



PF/2018/1

FEBRUARY

NEWS BULLETIN

For Private Circulation only

**My Dear Sisters Friends and Associates,**

I recently came across a thought provoking write up and I felt sharing it with you.

In life, some may walk, others may run, but remember the Lord gave the tortoise and the horse the same days to reach Noah's ark. Your journey might be rough and tough but you will definitely get to your destination.

Jacob looked at Joseph and saw a good son!

The ten brothers looked at Joseph and saw a useless dreamer!! The travellers looked at Joseph and saw a slave!!! Potiphar looked at Joseph and saw a fine servant!!!! Potiphar's wife looked at Joseph and saw a potential boyfriend!!! The prison officers saw in Joseph a prisoner!!! How wrong were all of them!!! God looked at Joseph and saw a Prime Minister of Egypt in waiting!!! Don't be discouraged by what people see in you!!! Be encouraged

by what God sees in you!! Never underrate the person next to you because you never know what the Lord has deposited in that person. Your maid may be a Chief Executive Officer in waiting for a company which shall employ your child. Your garden-boy may be a president in waiting. Remember David got the anointing of becoming a King while he was a simple child herding sheep. Esther was a simple orphaned girl yet she was a Queen in waiting. Let's share God's love and make the world a better place to live.



***IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW PEOPLE SEE YOU, IT MATTERS HOW GOD SEES YOU***

*God is God:*

*He doesn't care about age, no wonder he blessed Abraham.*

*He doesn't care about experience, no wonder he chose David.*

*He doesn't care about gender, no wonder he lifted Esther.*

*He doesn't care about your past, no wonder he called Paul.*

*He doesn't care about your physical appearance, no wonder he chose Zacchaeus.*

*He doesn't care about fluency in speech, no wonder he chose Moses.*

*He doesn't care about your career, no wonder he chose Mary Magdalene; a prostitute.*

*All I know is that my God never changes*

*He never made a promise he wouldn't keep*

*He never saw a person he wouldn't help*

*He never heard a prayer he wouldn't answer*

*He never found a soul he wouldn't love*

*He never found a sinner he wouldn't forgive.*

*Let us take a firm determination in this year of 2018 to commune with a God of this nature as we look at our Provincial Chapter recommendations and as we look forward to all our forthcoming meetings and General Chapter 2018.*

*With good wishes and Prayers,*

Sr. Regina Kottackal, F.C  
Provincial





### St. Teresa's Convent, Kidderpore



Sr. Margaret Subba fc got the '*Nation Builder Award*' on the 14th October 2017, from the Rotary India Literacy Mission for her works of literacy in Silliguri. She started St. Joseph's School, Matigara, Siliguri (Bengali medium) within the campus with the vision of empowering the children of the Bangladeshi Refugees and the stone breakers at the banks of the *Mahananda*. She engaged the children from the mainstream school to teach these children in the initial years through a programme called "each one teach one." From the humble beginning of mere thirty children today it has reached a roll strength of 307 and classes up to IV with regular teachers. Besides this, Sister also organized the students' visit to Jesu Ashram on a regular basis, involved the children in caring for the elderly through the Grannys' Programme and many more such outreach programmes.

Mr. Ali Abbas one of our supportive staff was awarded as faithful worker by the Telegraph Kolkata along with Ms. Ratna De the assistant teacher.

### Interschool fest – Rotary Club

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017, St. Teresa's Sec. School, together with the Rotary Club of Calcutta Presidency organized an interschool fest. Six schools from the city participated in the fest under various events like extempore, one minute to fame, poster making and group dance.



### Farewell

On the 6th December 2017, the School bid farewell to two of its teachers Ms. Ratna De and Ms. Nina Dutta, after their dedicated service to the institution for 32 and 30 long years respectively. Ms. Ratna De had joined the school in the year 1987 and had been the Physical Education teacher since then. "P.T. Miss" as the students call her was not just associated with the main stream school but also involved herself in activities like the *Sukanya* project of the West Bengal government, Guide trainer, Yoga trainer, Rock Climbing and many more. She has even introduced all these to the students both of the regular school and the evening coaching classes. It was just right for her to receive the 'Life Time Achievement Award' from the *Telegraph Association* for her contribution in building the society. Ms. Nina Dutta had a long association with the school, first as a student for nine years and then as a teacher for thirty years. The students expressed their gratitude and appreciation for their loving teachers through a medley of song and dance. We also thanked Ms. Felicia Sebastian and Mrs. Sreerupa Bandhopadhyay for their service to our institution and wished them God's blessings for their future endeavors.

*Sr. Juliet George fc*

### Little Flower Convent, Basanti

Catholic Church of Basanti had two Novenas in the month of September. The first one was in honour of Our Lady of Velankanni from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September. The novena started with the hoisting of the Flag of Our Lady followed by a solemn procession to the Church for the Eucharistic Celebration. The novena ended with special prayers after which the Velankanni flag was lowered. The second novena was dedicated to the Patron Saint of our Parish Church, St. Teresa of Child Jesus. It started on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Many faithful from different villages and sub-stations attended this novena and received graces. The feast of St. Teresa of Child Jesus was celebrated solemnly on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. These novenas bring people closer to God and one another.



## Jubilee... Golden Jubilee

The day finally dawned on 21<sup>st</sup> October-2017, when the Golden bells resounded in the Island of Basanti, wishing Congrats to Sr. Mary Emelia Dias and Sr. Shanti Sardar for their 50 years of dedicated service as FCs. Rt. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop of Baruipur Diocese along with many other concelebrants solemnized the Holy Eucharist at 10.30 am. Our Boarders led the Jubilarians and the main celebrant, along with other priests to the altar with an Entrance Dance. After the Holy Eucharist there was a short felicitation programme for the Jubilarians. Many sisters, family members and relatives of the Jubilarians and people doubled our joy by their presence.



*Sr. Roniya Xavier fc*

## St. Teresa's Girls' High School (HS), Basanti

The school participated in Block level "Kanyashree Divas" celebration by participating in group dance and got 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. In the Sit and Draw competition we were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. The Independence Day 2017 was celebrated with great patriotic feelings by all three departments of schools in our compound: Primary Bengali and English and High School (HS). There was Inter-school Block level Youth Parliament, Extempore Speech and Quiz Competitions in our School. Our students participated in all the above and came 1<sup>st</sup> in Youth Parliament and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Quiz Competition. There was also an Inter-School sub-divisional level Art Martial Karate Competition for girls. Our school was the venue. Retreat was organized for all our Catholic/Christian students on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December '17.

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 17, the English Medium School celebrated Christmas, gave farewell to the six outgoing students of class IV of first batch, followed by a 'mini sports'. Parents of the students were present to witness the sports. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 nineteen students of classes XI-XII along with two Sisters and teachers went to Digha for two days study tour.

*Sr. Maxima Bara fc*

## Terai FC Get Together

21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 was a great day for Terai FCs; 28 Sisters from different communities gathered at St Joseph's convent Matigara. Sr. Juliet Rappai led us into prayer. Sr. Sheela Kullu conducted Bible quiz. Sr. Teresita organized games for the participants. There was a *stiff dance* by Sr. Juliet Rappai. At last Sr. Jacinta tested our general knowledge. It was a joyful day filled with laughter and fun. This gathering took place after a few years of gap. It evoked the spirit of FC bond. Our sincere gratitude to St Joseph's Community, Matigara for providing this opportunity to come together, relax and share our joy in abundance with one another for a greater effect to revitalize missionary zeal in the spirit of the Charism.

*Sr. Antonia Arulandu fc*

## Exposure to Palliative Care Unit in TATA Medical Centre

Working in Palliative Care Unit in TATA Medical Centre is an enriching experience for all of us. Patients come from different states and our neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Bhutan. As they come to the Palliative Care Unit in their last stages, we accompany them in their suffering and help them in their psychological and spiritual needs and finally in their last journey. Many spend their last days peacefully but some struggle till the end. In such cases we spend a lot of time with the patients and the family. We also give moral and psychological support to the family and help them to accept the reality. We are also glad to witness Christ and make our charism alive in and through our meaningful service to the people in TATA. We are much appreciated by both the staff as well as patients' parties for our hard work, dedication and commitment. This is a great encouragement for us. We are happy to be associated with TATA group as they offer quality service to the people who are really in need.

*Srs. Genevieve, Rani and Jyoti*



### News from Gosaba

Gosaba mission is growing steadily. Our school has reached up to class II. Twenty Five new students have joined this academic year making the total number of students 70 and six teachers. We celebrated the feast of the Assumption of our Lady and the Independence day of our motherland in the Parish. It began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Ujjwal Mondal. The National Flag was hoisted after the Mass by the chief guest Mr. Arit Doloi. The faithful paid homage to the martyrs of our nation by offering flowers. Sunday catechism children and CLC mothers of our parish gave a small programme on the Independence Day.

*Sr. Mariam Tete fc*

### Baidyapur news

We have daily mass from November 2017 onwards. The Sisters are involved in pastoral activities like teaching catechism and visiting the families. The new academic year started on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The medium of instruction was changed from Bengali to English from this academic year. Orientation to the teachers was given by Sr. Nirmala Dewan. On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 an awareness programme was given to the staff and students on the ban of plastic, food intake, plantation and birthday celebration (Save Environment and Healthy Living). There was an Investiture ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> January. We had Holy Spirit Mass on 20<sup>th</sup> January for the new academic year. Four teachers have been enrolled in D.El.Ed. Remedial and Spoken English classes are held for the needy. School has tried to get National Scholarship for 40 minority students.

*Sr. Nirmala Dewan fc*

### Nepal Mission

Three communities of Nepal mission were gathered at Perna Niwas Convent, Deonia on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 10 a.m. to discuss and prepare the blueprint for the activities of our communities in connection with the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Celebration of the Calcutta Province. After a short prayer by Sr. Mallika each community's plan was read out. It was a grace-filled time for us to reflect and share our experiences and opinions to form a region-wise/diocese-wise blue print for the year starting from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. We appreciate the visitors to Korobari who spend a few hours enjoying the beauty of nature and share the happiness of the Sisters.

*Sr. Jyoti Ekka fc, Deonia*

### Daughters of the Cross Jordighi

*"Be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create." Is.65.18*

December 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, was one of the joyous days in the history of Jordighi Parish. The feeling of the people of Jordighi was very similar to that of the Jews on the day of the inauguration of the temple of Jerusalem after 46 years of hard work and supervision of many priests. The newly built church was blessed by Rev. Fr. Santappan, Administrator of Raiganj diocese along with many priests. More than one thousand faithful were present for the occasion. The Eucharist began with a Santhali entrance dance followed by the blessing of the Church. Lunch was provided to all after the programme.

*Sr. Sampa Dhara fc*

### St. Joseph's Convent, Hatigopa

*'Many are the blessings the Lord has worked in our lives.'* This was the feeling within us when we gathered for the blessing of our new convent – St. Joseph's Convent Hatigopa on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017. We had the joy of having Sr. Gemma Barla, the Provincial of Rourkela and her Council with us. Fr. V.M. Thomas SDB, the Provincial of Guwahati Salesian Province, blessed the Convent and Sr. Regina Kottackal, our Provincial officiated the opening ceremony. The Province Council members, many priests and Sisters from the area, the villagers and the children from the school along with their parents were present for the occasion. The blessing ceremony was concluded with a fellowship meal.



Our school at Hatigopa is still trying to establish itself. However, it is a fast growing school with about 600 students. At present, the school is up to class IX. The construction of the school building is completed and the children are thrilled to walk into the newly furnished classrooms. The new academic session is just started.

Water is life giving.... We have just drilled a bore well and indeed we are lucky to have plenty of water both for the school and the convent. May the Lord be praised! We say a big thank you to everyone who have been instrumental in the growth of Hatigopa mission.

*Sr. Leela Mancheril fc*



### **Rinchenpong Mission**

Our mission in this beautiful place is to make Christ known, through education and give life to the people, by visiting families, Christian and non-Christian, the sick in the families and in the hospitals, consoling the bereaved families, and arranging prayer services. We visit sub-stations along with the priests and teachers. We conduct six hours adoration every month in our chapel with the teaching staff. S.C.C. prayer services are held in the houses and Catechism classes for Catholic and interested students. Last year we had regular Mass on Thursdays in the convent and Sundays in the church. In the school there are 179 students from L.K.G. to class VIII. Ten students of class VIII participated in the Leadership Training Course in Don Bosco school Malabasey along with association of Roman Catholic educational institutions of Sikkim in 2017. This helped them to gain confidence. Many competitions were held in our school such as G.K, Maths, singing, Drawing and painting. There was an inter-school Football match in our compound. We had two days Orientation for the teachers given by Sr. Shanti Picardo. The students prepared assembly programme with the help of the teachers. Class VIII students went for a picnic with their class teacher and school bid farewell to them. The difficulty we face is that we have very few students. The number of teachers is big in proportion to the number of students. Besides many mushroom schools have come up close by making it difficult to get more students. We have just a few Catholic students.

***Sr. Wilfrida Dung Dung f.c***

### **Mamring News**

Ivana Memorial Convent School, Mamring, successfully concluded the academic year 2017 on 12<sup>th</sup> December-2017 and started the Winter Holidays. Sikkim Regional CRI meeting was held at our place on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 18 members were present for the same. Christmas was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm. Sr. Deepshikha accompanied the Parish youth for carol singing. Parish day was celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> December 17, on the occasion of the feast of Holy Family. Rt. Rev. Stephan Lepcha Bishop of Darjeeling was the main celebrant. In his homily he emphasized the spirit of the family and the need for family prayer.

Fr. Elias Pinto, parish priest considering his health took retirement and went back to his native place Mangalore for a year. He celebrated his last Mass at our Parish on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, four other priests concelebrated with him. The parishioners organized a short programme in his honour. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 twenty parishioners accompanied him to Bagdogra airport.

Srs. Dipika, Pratima, Meena and Anusha had come to our community, for a few days. We enjoyed their presence in our community. Sr. Dipika and Sr. Deepshikha along with the youth of DonBosco Parish went to Paran for youth camp with the purpose of promoting vocation.

***Sr. Deepshikha Rai f.c***

### **Experiences with I.B.V.M Delhi**

When I look back and see my life's journey in Anand Bhawan Community, Delhi, I feel glad and blessed to be there as an active member of the community. I had ample opportunities to meet different types of people in our Sangamitra Apartment, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Dwaraka as well as in the school. When I was told to go to Delhi to begin my mission over there as school teacher, I gave many excuses like Moses but God wanted me to be there and experience his blessing and guidance which I cannot count. God allowed me to face the challenges to know my abilities and talents that He himself has blessed me with, therefore I was able to deal joyfully with 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> standards students mostly coming from Army and Air force background.

I also had a chance to interact with their parents during parent- teacher meetings. I enjoyed my teaching profession in Loreto convent school, Delhi Cantonment. Though for a short period I feel it was a golden opportunity given to me by the province to work with Loreto Sisters in Delhi. I felt happy to interact with young and energetic Christian students during catechism classes in the school as well as in the parish. Thus, I felt happy, satisfied and contented when children enjoyed my classes. Last but not the least teaching staff and the non-teaching staff were very good to me, it was a pleasure to work with them.

***Sr. Oliva Bilung f.c***



## Vocation Promotion

Meetings of vocation personnel were held at Hatighisha convent and St. Vincent's Home respectively. The Coordinator reflected with the groups the role of vocation promoter modelled on angel Gabriel. We are messengers on behalf of Jesus and the Congregation. Our role is to invite, instil confidence, assure the ongoing presence of the Spirit, communicate the message in an acceptable and free manner. The groups discussed the vocation programme:-

1. Direct Promotion through:- Individual meeting, Family visits, Vocation camps, Meeting school/ hostel students and Youth gathering 2. Long term plan of introducing vocation nurturing themes to children and youth:- a) Each promoter needs to own up the responsibility in prayer and surrender b) Make a study of the charism, life and mission of the province and congregation at large. c) Make a choice of candidates in the light of loyalty to God, self and congregation. The coordinator will work at the materials required for vocation promotion. The meetings were an encouragement for the group.

*Sr. Jessy Anthony F.C*

## Mountain Home – St. Helen's Convent, Kurseong

The Tea Gardens were closed for 104 days due to the strike for Gorkhaland in 2017. As a result the day labourers were unable to earn their bread. They were brought to the level of starvation. By the generosity of St. Helen's Teachers, St. Agnes' Convent, Howrah, and St. Teresa's School Kidderpore we were able to serve

the people with the ration- rice, dal, oil, flour, vegetables etc.

There is a deaf and dumb poor lady who lives alone in a house which was leaking with damaged planks of wood. She earns her living by collecting a little money from the passing by vehicles. Sr. Pranita and myself with our carpenters went to see how we can help this lady. Her reaction was very frightening. With a stick and a stone she came to attack us. We took refuge in the neighbouring house. We asked neighbourhood ladies to intervene in this. They tried but were not successful. We were about to return, and finally one of those ladies managed to make her understand the purpose of our visit. Then the whole spirit changed, suddenly she began to smile at us and accepted us into her house. It was a rickety pickety house. The carpenters did some measuring etc, in a week's time we began the repair work of the house. By the end of December we completed the repair work. Now she is very happy welcoming the Sisters and very friendly with us. We also gave her some provisions for Christmas and cake etc. On 17th December we celebrated Christmas with the coolies /porters of the town. We invited them for lunch. It was a good response. We spent time talking and listening to some of their problems. They were so happy and asked us to have Christmas party in 2018 in the evening where they can spend time in fun and frolic and have an opportunity to dance and relax. Tentatively we fixed the date for 16th Dec. 2018. We ended the party by giving all a blanket as a Christmas Gift.

*Sr. Rose Namattathil fc*

## Island Experience

It was a great surprise for us three Postulants when we were told about our going to Basanti. We were excited and waited eagerly for the day to come. On 22nd September 2017 we went there with Sr. Mariam Tete. As we arrived there we were greeted with the natural beauty of the place. We were very happy to discover many ponds in the compound of our Convent. We had interesting classes with Sr. Emelia Dias daily. We learnt a lot being there. We also went to visit the families with Sisters to the villages and for prayer services. Though language was a barrier for us we had a good time with our Sisters and three candidates there.

Little did we realize we had been there for 15 days than Sr. Veronica came there to remind us it was time for us to return to Kidderpore. We cherish those days of learning experience.

*Kumudini Lugun, Anita Hembrom and Rose Mary Rai*

## Congratulations!

Sr. Rajni Kerketta - B.ED.  
Sr. Jyotsna Lakra - T.T.C.  
Sr. Sangita Tigga - XII





### Helena Hostel, Diphu

Helena Hostel was blessed on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Fr. V.M. Thomas sdb, Provincial of Salesians of Don Bosco Guwahati Province was the main celebrant for the Eucharist of the day. Sr. Regina expressed her gratitude to Fr. V.M. Thomas for making us a part of the mega project of Don Bosco Educational Hub of Diphu, Assam. The programme began at 11.30 am with the Don Bosco students welcoming the guests with Karbi Poho (shawl) followed by a programme. The Chief guests were Dr. J. Alexander IAS, former Chief Secretary and Finance Minister, Karnataka and Rt. Rev. Paul Mattekatt DD, Bishop of Diphu. After the programme Sr. Regina inaugurated the New Hostel and Bishop Paul blessed the building. After the blessing there was Agape Meal.

*Sr. Jasmine Sebastian fc*

### Daughters of the Cross, Jorethang

Condolence prayer meeting was organized at *Sursadhan Niketan* annexe on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 for the repose of the soul of Sr. Teresa Anthony Carapiet FC, former headmistress of St. Francis School, Jorethang. It was presided over by Fr. Fintan Moktan, Principal, S.F.S. and attended by staff, ex-students, parish community members of Salghari and Jorethang.

In the beginning two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect for the departed soul followed by hymns by school and parish choirs. Fr. Stanny Sequira, Vice-Principal conducted the prayer service. Mr. B. P. Rai, a prominent writer presented the condolence letter written as a poem on behalf of the Parish Community. Two ex-students who are presently serving as assistant teachers at Government Senior Secondary School, Jorethang shared their memories and highlighted the contribution of Sr. Teresa Anthony.

*Sr. Francisca Lepcha fc*

### FC Associates- Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Gayaganga

We are happy to have quite a number of committed FC Associates with us. Every month we had different kinds of socio – pastoral activities as well as monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. In the month of August, Prison Sunday was celebrated in Siliguri Prison with Mass and entertainment. We had Recollection on 20<sup>th</sup> August. During the Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 16 Associates of the Daughters of the Cross took promise. They had dinner and entertainment. On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 there was Mass for the prisoners. Throughout the month the Associates recited rosary in their villages. In November 2017 they went on a picnic to Darjeeling, visited Sonada Church and the Grotto at St. Mary's Church, Kurseong. In December we conducted Christmas programmes in six villages as well as in the prison. The members are the tea garden workers who get holiday only on Sundays which makes it extremely difficult to engage in pastoral activities/monthly meetings even though they are happy to be part of the mission of the Daughters of the Cross.

*Sr. Shanti Picardo fc*

### News from St. Agnes' Howrah

We organized a fete on 16-17 Nov. 2017 for fund raising for the uplift of the poor and the needy. On 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. we had Sports at Howrah Municipal stadium with Mr. Laxmi Ratan Sukla, Honourable Youth and Sports Minister, West Bengal as chief guest. On 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. we celebrated Christmas in the school with carol singing and a Christmas play by the YCS students. LTSers, YCSers and Nature Club members arranged Carol singing and Christmas party for the Rainbow children. On the 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018 LTSers had orientation by Ms. Ajita Tiwari, an LTSer and Ex-student who introduced them to soft skills.

Nature Club students organized a rally in Howrah in protest against the use of plastic and gave awareness about the disposal of garbage. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 our Guide Girls went on an outing to the historical places of Calcutta. On the 20<sup>th</sup> January the school bid farewell to the first batch of ISC students. We celebrated the feast of St. Agnes on 21<sup>st</sup> January with our neighbouring F.C. communities, with prayer, fun and frolic and a delicious dinner, binding us in fellowship.

*Sr. Daisy Joseph fc*



## St. Joseph's Convent, Matigara

### “A teacher must be a perpetual Learner”

On the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017 a workshop on “Challenge in Education of 21<sup>st</sup> century” was held by the Madhuban Publication. The resource person Mr. Angshuman Paul was very effective in enlightening us with the challenges that can occur in our day to day class room teaching and the ways to cope with them. The entire workshop was an enriching experience with various activities which were helpful and interesting. It was successful in touching some of the few aspects of teaching which can go a miss. Well indeed! It was a day well spent for all of us which helped us add value to our profession.



Leadership Training



Yoga class



Independence Day

### Soaring High...



It is a dream for many to fly. The dream turned out to be a reality for our

Supportive Staff on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 as a maiden flight was arranged for them, from Calcutta to Bagdogra. There was excitement, joy as well as anxiety. They had an enjoyable time in the foot Hills of Himalayas. Thanks to our F.C Sisters as each community looked after them well, like gold.

They had a great opportunity to see Tea gardens, factories, Nepal,



Hongkong market etc. They will never forget the company of one another as well. The 2<sup>nd</sup> group left on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017. When the two groups met, they forgot certain duties of theirs by talking and comparing the time they had their flight, food, Journey, experiences in different communities etc...

### DIGNITY TO OUR BRETHREN

None of us thought that one day we will mingle with the transgender Community. 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 was a Red Letter Day for the compound of St. Vincent's Home. It was the Feast of Blessed Marie Therese our dear Foundress. Surely M.M.T must have been happy to see the F.Cs' new venture. There were 74 LGBT who responded to our invitation to come and share their life experiences. To interact with them there were some experts like Prof. Ms Gangotri Chakraborty, Fr. V.M Thomas sdb provincial Guwahati, Mr Rajiv Panja, Fr. Valerian Nazreth, Sr. Regina Kottackal and many others. Reason behind



this venture was to find ways of improving the lives of our socially derided brethren (it was just the beginning). We had organised games for them and then we had the fellowship meal with them. At the end of the programme all of us felt comfortable. They were given small gifts as tokens of love and appreciation.

*Sr. Dominica Kindo fc*



## An Associate looks at the new venture



Able led by Sr. Regina Kottackal, the Provincial and her team, the Daughters of the Cross took the initiative of organizing a programme on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 in “Celebrating Togetherness”- a platform for the LGBT group to discuss their challenges, misfortunes and the humiliation they face in day-to-day life on the occasion of Sesquicentennial Jubilee of the Province.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome in English and Hindi by Sr. Regina Kottackal & Sr. Cecelia Surin respectively. Be a Light- it is the only way to expel all darkness- the lamp was lit by the dignitaries to signify education for all in simple truths of life.

Ms. Sanjana Ram, the pioneer of “Koshish” the NGO, that assist LGBT persons, shared their vision and works to help them overcome situations of rejection and unwantedness and the opportunities that have been created for the community. Prof. Mrs. Gangotri Chakraborty, a Law professor, elucidated the various vistas of law and the significance of an individual’s dignity and self-respect. Fr. V.M Thomas sdb, the Provincial of Guwahati gave us a simple message to accept one another and live in harmony as a family, in a kingdom created by The Almighty.

A short interactive session was followed by some games. The guests shed their inhibitions, fears and doubts and participated with enthusiasm which was followed by lunch. We returned home, some of us wiser, some of us with a new understanding, and some of us even sceptical, but all definitely with hope.... “ Hope to see the light of change and hope to continue celebrating togetherness”.

*Mrs. Sabrena Pote ( Associates of the Daughters of the Cross)*

## My mission experience in Gurubathan

Gurubathan is a lovely place. I am enjoying here. My Nepali is improving. Sometimes we go to the substation for Mass, on foot. It is my great joy to experience the life of people here. They are very hard working. A few of the Associates of the Daughters of the Cross went to Calcutta to participate in the sesquicentennial jubilee celebration on 1st November. They were happy and enjoyed because some of them travelled by train for the first time. 22nd December, the last day of the school was well organized by Sr. Annette with games like Micky Mouse, Merry Go Round, Car etc. Children enjoyed the day thoroughly. Christmas Vigil Mass was at 7 p.m. in the parish. On Christmas day we went to the substation for Mass. I enjoyed the meal with the parishioners after the Mass.

*Sr. Juli Kujur fc.*

## *Gone for heavenly reward*

Sr. Leela’s mother	13/08/17
Sr. Jaya’s father	17/08/17
Sr. Rosli Kerketta’s aunt	19/08/17
Sr. Basanti Lakra’s father	09/09/17
Sr. Leela’s cousin	23/09/17
Sr. Roniya Xavier’s grandfather	23/09/17
Sr. Rose Anjelina’s uncle	26/09/17
Sr. Margaret Subba’s brother	29/09/17
Sr. Mary Alphonsa’s cousin	30/09/17
Sr. Jasbin Lepcha’s mother	16/11/17
Sr. Mary George’s cousin	18/01/18
Sr. Mary George’s nephew	20/01/18
Sr. Mukti Madhuri’s aunt	27/01/18
Sr. Mukti Madhuri’s aunt	31/01/18





## Time to Celebrate



**Jubilarians - Calcutta Province**

which they have experienced throughout their life journey. It was an extraordinary event in the life of the Jubilarians.

The five days programme began with a festive fervor as the province also observed the inauguration of Sesquicentennial jubilee of the province on 1<sup>st</sup> November. It was really a joyful moment for them as they reflected and relived their past. Fr. Eric Rodrigues, CSSR was the resource person who gave them lots of input sessions. Sisters visited all the communities of Calcutta Region. They also got a chance to see the historical places of Calcutta. One day they went for a boat ride from Hooghly to Bandel accompanied by Sr. Provincial and Sr. Dominica which was a unique experience for all of them. This togetherness enriched our life as FCs and brought us closer to one another. The entire programme was beautifully organised by Sr. Regi Mathew, the Formator Co ordinator who made sure that all the Jubilarians enjoyed to the full.



**Jubilarians – Rourkela Province**

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**Jubilarians – Bombay Province**

At the end of the programme Sr. Regina gifted Jubilarians a booklet for the daily reflections on the sayings of our Superior Generals and a Cross engraved with a relic of our Blessed Foundress as a token of love and gratitude for 25/50/60 years of their dedicated and loving service to the Lord in and through our Congregation. She appreciated their joyful, committed years of vowed life, thanked and congratulated them for the marvellous ways of walking with the Lord in service.



## Life In Its Fullness...

*“ Even to your old age, I will be the same. And even to your greying years I will bear you. I have done it, And I will carry you and I will bear you and I will deliver you.” Is 46:4*



St. Catherine's Home gave a special tribute to our dear Sr. Luciana who completed her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 14<sup>th</sup> January. On this auspicious occasion we also celebrated the fruitful lives of the Sisters who crossed 70 + from other congregations in and around the City of Joy. 45 Sisters of different Congregations gathered in St. Catherine's Home at 10.00 am for a get together. After a short entertainment programme with tea and snacks, all took part in the celebration of

thanksgiving Eucharist followed by a sumptuous meal. The following reflection was at the base of this celebration of Life:

*“Long life is like climbing a mountain. You climb from ledge to ledge. The higher you get, the more tired and breathless you may become, but your views become more extensive, clear with lot more opportunities and strength. Thus we age gracefully and productively. It is a time to be hopeful, be kindly, be cheerful and reverent. It is a blessing.*

*We celebrate you dear sisters...*

*we celebrate your wisdom, commitment, dedication, and love....*

*We celebrate ageless grace of our older and wiser role models of the Church and society...*

*Through this gathering, we envision a growing awareness and appreciation of each other and limitless possibilities of a growing relationship..”*

**It was indeed a joyous and wonderful day of celebration and gratitude.**



*Sr. Philomena Kundukulam fc*

## News from Rangjuli

During advent we had novena for the parishioners from 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December. On 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. there was Mass for two year old year kids. At the end of the Mass there was blessing of the children and distribution of snacks. On 1<sup>st</sup> January there was thanksgiving Mass after which all went to Garopara for lunch.

There was faith sharing exposure programme from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January in Rangjuli parish. This was organized by the Arch diocese of Guwahati. The response was enormous this year too with 633 participants. The purpose of this programme is to share one's faith with others and to learn the culture and customs of the tribals. The participants went to the villages and interacted with them. A great thank you to the parishioners for their unstinting support, hard work and dedication to the cause of evangelization. Thank you for the support we have received.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January we went to visit Bhutan and all the mission stations in the border area. It was amazing to see the zealous missionary work in these places.

*Sr. Prabha Lakra fc*

## **“The 10<sup>th</sup> Faith Exposure Programme 2018”**

“Faith Exposure programme” was held in Rangjuli Parish, under Guwahati Diocese from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January.

The day started with the Lauds, adoration for an hour followed by Eucharist. After these there would be morning sessions, sharing of mission experiences, giving inputs etc. by Bishops, experienced priests and nuns. They encouraged us to be good missionaries, to have good relationship with God and people, to learn the languages, culture and important customs of the local people. After nourishing ourselves with the spiritual and physical food, we were missioned to different villages with our groups, and returned by 5pm filled with joy and missionary spirit. Daily reports were given by the group leaders. Cultural programmes were presented Congregation wise. There was ice breaking, singing, dancing and cheering before and after the sessions.

The programme was well organised, our Sisters along with Fathers and parishioners. They worked very hard for the success of the programme. It was an enriching and enjoyable experience. I am grateful to God and my Sisters for the wonderful opportunity they gave me to be a part of the programme..

*Sr. Helen Momin Fc*

## **Formation ministry**

As we know, the Generalate prepared a booklet on the guidelines of formation in the Congregation and was published this year in order to help us in the various stages of formation. In the month of October, we organized an Afro-Asian Formators’ meeting at St. Vincent’s home. We were particularly happy to have our Sisters from Pakistan, who otherwise would have to forgo meetings in India due to the visa hazards. It was a joyful coming together as FCs with lots of interest and concern about the formation.

Taking up the Provincial Chapter resolutions, we formed a vocation ministry team, appointed a co-ordinator and regional vocation promoters. This team met together and made certain initial planning for this important ministry. As you are aware, the team has also circulated a ‘prayer for vocations’. Let us all work for vocations through our life and prayer.

The formators of the Province also meet frequently to share and plan for the formation process in the Province. The Sisters from Rourkela and Calcutta preparing for final vows have started



their intensive programme at formation centre, Kidderpore. A few of the TPs joined the exposure programme in Assam and found it very enriching. This year there were also four Sisters from Rourkela Province for the exposure. Our Postulants in Rourkela with Sr. Veronica are doing well. Sisters, we ask you to support our formees with your prayer, especially the sisters preparing for the final profession and the novices preparing for the first profession. May Blessed Marie Therese pray for us to be true Daughters of the Cross.

*Sr. Regi Matthew f.c.*



## St. Joseph's Convent Kurseong.

We the sisters of St. Joseph's convent decided to celebrate Christmas differently this year. So we invited the beggars of Kurseong town for Christmas party. They were fifteen of them. We had prepared delicious lunch for them. We all ate together and enjoyed the company of one another, we gave small gifts to each one of them. It was really heart breaking to see their condition. Jesus was born among the poor hence he only can understand the broken one so being his followers we too are called to be Christ like. So we were very glad to have them with us on Christmas day, we will ever cherish this event. May we continue to love the weakest and the poorest in big or small ways.

*Sr. Gladys Tom fc*

## From Tihar Jail

This year a new D.G has taken charge of the Prison office. I got the Jail pass renewed for the third year 2018. I could do so much for the young boys, especially communication with their families, 'sensitization and acceptance' Mr. Basiullah, a master tailor received a very good character certificate from the superintendent of Jail but found life very difficult and frightening when he was released.

Pawan a blind man needs to be admitted in a Blind school when he will be released. The prisoner whom I have got released is rehabilitated.

*Sr. Winefred Rai fc*

## In Fond Memories of ...



Sr. Teresa Anthony Carapiet F.C.  
26/10/2017



Sr. Bernadette Ann F.C.  
21/12/2017



Sr. Mary Antonia Vattakunna F.C.  
29/12/2017



Sr. Anne Mary Maduray F.C.  
11/01/2018

## Novitiate, Barasat

### Formees Gathering

The formation Houses around Barasat and Barrackpore participated in a Formees gathering held at Auxilium Convent in Barasat, on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 with 280 Formees and formators. Our resource person Sr. Inigo SSA spoke about “Discipleship- Challenges and Response”. She reminded us that we are all called by Jesus, some for family life, some for priesthood or religious life and some for single life. The call is His initiative; we are invited to respond to His call. What is important for us is to contemplate, to believe deeply in our hearts that we are not here by chance but by choice, it is God who called us and planted us in a good soil in order to grow. ( Ez. 17:8-10). In the afternoon we had group sharing on discipleship. It was an experience of good collaboration and everyone profited from the seminar.

### Christmas 2017



The preparation for Christmas began with special prayer and reflection on four Sundays of Advent, the meaning and significance of Advent wreath and Advent candles in it, “O Antiphon” from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Novena for Christmas. We made the cribs creatively with straw, bamboos and sticks and decorated our house tastefully for the occasion. The preparation for Christmas was enjoyable, we learnt to be sensitive, to organize and work in a team and utilize all our talents only for the greater glory of God. The vigil Mass was in our Novitiate Hall.

There was carol singing at 11 pm followed by solemn Mass at 11:45 pm. Fr. Henry Saldanah was the main celebrant. Five neighbouring communities participated in the Services. We were responsible for the liturgy and the choirs of different Formation Houses shared the singing. After the Holy Mass we exchanged Christmas greetings and had tea and snacks. We shared Christmas lunch with our workers and their families.



At 11 am on 26<sup>th</sup> December, there was a programme for the children (ninety five of them) from the brick field. The novices and the Sisters along with two teachers shared their joy of Christmas with the children through carol singing, action songs, dances etc. At the end of the programme they were served with chicken *biriyani*. Their happiness filled us with contentment.

The Minor Seminary, Helper Sisters and Daughters of the Cross jointly organised a programme on 27<sup>th</sup> December for the senior citizens of St. Vincent’s Home and St. Anne’s Home for the Aged. The venue was the basketball court of Minor Seminary. They were entertained with carol singing, dance, and games. The Formees served them and assisted them at the table and also helped them back to their residences after the programme.

*Novices Kiran and Neetu*



## To know Christ and Make Him Known...

The KYM Youth Convention for the Deanery of Kalimpong was held in St. Joseph's School from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 with the theme "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known". Sr. Deepshikha and myself were fortunate to accompany the youth of Don Bosco, 14<sup>th</sup> Mile Kalimpong and Gurubathan.

Nearly 200 youth were present from thirteen different parishes. Rev. Bishop Stephan Lepcha, Regional Youth Co-ordinator Rev. Fr. Michael Singh and many other priests from the diocese were present. We had an opportunity to meet the young girls and invite them to listen to God's call. Some of them expressed their desire and we welcomed them and told them about our Congregation. Many encouraging and beautiful programmes were organized like; Debate, Volley Ball and Throw Ball Matches at Inter-Parish level and Cultural Programme. All the boys and girls enjoyed and benefitted from the event. We were privileged to be with them, support them and accompany them. We continue to communicate with the girls who have expressed their desire to join us.

### Accompany the young with Love...

A Youth Fest was organized by the Salesians of Don Bosco, Kolkata Province at Don Bosco Siliguri from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The theme for the programme was Accompanying the Young with Love. Many Priests, Brothers and sisters were present there with four hundred youth. I accompanied the Youth from our Parish and Catholics from the Institute. There was great joy to meet young souls and make them know our Congregation. The programme



was incredible with animations, empowering the youth. This was a meaningful and interesting event where many young souls were contended and led to vocational discernment.

*Sr. Dipika Rai fc*

## Inauguration of Sesquicentennial Jubilee of the Province

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 the Province of Calcutta inaugurated the Sesquicentennial Jubilee of the Province. To mark this historic event of the Province, Sisters from each community along with the people were invited. We commenced our Inaugural Jubilee Mass at 10.30 A.M at St. Paul's Boarding and Day School hall. The main Celebrant Rt. Rev Archbishop Thomas D' Souza and all other bishops and priests, Sr. Anupama Toppo, the Assistant General, Sr. Regina Kottackal, the Provincial and her Team and all the superiors of the communities and Jubilarians of all three Provinces were ceremoniously welcomed from Grotto to the main entrance of the Hall with rhythmic beat of traditional drum accompanied by dance with fifty *Kandsa Bhandas* (Earthen pot decorated with stalks of paddy grain and 'Jawa' new shoots which symbolizes rich blessings of God to the community).

The Shankh (Conch) was blown at the main entrance of the hall with the announcement of the sacred hour and the students from St. Teresa's School, Basanti were ready with Entrance Dance. After enthroning the Bible, Sr. Margaret Subba- the M.C of the programme invited Sr. Provincial to give a short account of the Province. After briefing the history of the province Sr. Regina Kottackal, the provincial superior announced the Jubilee year Open. Thereafter Sr. Margaret invited the main celebrant Rt. Rev. Archbishop Thomas D' Souza, Bishop Salvador Lobo, Bishop Stephan Lepcha, Bishop Vincent Aind, Sr. Anupama Toppo, the Assistant General, Provincial and Fr. Valerian Nazareth the parish Priest to come forward and light the Ceremonial Lamp to inaugurate the Sesquicentennial Jubilee of the Province. Choir led by Sr. Margaret Lepcha, Sisters, Novices and Postulants deserve special mention as they helped us to pray with their melodious singing.

After the Eucharistic Celebration we had a short programme by our students. At the end of the programme, the Jubilee Anthem was sung by Sr. Margaret Lepcha and team. There was fellowship meal for all. We thank all the Sisters and Supportive Staff of different houses of Calcutta region who worked tirelessly to make the day a successful and memorable one.

*Sr. Rosli Kerketta fc*



# *Sesquicentennial Jubilee Celebration*

