



# Patna



# Glimpses

July – September 2024

Volume 27

## COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE

The month of July began with the missioning of Sr. Vianney as the animator of the Bongaigaon community by Sr. Mary Paul. On the same day Sr. Bindu our provincial



missioned Sr. Pragma as the animator of the Bathbanga community. The members wished God's blessing upon them, the community and the mission. After the missioning ceremony, we had the solemn Eucharistic celebration in both the places.



**Bathbanga:** The Feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated with different activities. Since, it was the jubilee year for the Santal mission, the celebration was held at Marianpahad, Bathbanga. After the Holy Mass, there was football match between hostel boys and girls. It was followed by drawing and quiz competitions based on the life of St. Ignatius and the Santal Mission. In the evening, we enjoyed a well prepared cultural programme, in honour of our Jesuit priests.

**Bongaigaon:** On 20th July Srs. Leshina and Vianney attended C.R.I meeting in the Pastoral Centre, Bongaigaon. Br. Sunil Britto, a Christian Brother was the resource person; he spoke on Environment and our responsibility to take care of the whole creation and preserve it for the future generations. We had a gathering with the Bellamguri community as we said farewell to Sr. Mary Paul who is missioned to Gulni after having laboured in Assam for many years as pastoral sister, vocation promoter and community animator.

**Singla:** On 8th August Sr. Amalia took Monita, one of the supporting staff of our school to Gay Ganga Jeevan Jyoti hospital for hysterectomy. She was financially helped by Sr. Reena from the school. Our community extended financial help, accompaniment and prayers to Selma, our parishner who suffered a severe heart attack. As the family is too poor, Sr. Amalia accompanied her brother to raise funds and she was taken to Gangtok, but sadly she died on the way; now we are planning to provide free education to her only son.

**Kattibary:** The community celebrated Sr. Lynette's Golden Jubilee on 8th September, the birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary. Our sisters from Bathbanga, Gulni and Sikandra came to add the joy of Sr. Lynette and all of in the community.



**Namchi :** We had shortage of water in the month of August. A few times we bought water for our use. Sisters and hostellers went to the nearby village for bathing and washing the clothes. The CRI meeting was attended by Sr. Roseline which was held in North Point Darjeeling. The theme of meeting was AI [Artificial Intelligence].



**Mary Ward, Bankipore:** On 16th July, Sr. Josepha said good bye to us as she went for her eternal reward and Sr. Lydia followed her on 29th August. The sisters of the community have been joyfully caring for them in their last days ensuring maximum possible support, be it spiritual, emotional or material. The visits of the



sisters from the neighboring St. Joseph's Community, priests from the Bishop's House and many visiting sisters, priests friends and family comforted them. Our senior sisters who needed special care and attention stayed in the Mary Ward Infirmary, Bankipore until 7th September, 2024, when they were brought to the newly constructed seniors' home near the Provincial House, Mary Ward Home, Digha Ghat. Mary Ward Home was ready to welcome Srs. Prerita, Silveria and Manju and Srs. Agnes and Arpita who would care for them along with the lay help. We had the blessing of the house and Holy Mass offered for them in the evening of 7th, followed by supper.

## **EDUCATION MINISTRY**

The education ministry witnessed a lot of co-curricular activities – ***cultural activities, sports, art and craft both at the school level and inter-school level***, during these months.

All the schools celebrated the ***Independence day*** of our country on 15<sup>th</sup> of August, commemorating that historical event of the dawn of 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, when India was freed from the clutches of the British colonizers and began to traverse the path of development. Cultural events were held to highlight the sacrifices of our freedom fighters, and all those who continue to contribute to the nation building.

Another event celebrated in all our schools is the ***Teachers' Day*** on 5<sup>th</sup> September, where the students honored their teachers with many activities – prayer service, cultural program, gifts, and words of appreciation and so on. It's a day that the teachers and the students alike look forward to every year.

**Seminar for teachers :** SJC organized a seminar for the teachers of SJC Bankipore, SJC – Bihar Board, Jethuli and Mary Ward Kindergarten on 24th August, 2024. The resource person for this seminar was Fr. Suresh Mathew, the former editor of current magazine. He enriched the teachers with his valuable viewpoints and his approach towards life and learning. He filled in a new spark of enhancing our teaching





techniques from student's view point. The seminar was highly interactive and touched a new chord of our perception. Around 220 teachers participated in the seminar.

**We now take you through some of the events particular to each school.**

We start with the tiny tots of **St. Mary's Pre-Primary School, Namchi**, who had various activities on a daily basis for three weeks, as per the instructions by the Sikkim government according to the New Education Policy. Sr. Shobhana was very busy uploading daily activities with photos on the Government website. The month of July ended with '*Priti Bhoj* (a meal)' which was prepared by the parents of our students for the parents and staffs in school itself. There was one week program of Sweksha Pakawara in the school.



By no way the tiny tots of **Mary Ward Kindergarten, Bankipore**, were to sit back and relax; this is a year when the Jubilee bells are ringing in their school, of the **25 silver years** of the institutions' thriving existence. The entire campus celebrated the opening ceremony on 6<sup>th</sup> July, with cultural activities; Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura, the Archbishop of Patna was the Chief Guest. The ceremony concluded with the planting of sapling in our JPIC garden by the Chief Guest, sisters, teachers and children. The campus now awaits a new

statue of Venerable Mary Ward before the closing of the Jubilee year in December this year.

**St. Mary's School, Singla**, promoting the integrity of creation, organized a fancy dress competition with dresses made out of thrown away materials that captured the fancy of the audience.

**SJC – BSEB** conducted fancy dress competition for classes LKG to III, with the 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF INDIA & ENVIROMENT' children came out with their hidden talents and beautiful presentation giving the values and



importance of environment.



On 2nd and 3rd of September our students went to Patliputra sports club for basketball tournaments and four of our students are selected for the district level. Hindi Day celebration was another special event of the season.

**SJC – ICSE** – The parents' meeting held for the class X stressed upon the importance of strengthening discipline and good behavior among the students. Emphasis was laid upon the usage of Campus Care App and the parents were asked to check their ward's attendance regularly. Sr. Josephine, the Principal enlightened the parents regarding the draw backs of non-attending classes that is catching up since many students complete Higher Secondary studies along with coaching for Common Entrance exams.



**Orientation for students:** Rotary Patna Midtown held an interactive awareness session on sex education and menstrual hygiene at SJC on 13th September. The speakers included Dr. Amrita Rakesh, a consultant oncologist at Savera Cancer hospital, Patna and Dr. Apoorva Nidhi, a resident at the same hospital. They busted the myths and taboos associated with these concepts with the help of medical knowledge and scientific facts.

SJC hosted the ASISC inter-school debate competition on 4th May, 2024 with the theme for the topic for the junior category "*Education fosters democracy*" and for the senior category "*Social media has led to a failure in communication.*". In both the categories our girls bagged the second prize.

SJC Bankipore conducted the CISCE zonal level **Table- Tennis** and **Kho – Kho** tournament and five of our students were the winners of table tennis and two of them were selected for national level which was held in Kolkota. Twelve of our Kho – Kho players were selected to play at the regional level at Ranchi. Our **Badminton** players did well in the zonal and regional levels and were selected for National level at Bangalore. A few of our students are selected by **SGFI** (Sports and Games Federation of India) from which selection to Olympic games could be possible. Suhana Gupta and Gargi, Abilasha and Abishree will be representing Bihar – Jharkhand region in **Lawn tennis, Skating and Chess** respectively in the national level. Our **Karate** students secured eight gold medals in the Zonal, four in the regional and two bronze in the national level.



**NSB, Shahpur:** The **Quiz** Competition held in Piru in the Diocesan level, NSB, Shahpur students bagged the 2nd prize. **Hockey** tournament was held in the District level in Maharaj's College at Ara. NSB girls under 16 years, won the first prize. They now have to play at the state level. One of our girls won 2nd Prize in a speech competition held at the Diocesan Level in Catholic High School, Ara.

Within the school too, many competitions were held, such as essay writing, speech, hand writing, recitation, fancy dress, solo song, solo dance etc. Hindi diwas celebrations were organized.



**Bathbanga:** Mrs. Christine, who runs the **Saphara project** for the adolescent girls to help them to recognize their worth and help them to stand on their own feet, visited us and she stayed with us. The following day, she had an interactive session with our Saphara students. She was very much impressed by their response. PTM was called for the hostellers' parents to express our concerns regarding the hostellers, for their study, discipline and other matters concerning them.

**Dumraon:** On 21<sup>st</sup> Srs. Karuna and Tanushree went for an educational tour with the students of class 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to Bodhgaya, the place of enlightenment of Lord Buddha, and the birthplace of Buddhism.

## **HEALTH MINISTRY**

All the members of the health ministry had a two-day meeting and discernment program in Patna. Our resource person was Archbishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. William D'Souza SJ. During the business session we selected members for the Dumraon Health Centre Revival Committee with Srs. Lissy (Chair), Teresita, Shanti and Anita Michael as members. They were entrusted with the responsibility to





study the situation, draw up a plan for the revival and submit the report to the Provincial for consideration and implementation.

Being invited by Sr. Sneha from Chirag, Sr. Lilly went to Chirag to give health education to the girls who are being trained by them. Sr. Prabha was invited by St Mary's School, Buxar to give a talk to the students concerning health.

On 14th Sr. Prabha went to Mokama to attend a meeting conducted for doctors and Sr. Teresita attended one such meeting in Bangalore in the last week of September.

## **PASTORAL MINISTRY**



**St. Monica's feast** was celebrated in all the parishes as she is the patron saint of '**Mahila Sangh**', an organization of mothers in the parishes. In most parishes where our sisters are, they took active part in preparing the women spiritually and organizing the celebration in appreciation of the mothers.

Other pastoral events reported for this edition of the Patna Glimpses is the feast of St. Ann and Joakkim celebrated in Bankipore and Shahpur as the **grant parents' day**; they were specially prayed for and honoured after the Holy Mass. The feast of **St. Mary Vianney**, the patron of parish priests, was celebrated in all the parishes. **Logos Bible quiz** enthused many of our sisters; the sisters participated themselves and also encouraged the children, youth and the seniors alike to participate in the same; our Sr. Poonam from Shahpur, and Srs. Justina and Vijaya from Bankipore secured prizes. Sr. Selina and others prepared the **Cruz Vir (Soldiers of Christ)** children for the celebration of the feast of the Holy Cross in the parish at Shahpur on 15<sup>th</sup> September; during the Mass the children renewed their promise to remain faithful to Christ throughout their lives.

**Lepchbusty (Singla)** celebrated the Feast day of their Patron St. Ignatius of Loyola. Sr. Cecilia took the Students along with the Parishioners from Singla to Lepchbusty for the celebration.

**Our sisters from Bongaigaon reports :** "In the month of August we had 30 women staying with us



for three days; they were from another Christian denomination having Bible studies in the Pastoral Centre by their own resource persons. Whenever the Pastoral Centre has program we are asked to keep the women since there isn't sufficient place at the Centre.

The **Jesus Youth** of the diocese had 3 days of retreat in the Pastoral Centre. There were more than 100 young people who joined for the program. The young girls stayed with us for 3 nights. Sr. Leshina also joined them for the 3 days retreat. Sr. Leshina with her new found knowledge and enthusiasms helps the college students and has prayer service on every Fridays. Sr. Jaya C.J was part of the animation team."



**Chirag:** 9 days of Rosary and Novena was held in Chirag for the people of Kritpura in preparation for the birthday of our Blessed Mother. A rosary procession was held from the center of Kritpura village and was concluded in Chirag campus with Mass on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## **SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY**

**CHIRAG** - In July, a day of legal aid training, with emphasis on POCSO was given to all the staff of Chirag by Sr. Cynthia. She is a resource person for POCSO Act training to various Schools and religious institutions in and around Bihar. Our tailoring students underwent a **training on health and hygiene** under the able guidance of Sr. Lilly. On 3rd of August, we had organised an **Interactive Session with MP** (Member of Parliament) representing Buxar, Mr. Sudhakar Singh and his team. Chirag Staff and Youth actively participated in this event having studied the needs of the people in our villages and drafted three memorandum that highlighted the poor infrastructure condition, the dysfunctional Primary Health Centre and the poor implementation of **'Jal Nal Yojana'** (government program to provide drinking water); soon we could see the rectifications in the infrastructure!



Sr. Bindu, our Provincial's interaction with the youth in the centre and her visit to the supplementary education centres in the villages gave a boost to all involved.

Sr. Rajni from Holy Cross congregation who is the person responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project supported by Swiss League of Catholic Women visited our villages and was inspired by the progress our women have made through the livelihood programme.



On 7th and 8th of September Chirag Team organised **girl child day** in Tiyyara and Chausa Block. Children in good number participated in the rally that sensitised the community on **Gender Equality and Gender Justice**. The concluding program was held in the common ground of the village where hundreds of people from the village gathered; the Chairman of Chausa was the

chief guest and many other social activists of the place took active part in it. In September two days of training was held for our staff on **'Community Led Development and Leadership'** by a team from Sewa Kendra, Patna. They awoke the social responsibility of the staff towards their society and helped them understand the participatory approach to bring changes in the community.

In the second week of July, **Bongaigaon** conducted a training Program for the Government teachers called 'Teaching, Learning Materials'. There were 30 participants and 3 Resource persons. The teachers are better equipped for the service.

A new **Supplementary education centre** along with the existing ones, was opened in Ossai Ganj, **Shahpur** for the government school going children from the Mahadalit community, with a teacher who is also from the same community that is extremely backward on parameters such as, poverty, social status, education and employment. **Professional Training:** Sr. Modesta Foundation has extended a new programme to support professional training for students who cannot afford the expenses for the training. Under this programme this year we have three girls and 3 boys for General Nursing and one for B.Ed. Course. Sr.Kiran gave a **refresher course** to the teachers and supervisors of the Social Work Center from 11 – 13th July. This equipped them with new techniques to improve their teaching skills.



**Children's Parliament:** This is something very new to us. Shahpur Social Service Center, joined the "Provisional Neighbourcracy Parliament of India" (PNP –I) – an organization involved with Neighbourcracy movement adopting Sociocracy methods in discussions. We launched this programme – Children's Parliament – on 15<sup>th</sup> August this year. About 30 students of various age groups (8 – 15 years), mainly from government schools came together, along with the sisters and the supervisors to discuss their problems. They spend an hour discussing the social



problems which they face in their village. This exercise is aimed at inclusion of children's recommendations in the upcoming UN document called, "Declaration on future Generation". After having conducted a few such sessions we had send some recommendations from these children to the UN under the name of 'Nirmala Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar'. We were happy to see the name of 'Nirmala Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar' among the short listed Institutions that sent the recommendations.

This is a platform where our children get a chance to voice their genuine concerns in the right place, where they might be heard. This is a success story of our SSC Shahpur. Could this programme be taken up by any of our schools and other SSCs?

## JPIC



The First Patna Province **JPIC Meet "JUSTICE JOURNEY"** was convened at SJC, Bankipore on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

The gathering was formally inaugurated by Sr.Prsica. Five of our schools, namely Singla, Shapur, SJC Jethuli, SJC Bihar Board and SJC ICSE participated with enthusiasm and dedication. The keynote sessions were conducted by Sr Ancy on JPIC and Sr. Cynthia, on UN and SDG goals. The JPIC Province Coordinator, Sr Jyotirmayee enlightened the Meet on the aims and values of JPIC.

Assistant Province Teacher Coordinator Mrs.Nandita Verma motivated children to be the change. School coordinator of SJC Bankipore Mrs.Soma Chatterjee provided an insightful perspective on the ecological dimensions of JPIC. Province Teacher Coordinator Mrs Archana Sharma sensitized the attendees, urging them to integrate JPIC into their lives emphasizing the importance of sustained efforts and commitments.

Approximately 65 students and 15 teachers and 10 sisters from various schools actively engaged in the programme expressing their dedication and passion through captivating performances, presentations





and enthusiastic concluding ceremony. On the first day after the sessions students of Singla and Shapur were privileged to have an outing to explore Patna, the capital of Bihar. We visited Gurudwara (the holy place of Sikh religion) and had the dinner out in Marine drive which was enjoyed by all. The core group of Coordinators, teachers, and Sisters convened a meeting to decide on the action plan and provide a feedback on the two days event. Mrs. Nandita Verma took over as the new Province Teacher Coordinator, while Mrs Mili Das was elected as the Assistant Province Teacher Coordinator. With the support from all the Principals and Coordinators and Sr. Nilima the meet was a resounding success. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of everyone, especially our schools in Patna for the financial support and all the arrangements for the gathering.

Commemorating the World Ozone Day the JPIC council of **SJC, Bankipore** organized an Environmental quiz for classes 9 to 11. The quiz not only instilled enthusiasm within the students but also helped us to create awareness about certain social and climatic issues which are often sidelined.

**SJC – BSEB** - As we are facing climate issues we conducted some activities on environment. We encouraged the students to plant some saplings of herbs and to prepare organic manure. During the assembly they presented a role play based on environment.



**Chirag** team celebrated 4 days of Environment Day from 5th to 8th August by planting 400 trees in 22 villages with the active participation of children and their parents. We received 200 saplings from the Forest Department and the other 200 plants were bought on a subsidized rate.

Sr. Prabha being a member of the Rotary Club, the Buxar unit of it planted a number of trees in the campus of St. Joseph's school, **Dumraon** in the presence of Fr. Bhaskar, Sr. Karuna, Sr. Prabha and all the teachers.

## FMW (FRIENDS OF MARY WARD)



SJC, Bankipore unit of the Friends of Mary Ward organized a series of competitions such as drawing, painting, sketching, essay writing, story writing and declamation, in honor of Venerable Mary Ward on 27th September 2024. The competitions focused on helping the students understand the life and legacy of Mary Ward through her maxims. Some of the maxims that were creatively expressed by the students of various classes were -

1. It is an honour to work for God.
2. Do good and do it well.
3. Be kind and merciful towards the poor and do not call them beggars.

The competitions saw enthusiastic participation of the students and were efficiently managed by the members of FMW.



## Outreach Programme to Gulni



Friends of Mary Ward members that comprised teachers as well as students visited St Joseph's School, Gulni, Nawada as part of an Outreach project on Saturday, 28th September under the guidance of Sr. Vijaya CJ, the sister mentor of FMW, SJC, Bankipore.

The tour saw an engaging participation of many students and teachers who volunteered to reach out to the children studying at St. Joseph's School, Gulni. The team was given a hearty and warm welcome by the students and staff of the school. The teachers and students held interactive sessions with the children there and engaged them with games and activities like musical chair, role play and riddles. They also made them aware of their future role as responsible citizens of the country. Finally, the children were given gifts comprising stationery articles and some sweets as a token of love and gratitude. The day ended on a hopeful note with a sense of happiness on the part of the members.

## FORMATION



Our candidates have prayers, regular classes and activities aimed at learning languages and developing their talents. They engage us with

lovely cultural programmes on different occasions, such as the farewell for our 3 candidates who were going to Allahabad to begin their Postulancy on 31<sup>st</sup> July as well as Independence day and the feast of Mother Mary on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

COIN Novices Directress, Sr. Roselette CJ had a fall and had to take complete rest for the healing of the fractured leg; therefore Sr. Manisha had to return to Patna to accompany the novices while the postulants will be accompanied by Sr. Ramya of Delhi Province at Jhansi.

Four of our 2nd year COIN novices, after having completed two weeks of village experience under the guidance of Sr. Sneha CJ and community, had their time of prayer and reflection in Mathridham Ashram along with three 1st year COIN novices. The second year novices were away from the novitiate for a month for community experience in our communities at Shahpur, Dumraon, Chirag and Itarhi.

The COIN Tertiaries travelled to Namchi to begin their tertianship programme 'School of the Heart' from July, under the guidance of Sr. Chetana. They are having different modules related to our Mary Ward, charism, Constitutions, discernment and other topics taken by different resource persons. Month of August - September they had Spiritual Exercises directed by Fr. Jimmy Dhahi SJ. We assure them of our prayers and support as they journey through our formation.





**May Mother Mary Intercede for all of us**

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