remained in doors, even when the power supply was very irregular, thanks to Helen CJ for the home remedies prepared for the co-workers and for us.

Test and update of the Centres: Our SEC children had their quarterly test in all the centers in two groups. We are happy to see the improvement they have made. Many children who were not going to school earlier and drop out children are now admitted in the government schools and are doing well after they have come in contact with the centers. We wish them all a bright future as we would support them through the savings of the mothers in the SHGs and IGA.

Training on IGA : We had Surf Making training as part of the **Income Generating Activities** for the SEC trainers so that they inform people especially SHGs women about the opportunities for the income generation activities that MWDC provides for them.

Vocational training: We are happy to share with you that the 4th batch of Computer Trainees had their first computer and spoken English test on 22th June and 29th June respectively. We are happy that our local youth have opportunities to avail the facility of learning computer locally through MWDC; this would certainly enable them to find a suitable job as well would be able to be safe from the hands of the human traffickers.

Meetings and seminars: Ancy CJ attended the Core Committee meeting of the Forum of eligious for Justice and Peace was held from 9 to 10 June 2024 at Holy Spirit Hospital, Andheri, and Mumbai. The National Executive Committee (NEXCO) of the Forum of Religious for Justice and Peace held its meeting from 11 to 12 June at Atma Darshan, Andheri, and Mumbai. The executive members studied the concepts of neighborocracy and sociocracy as a new model for elections within the Forum which in turn would become a meaningful new alternate model for the religious congregations in India.



Good bye and welcome: The Community welcomed Sr. Mary Paul on her arrival to Gulni in May as the animator of the community; she took charge of the community and went back to Bongaigaon, as she had still the responsibility there. We bid good bye to Cecilia CJ as she completed her term of office as the animator of the community. We are grateful to you dear Sr. Cecilia for your dedicated service here in Gulni.

