



PROVINCE FLASH DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CALCUTTA PROVINCE

PF/2022/3 December News Bulletin For Private Circulation Only

My dear Sisters, Associates, Friends and Well-wishers,

“Do not be afraid; I proclaim to you good news of great joy ... and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”. (Lk.2:10-14).

The humble shepherds were the first to be called by God to go to greet the new-born King. What’s amazing is that God did not first call the “important” of the age to come to visit the new-born. The sign for them was: a child, a baby lying in the dire poverty of a manger.

The Son of God was born in the lowly manger of a darkened stable, without decent accommodation, in poverty and rejection, when he deserved to be born as the greatest of kings and in the finest of palaces. Can we accept God’s way of doing things? This is the challenge of Christmas: God reveals himself, but we fail to understand. He makes himself little in the eyes of the world, while we continue to seek grandeur in the eyes of the world, perhaps even in his name. God lowers himself and we try to become great. The Most High goes in search of shepherds, the unseen in our midst, and we look for visibility; we want to be seen. Jesus is born in order to serve, and we spend a lifetime pursuing success. God does not seek power and might; he asks for tender love and interior littleness (Pope Francis). Let us ask ourselves; what is God trying to tell me and how does He expect me to celebrate this Christmas?

Jesus asks us to rediscover and value the little things in life. Let us ask the Lord to help us understand that littleness is the way to authentic greatness. Let us stop pining for a grandeur that is not ours to have. Let us put aside our complaints and our gloomy faces, and the greed that never satisfies!

Let us look at the Magi who make their pilgrim way, and as a synodal, journeying Church, let us go to Bethlehem, where God comes into the world in littleness. He is born close to the forgotten ones of the peripheries. He comes where human dignity is put to the test. He comes to ennoble the excluded. The poor have their place next to him; there the shepherds and Magi are joined in a fraternity beyond all labels and classifications. May the light of Jesus shine within us and illumine the lives of those around us.

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

In union of Prayers,

Regife

**Sr. Regi Mathew F. C.
Provincial**



Good Tidings



St. Vincent's Home, Kidderpore

Calcutta Province Welcomes our Superior General and the General Councilor

The visits of major superiors are important events in the life of communities and individual sisters (*Const. Art162*). Canonical visitation is a moment of grace for those who wait in faith in the hearts. It is a time to review one's own life-past and present.

We, sisters at Calcutta Province had been waiting and preparing with joy and excitement for our Canonical Visitation. Finally we had the joy of welcoming Sr. Pushpa our Superior General in the wee hours of 2nd November. In the words of Kabi Guru Rabindranath Tagore, 'He comes, He comes, He ever comes with silent steps'. Sr. Pushpa arrived very quietly in the early hours, before the crack of dawn.

The whole campus at St. Vincent's Home came together to welcome Sister to our Province. The blowing of the conch shell announced the arrival of the Superior General to the Province. With this ceremonial welcome we began the journey of Grace and Renewal with Sr. Pushpa and Sr. Valerie during the Canonical Visitation of every Community and sister of the Province.

Incapacitating all the uncertainties and challenge placed before by the pandemic and war situation in Ukraine the visit of our Superior General to our province in no less insignificant event for us.

Sr. Rose Mary Rai

Anand Bhawan Convent, Delhi

Stand in support and solidarity with Bilkis Bano's struggle for Justice.

Revoke the release of the 11 gang – rapists in Gujarat: On 27th August 2022, Sr. Gloria and Sr. Rajni had the opportunity to participate in a protest to support Bilkis Bano's struggle for justice. It was organized by the different NGO's at Jantar Mantar. The prominent speakers were invited to deliver speeches in support and solidarity towards Bilkis. Slogans were raised against the shameful event that took place in Gujarat. Presence of young and old from all walks of life gives hope to Bilkis for the end of injustice done to her but result still waits...

Delhi CRI had a seminar on '*The Religious Call*' as Mission and Vision of the Consecrated in the present socio-political scenario. The resource person Fr. Varghese Alengaden beautifully explained about Karma Marg, Bhakti Marg, Gyan

Marg, Dhyam Marg, Karmayogi and Cosmic spirit. Giving example of prophet Jeremiah he explained about the Call, Mission and the Vision of the Church and of the consecrated people.

The seminar concluded with the solemn thanksgiving Mass presided over by His Excellency Most Rev. Anil J Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi in honour of the priests and religious completing their 25th and 50th years of their Consecrated life.

Children from the parish were felicitated by the Catechism class teachers on 19th November in honour of the Children's Day. A short programme was arranged for them. It started with a prayer service followed by a video on the life of St. Joseph of Cupertino O.F.M. also known as the flying saint. Children were very happy and thanked the priests and teachers for organizing this beautiful programme for them.

Sr. Rajni Prisca Kerketta

Prison Ministry: Prison Ministry India had its 13th National Convention, at St. Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal, Goa from 15th to 18th November. The programme dealt on the theme '*Reform to Reintegrate*'. The Convention was inaugurated by Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao. Five hundred Religious men and women as well as lay people from different states attended the Convention.

Chief guest Judge Desmond D' Costa, member of the Human Rights Commission Goa, gave us a basic knowledge about human rights. It was very effective for me to know these things for my mission. Many resource persons shared their life experiences and gave life testimony. Eight thousand PMI volunteers serving in 1350 prisons of India attempt to reform the prisoners to reintegrate them into society for their integral human development. I got an opportunity to visit St. Francis Xavier's Relics and St. Angelo's tomb. I prayed for each Daughter of the Cross and the intention of our Congregation.

Sr. Gloria Dung Dung





International News from Nepal

St. Joseph's Convent, Tulachan

We are quite active here in Nepal. From time to time we have surprises. Our students participated in a dance programme organized by the Purbanchal Catholic Schools in order to celebrate our culture and identity and have interaction with other schools. Our students excelled in their performance. All the participants received certificates of honour. The long awaited day 25th November finally dawned. Our students, teachers and sisters were out on a picnic. Everyone was excited and even the sick children refused to stay at home. We went to different places and enjoyed playing games, watching the animals in the zoo, taking snaps etc. Now we are getting ready for 2nd Unit Test, before the Christmas vacations.

All the students, teachers and sisters wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year filled with blessings.

Sr. Sanjukta Kujur

Christalaya Convent, Maheshpur

✚ We had a day of prayer for the parents of our hostel children on 24th October. Around 145 parents were present. The resource persons were Mrs. Geeta Rai and Mr. Amar Bista, our Associates.

✚ Sr. Nilima and Sr. Annette from Our Lady of Good Council Convent Gayagana, along with 27 Associates of the Cross came for a pilgrimage to Maheshpur on 26th October. They had the Eucharistic celebration in our parish and had meals with us. Meal was prepared by our Associates under the leadership of Sr. Mallika. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet them,

✚ Sisters Bindu, Rita and the Mobile Clinic team attended the Annual Mobile Clinic meeting at Kathmandu. We had two days' gathering, presenting our annual reports of all the Mobile clinics. Input sessions were given by Dr. Linus Buttia regarding common medical conditions and how we can treat them in our village set ups. Dr. Leolania Mukiya, Dermatologist spoke to us about the different kinds of skin diseases and how to manage these conditions.

✚ On 2nd November, we had the Eucharistic celebration in the cemetery on All Souls Day.

✚ We offered Mass for Sr. Maria Vianney on 11th November.

✚ We just finished harvesting, the crop is quite good and the land is getting ready for next cultivation.

Sr. Rita Murmu

Prerna Niwas Convent, Deonia

In our busy schedule we the sisters at Prerna Niwas grabbed the opportunity to go an extra mile. After our retreat during the Diwali holidays we had a krusvir programme for two days in Maheshpur. Around ninety children were very much excited and enthusiastically waited for this day. They too co-operated and enjoyed the programme. Both the days' programme began with prayer and meditation followed by catechism classes, Gospel Melody, action song, quiz, dance and games. It was really a memorable day for the children and for all of us.

Sr. Maria Goretti Kullu

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Rangjuli, Assam

- Long awaited day finally dawned on 8th December, great day indeed, the day of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady we had the Canonical Visitation of our Superior General and councilor at Hatigopa. It was a grace-filled day.
- Our parish calendar was filled with events and activities: 250 of the parishioners went for Christ the King procession to Guwahati on 20th November. Women from the Marian sodality renewed their vows on 8th December. 18th December saw the blessing of a new Church in one of our substations by His Grace Rt. Rev. John Moolachira Archbishop of Guwahati
- Sisters Sumita, Mukti and Fr. Philipson visited all the class X students' families to know their family background and to motivate them personally in their studies.
- We have begun the Novena for Christmas in the parish on 16th December. It is nice to see the Church full as the faithful come to take part in the novena and the Holy Mass in spite of the continuous menace of the wild elephants.

Sr. Gladys Tom



St. Joseph's Convent, Hatigopa

This is the most beautiful time of the year, for Assam is decked with green and golden paddy fields after the torrential rain and flood followed by the heat and dryness. This year we celebrated the great Feast on 8th September together with Ranjuli community. October being the month of Rosary, on 31st the villagers assembled in the convent premises at 6 pm and had a procession with lit candles, reciting Rosary and singing hymns in praise of Mother Mary along the way. On 2nd November we had Holy Eucharist at our village cemetery. A large crowd gathered to pray for their

departed family members and relatives.

We had the pre-board examinations for class X and 3rd term unit test for the rest of the students in the school. We had a grand celebration of Children's Day, prayer service and cultural programme was put up by our teachers.

On 1st December, we had the Annual Sports Day of our School. The Chief Guest was Fr. Lucas Marak, the parish Priest of Don Bosco Shrine, Gojapara. Sports day was very colourful with the little children's dance, the March past and the special dance - 'The indigenous dance of the North East'.

It was our joy to welcome Sr. Pushpa our Superior General and Sr. Valerie the General Councilor on 6th. We had the solemn Eucharistic celebration on 7th to begin our Canonical Visitation. It was a time of grace for all of us in the Community and the school.

Sr. Saly Joseph

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Alipurduar



During the Puja holidays our parish organized a youth Seminar for four days. Sister Shila actively participated in the programme. About 165 were in the seminar. She took this chance to promote vocation. Sister Shila got the opportunity to attend the Annual meeting of BRBC-CRI (WBS)-COPI (BSR) held in Martigara Pastoral Center. In Jalpaiguri Diocese we had Christmas gathering. Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Shila joined the celebration which was followed by Jalpaiguri Diocese C.R.I. meeting. Sister Shila was elected as the Secretary of C.R.I. Sr. Elizabeth gave marriage classes for couples in the parish. These days

we are involved in Carol singing in different families. We have our Christmas partner among the villagers and we are praying for one another. We are doing Novena for Christmas. We will conclude the novena on 22nd December with confession and Holy Mass.

Sr. Shila Louis

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Hatighisa

After two years of pandemic this year we had the solemn celebration on 8th, 14th and 15th of September. The numbers of our associates have increased and six of them renewed their promises on 10th September during the Holy Mass in our Chapel. The festival of Diwali was celebrated in the Palliative Care Centre. Patients were taken out to Shiv Mandir to see Diwali Lights. They enjoyed the evening. One evening, the community went to pray at the parish cemetery and lit the candles at every grave. We had an enjoyable Children's Day on 14th November. Sisters entertained the hostel children with a small programme in the evening.

At the Palliative Care Centre patients are well taken care of. The young sisters visit the cancer patients out in the villages periodically and help them with bathing, dressing of wound or any other care required by them. Hatighisa Community had a grace filled Visitation with our Superior General Sr. Pushpa and Sr. Valerie. We enjoyed the day with them.

Sr. Anastasia Bilung

News from Mountain Home, Kurseong

Mountain Home has warmly welcomed the cold winter days. With the welcoming of the cold winter days we also come to the end of the academic year 2022.

5th September - Teachers' Day was celebrated with lots of enthusiasm. Our children did their best in showing their gratitude for teachers and sisters. On 7th September the testimony club of the school enacted the life of Blessed Mother Marie Therese in honour of the 189th foundation day of our Congregation. On 8th September Fr. Peter sj along with five other priests celebrated the solemn Eucharistic in our chapel. Our Associates also took part in celebrating the feast. On 10th September, we had AISK INTER SCHOOL singing competition where our school stood first.



We had 45 sisters for the annual retreat from 1st October to 9th October preached by Rev. Fr Samuel Rai SDB. We had the Anglo-Indian school athletic meet in St. Paul's School, Darjeeling on 22nd October where our students took part actively and won many medals. Students of class IX visited the Old Age Home at Tindharia for their social outreach programme on 31st October. Art and Craft exhibition was held in the school on 4th November which was a grand success. Parents and the visitors appreciated the hard work of the students. On 8th November class X students visited Jesu Ashram for their social outreach programme. Inter class games and activities were organized in preparation for the Children's day celebration and on the 14th November teachers entertained them with dance, skit, songs and drama. Anglo Indian School heads' meeting was held in our school on 12th November where 11 schools participated. On 17th November Sr. Pushpa, Superior General and Sr. Valerie, General Councilor arrived at our community for the Canonical Visitation. We had a lovely time with them.

Sr. Deepshika Rai

St. Joseph's Convent, Kurseong



On 21st October, St. Joseph's H.S school Kurseong hosted its Annual Sports Meet. A day filled with fervor and excitement experienced amidst thrills and cheer. The chief guest for the day was AI Mrs Roshni Sarki and guests of honour were Sr. Mary Therese and Sr. Jacinta F.C. The day started with the arrival of the Chief Guest who was escorted to the pavilion by the school band. After which the chief guest hoisted the national flag followed by the national anthem. This was followed by the inter-house March past, a highly competitive event where the four houses eyed for the first place. The audience next witnessed various displays symbolizing alternative sources of energy. The students of the four

different houses competed in various sporting events like hurdle race, 100 meters race, 200 meters race relay race etc. where competitiveness among the students soared through the roof along with athletic events. Children also participated in various class events. Another highlight of the day was the drill display by classes VIII and IX and yoga display by classes V to VII. The games organized for parents, ex-students and the staff saw an impressive participation. At the end of the day students departed with a clear smile on their faces as the red house emerged as house champions. It was a day filled with sportsmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish.

Sr. Jasbin Lepcha

News from Mamring



Our students bagged the first and third prizes in March Past and dance competition on the Independence Day. Our students' dresses and march past reminded us of the grand army parade of the Republic Day.

September saw us busy with the preparation of our triple feasts. The Foundation Day celebration was preceded by meaningful Triduum. Our catholic neighbours, about 30 joined us for the Eucharist and a sumptuous breakfast thereafter.

On 12th November, we had the privilege of hosting Women's recollection day. There were about 100 women from 12 parishes. They were very appreciative of the way all four sisters got involved in cooking for 100 of them.

The teachers and sisters had good time on

Children's Day. Sisters put up the famous Humpty Dumpty dance.

We had the joy of meeting our Superior General and General Councilor on 22nd November, at Matigara.

We had Christmas Party for the students and teachers on 9th December. The little students of UKG had put up a Nativity play. Thanks to Mrs. Rubina, their class teacher, they did their part very well despite being so small.

We bade farewell to class VIII, our out-going students. They were very emotional as they were leaving their Alma Mater.

On 10th November, we accompanied our Parish Priest and few devout Catholics for Mass to a very devout family. The lady is a retired teacher and now runs a business and can you imagine! She donates all the profit to the parish Church. Talking about the support to the Church, reminds us about another lady, also a retired teacher. She was suffering from Cancer third stage. But due to her deep faith and the incessant prayer of the parishioners, she is completely healed. We invited the family for thanksgiving lunch to our place.

Sr. Helen attended the CRI meeting at Martam. Now we are busy with the preparations for Christmas. Wish one and all a very Happy Christmas and a safe, happy and grace-filled year 2023.

Sr. Margaret Subba

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Jorethang

On 5th September the Teachers' day was celebrated by the Parents.

On 26th October, our Nursery children gave a surprise programme to their loving parents by celebrating parents' day. Programme began with a welcome dance. Mr Deepak Tiwari was the chief guest for the programme. It was very entertaining. Glad to see them on the stage. There was prize distribution of the various competitions held previously, like; fancy dress, handwriting, rhymes, and coloring. At the end of the programme parents showed their gratitude through a dance performance.

On 28th November the community of Jorethang had a fruitful visitation with the Superior General Sr. Pushpa Purathur and Sr. Valerie Miranda the General Councilor. Many thanks to St. Joseph's Matigara community for their hospitality.

Sr. Mamata Bara

Karuna Nilaya Convent, Gorubathan

On 5th September, we celebrated the Teachers' day. Our children showed their love and gratitude to their teachers by putting up colourful programme.

On 8th September, with grateful hearts we celebrated the birthday of Mary our Mother and the birth day of our Congregation. We invited our neighbouring religious and priests. As the year remarks the silver jubilee of our Darjeeling Diocese, on 4th December our Parish celebrated the jubilee of our diocese as well as the jubilee of our Bishop Rt. Rev. Stephen Lepcha. Five children were trained by Sr. Mariana Soreng first Holy Communion. They received the Sacrament on this auspicious day.

Sr. Hema Kujur

Shanti Bhawan Convent, Siliguri



We celebrated our foundation day with our parishioners and the religious communities of our parish. Holy mass was offered by Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind, bishop of the Diocese of Bagdogra. On 13th September thirteen of our Associates renewed their promise in our Chapel.

During puja vacation classes V to X students of our parish, had two days of seminar. Inputs were given by Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind, Fr. Arun, Sr. Rojinta, Mr. Gabriel and Miss Monika based on the topics Vocation, value of education, Sacraments and Family and social life. Many other volunteers also were there for the sessions.

On 16th October, Mahila Sang of our parish organized a pilgrimage to Nagrakata, one of the oldest parish of Duars. It was the day of prayer and special mass was offered for our Sr. Alexia Tete. Sisters and faithful here feel the absence of our dear Sr. Alexia. On 22nd October, we had Holy Mass and sradhanjali for Sr. Alexia. Many of our sisters from terrai and hills, religious communities of our parish and faithful were present to pay their tribute to Sr. Alexia.

On 12th December, we had meeting with our Associates. All of them shared their experience and their life in living our Charism. Many had very touching experiences. They also shared their difficulties and discussed what we can do for the broken families and people and for those who need our help-spiritually, psychologically, economically etc.

Sr. Rojinta Kujur

St. Joseph's High School, Matigara



Students made the school proud by participating and winning in different events held across various platforms: Ashwika Agarwal was awarded 3rd prize in the Darjeeling District Students' Science Seminar. Priya Roy Chowdhury participated in World Tokyo Kickboxing Championship held in Dubai Kickboxing ground on 9th September, and won the Gold Medal. She played with Russia, America and China.

The students of class XI were helped with 'Stress Management' by Fr. Xavier Alangaram S.J. He explained to them how stress affects them physically and the scientific reason as to why stress affects the brain so easily. Stress is a natural biological

phenomenon. One cannot avoid it. Each one has to face it with a positive outlook. He spoke to them on how they can reduce the stress. The session was very interactive and informative.

Sr. Lucy Thaikkattil

Jesu Ashram Convent, Matigara

On 30th October we had medical camp in Gulma Parish, and from there seven people were advised for cataract surgery, five of them were helped by Jesu Ashram for their surgeries. We have started making Christmas crib in each department in Jesu Ashram, and patients are willingly involved in it and they are happy about it.

On 23rd December we are going to have our Christmas celebration with staff and students.
On 25th we will have Christmas mass with our patients, and have lunch together with them.
On 29th we will give farewell to three of our staff who are completing their service in Jisu Ashram and to the third year students. We are glad that, seventeen of our outgoing students have got job in various hospitals. We are happy and grateful for many blessings from God helping us to help the needy and poor.

Sr. Julieta Kindo

Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Gayaganga

- ❖ Foundation Day on 8th September was celebrated with lots of fervour, joy and enthusiasm.
- ❖ Superior General Sr. Pushpa and Assistant Sr. Valerie visited our community for Canonical Visitation. It was a graceful, joyful and renewal time for each one of us.
- ❖ Both High School and primary conducted various programme such as career Guidance, electoral awareness, Medicinal plants awareness and drawing competition.
- ❖ Both the School's students had eye check up and given free spectacles by the Lion's Club.
- ❖ Sisters trained children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the parish.
- ❖ Associates of the Cross visited Nepal along with Sr. Annet and Sr. Nilima.
- ❖ Sr. Shanti Picardo is working in Bangalore with the Prison ministry of India.

Sr. Beena Varghese

Navjeevan Convent, Gayaganga

It was a great joy to celebrate feast day of our Congregation as well as the birth day of Mary our Mother on 8th September; our students led the choir during the Eucharistic Celebration followed by cultural programs and fellowship meal.

On 21st September 2022 there was an input session organized by Polymed Company for all the staff and nurse students, about the important of nutritious diet and post Covid management, and on 22nd we had health apostolate meet of our province.



Navjeevan Hospital conducted a free health camp on 13th November in Chotterhat parish, three of our resident Doctors and other medical team had gone for the camp. About 211 patients benefited from this camp. They were happy and appreciated the service.

New academic session 2022-23 began in the month November with 40 GNM and 19 B.Sc. students.

An orientation session cum career guidance class was conducted in St. Peter's and St. Mary's school by two teachers from the Nursing College. It was a good exposure for the students to know about nursing profession.

Sr. Mousumi Mondal

Navjyoti Convent, Dundajhar

Our students had number of activities in the past months before they started their practicals. On 10th October DOTT students had an orientation at Navjeevan Hospital, Gayaganga. On 11th DMLT students had an orientation and on 12th students of General Duty Assistant had the orientation programme.

On 22nd October our institute celebrated the pre-Diwali festival as well as gave farewell to Sr. Sanjita. The program started with Debate competition. There were also talent hunts, Rangoli and Essay Competitions. Sister Tina, Principal of Navjeevan College of Nursing was the judge for the day. On 1st November our institute celebrated National Unity day. A small programme was organized by our students. On 3rd November there was a seminar on World of Social Media. The resource person was Fr. Samuel Rai SDB,

administrator of Salesian College, Sonada. It was not only for the youngsters but also a great lesson for adults. As we know that virtual world is tempting but it is not reality, and people should know the limitations to access it. GDA Students get opportunity for their practical in Navjeevan Hospital, which helps them to build confidence, get familiar to the environment and learn many different things practically. 14th November we celebrated children's day in Phansidewa Government Model School. Our students had put up the program based on hand washing and nutrition.

Sr. Anusha Ramala

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Joridighi

The life and Mission has been enforced by the Community Moto: *"Do whatever He tells you..."* Jn. 2:3-5. In preparation of our Feasts, there were many programme organized for the children. They were taken to Goromtoli for interactive session with the Goromtoli hostel children. Sisters also visited several villages with the help of the health workers to motivate and encourage their children to go back to school as they had got used to staying at home following the Covid-19 Pandemic. The community had its meaningful get-together with all staff and the volunteers for our Feasts. Our health workers, the palliative care team and the supportive staff went for an exposure cum pilgrimage to Kolkata and Bandel and returned with greater enthusiasm and energy to carry on their respective activities.



Confirmation in the Parish: The sisters in the community took active part on the day of confirmation in various ways by helping in the Church decoration, preparation for the Eucharist and other pastoral activities. One hundred and eighty five children and Adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Transgender Community: As a part of encouraging the Inclusiveness of marginalized in the society, the sisters visited the Transgender Community based on community motto. We have also started with motivation and counseling for individuals who need help and support.

Cancer Awareness Program at Karuna Health Center: Cancer has been an important current issue in various parts of the country. In view of educating the public for the same, a

Cancer Awareness and screening Programme was organized on 10th November at Karuna Health Center, Narayanpur. The screening Programme was done during the last two months. Many from far and near benefited from this programme.

Childrens Day at Karuna Health Center: On the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November, a Mini Mela was organized at Karuna Health Center ground. Around hundred children had flocked for the event. There were many games with attractive prizes and the children enjoyed the event to their full.

"Laudate Si": We have been able to get drip irrigation facilities for our fruit garden from the Government through the Agricultural department. A team of Inspectors from the State Agriculture Department had visited us to inspect our Dragon Garden and its functioning after the installation of Drip Irrigation System. They were very pleased with the garden and the irrigation system functioning well. We have been able to sow mustard this year at part of our vacant land at Narayanpur.



Our construction work of the Hospital is Progressing quite well

Sisters of the Joridighi Community

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Goromtoli

On 8th September, for the first time our hostel children led the choir in English, Bengali, Hindi and Santhali during the solemn Eucharistic celebration. There was a drawing competition for them on the occasion of our Foundation day; all of us had good time together in the evening.

On 14th September, one of our Associates renewed their promise during the Holy Mass. From 22nd to 29th September, children had their half yearly examinations. Sr. Bridgett prepared seven children for the first Holy Communion and sixty nine adults for the Sacrament of Confirmation. They received the Sacrament on 7th October. From 9th to 11th November our Associates had their retreat preached by Rev. Fr. Bablu Murmu.

Sr. Bridget Kerketta



St. Catherine's Home, Kidderpore



The month of December brings in cheer and celebration of Christmas in St. Catherine's Home. The inmates of St. Catherine's Home were in for a yuletide cheer with the pre-Christmas party on 3rd December. The day began with the screening of the movie *The Green Window* which was shot in our premises by Indira Dhar Mukherjee, an ex Paulite. The evening saw the ladies dancing to the tunes of Mr. Christopher Lobo a renowned singer of the city. The little Santas' who came in ringing their tiny bells while giving out tokens of love for their dear grannies won the hearts of all present for the evening. Many ex-students of St. Paul's Boarding and Day School and St. Teresa's Secondary School were present for the pre-Christmas

celebration. They remembered with gratitude the Sisters and teachers who taught them. Their work today reflects the values they have learnt in school and it is our pride today seeing them do well in life. It was a walk down the memory lane for them to be back in the campus once again.

On 17th December there was a distribution of Wheelchairs and sewing machines with the help of Rotary Club of Calcutta. Fourteen members were present for this event from St. Catherine's Home. This was possible only because of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Gupta. We are grateful to God for sending these person to help the elderly.

After a break of two years the pre-Christmas parties and celebrations have begun in full swing and our inmates are quite excited and busy these days getting ready for the various events of the busiest month in their calendars!!!

Sr. Reena Chittilapilly

St. Teresa's Convent, Kidderpre



The month of September was a time of celebration. Sr. Eliza Rai newly professed sister joined the community for a week on 1st September. Teacher's day celebration began with the Holy mass. We also had arranged recollection for our Associates followed by the sacrament of reconciliation and Solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration on 14th September. The community also received two young sisters Srs. Prabha and Namita. So we are now a big community!!! School gave farewell to one of our teachers Ms. Christina Singh on 30th September. She served the institution for 31 years. Another great occasion we had was on 15th October. We celebrated St. Teresa's feast the patron saint of the community and school. We had invited the neighboring

communities. The celebration began with a prayer service followed by sumptuous dinner. Children's day celebration was indeed a blessed one. The day focused on children and their enjoyment. Celebration began with the Morning Prayer, followed by variety of fun-filled activities planned by the teachers for their students. All the children were given snacks as a token of love from their teachers. After many years we conducted the Annual School Fete. It was really a special one. Teachers and the students were thrilled to have the fete after many years. The crowd was much more than our expectation. The annual fete was really a successful one.

Sr. Cecilia Surin

St. Agnes' Convent, Howrah



“Success is not just a measure of how big you can dream....it is also a measure of how much you can do by working together to build up the lives of our students and the society.” With great joy and enthusiasm the students, parents and staff worked hand in hand to make the school fete 2022 a successful one

The children's day programme proceeded with a Fam-Jam dance performance by the primary and high school teachers. They entertained the gathering with their delightful dance performance.

It is rightly said that the children are a treasure of hidden talents and innovative ideas. It was proved exactly at the art and craft exhibition organized by the nature club. It displayed an amalgamation of creativity and the concepts learnt during classes. We shifted to cook and eat healthy non-gas cooking competition where stress was given to hygiene maintenance during preparation and food values 45 minutes time and our little chefs were awarded with attractive gift hamper as winners.

Sr. Stephy Albin

Novitiate, Barasat

Sharing our Talents through our Apostolate...

We look forward to Saturday and Sunday to reach out and share Hope in the Apostolate through

Encouraging and Supporting Learning: By giving basic education to the children who are Vulnerable and helping them to achieve their goal in their life.

Comfort and Console: By visiting the families at the brick field, those are the most abandoned and left out by society.

Bonding with Hope: By visiting the elderly we are growing in the love of Jesus. We are able to see Jesus in them, when we help them by cleaning their rooms, washing their clothes and by bathing them and by reaching out to them, we serve Jesus.



Environment: We see in today's world that the environment is getting destroyed because of war, burning of the forest, cutting of the trees and greenhouse gas. Through this we are made aware of the future as to what will be the condition of the world. Today we are in the future generation, so we should be more responsible and take care of the environment; we are really blessed with mother earth today. It is a good opportunity for us to save the earth.

We are studying, praying, sharing but apart from that we are also grading, touching the mother earth, digging, sowing, planting vegetables, plants and trees which is helping us to save the environment and glorify God. By doing all these things we learned many things specially how to dig, plant, water and take care of the garden. This month we did a lot of work in the garden where we were able to learn more about how to prepare the ground for winter plantation. We are happy and enjoying the nature when sometimes we go to nature for prayer and meditation and learn to observe various insects and birds that share this land with us. We thank God for allowing us to live on this beautiful green earth.

The Sparkling Diwali: Diwali is the festival of light. It is the victory over the darkness. For Indians it is a cultural festival but for us as Christians light symbolizes Jesus Christ. In the gospel Jesus Himself says *“I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life” (John 8:12)*. Remembering that Jesus is the light of life we celebrated Diwali in the novitiate community. We divided ourselves into four groups and were responsible for prayer and decoration, recreation, arrangement of the refectory and cooking. We had a meaningful prayer service which helped us to recall how different religions speak of light and experience the joy of welcoming the light into their life and home. The hall was decorated with lights. Refectory was the centre of attraction which was beautifully decorated with lamps and candles in a creative way. We had a candle light dinner. We all enjoyed the delicious dessert prepared for the occasion. At the end of the day our hearts were enlightened and we felt happy to know that we have Jesus as our light.



Novices

Sacred Heart Convent, Baidyapur



To feel the freshness, cool and excitement one has to undergo dryness and dullness. Heat of summer has ceased, wetness of heavy shower has ended. The lovely autumn sneaked in to release unwanted feelings. Now the winter is at our threshold. Our lives need varieties. Let's enjoy.

Past months have offered lots of opportunities to get spiritual food through retreat, Triduum, from our FC feast days and Novenas etc. We all have experienced joy and happiness and have received lots of blessings.

On the other hand our school celebrated Teachers' Day, Children's Day with great enthusiasm. All tried to display their best talents in various ways. Each one tried to outdo the other in giving joy and happiness to each other.

Life is not only to have the joyride. Thereafter comes serious days. Not to forget that all have to work hard to get through the Annual examinations for which sacrifices and hard work is needed to get sweet fruit.

Let us all thank God for this good year and look forward to celebrate the Lord's coming in to our lives, the Christmas, and wish each other for the new and best year to come ahead.

Sr. Maxima Bara

Little Flower Convent, Basanti

The beautiful island of Basanti where our pioneer sisters first began their mission in the year 1934 and lived the Charism of our Congregation, till this day our sisters here are walking in their footsteps, serving the weakest and the most suffering in different ways. I feel blessed to be a part of the mission here in this beautiful island of Basanti where we are with the people and for the people. It always fills my heart with great joy to meet the people to visit them and to listen to them. The people here are kind hearted, welcoming, devoted and having great reverence for the religious. From their lips we still hear the beautiful and inspiring stories of our pioneer sisters. As education was very close to the heart of our dear foundress, both the schools here, the Higher Secondary and the English medium has been a great source in enriching the young souls. The students are full of energy, talented and much interested in all fields. Sister Alphonsa

still reaches out to the suffering people, treating the patients caring for the sick in the dispensary, her missionary zeal fills my heart with enthusiasm to do more for the Lord in and through the service of the people. As Jesus said **“Whatever you do to the least of my people you did it to me”** here in my mission I encounter Jesus every day.

Sr. Eliza Rai

Marie Therese Convent, Gosaba

Exhibition at Basanti: “One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world”

On 29th September 2022, the students of St. Joseph’s Primary School, Gosaba (Classes III and IV) were invited by Sr. Sheena the Headmistress, for the exhibition which was held at St. Theresa’s school Basanti, to have a learning experience for them. The students were very happy to have this experience.

Science Aptitude Exam: “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”. On 6th October at Gosaba block there was a Science Aptitude for classes III & IV, Our students with great interest took part in it.

Children’s day celebration: “Every child is a different kind of flower that altogether makes this world a beautiful garden”. Children’s day was celebrated with vigour and enthusiasm by the children and the teachers of St. Josephs Primary School,

Gosaba on 14th November 2022. The teachers made the occasion memorable for the children with their special surprise program which began with a grand welcoming of the children from the entrance gate and then followed by a colourful dance performance. The highlight of the day was to touch the heart of the children, bringing joy on their face and make the day a memorable one by the creative performances. As it follows – a short and sweet introduction



about the speciality of the children’s day, dance and a small skit by the teachers and sisters which they really enjoyed. Children too expressed their gratitude to the teachers by presenting their beautiful dances. The best part of the celebration was the teachers and students dance. We ended the program with little Tiffin.

Sr. Sampa Dhara

Theory ‘U’

Thirty two sisters from Rourkela and Calcutta Provinces attended the seminar on Theory ‘U’. All of us walked under the umbrella of Mr. Leslie D’Souza, a behavioral change enabler and coach. Two days spent together helped us to introspect ourselves and have a paradigm shift from **‘ego-system to eco-system’**. Listening from a different perspective led us to understand the importance of listening. He made us aware of moving from **downloading to factual listening** and **empathetic to generative listening**. We realized that in the journey, in the bottom of the U lays an inner gate that requires us to drop everything that isn’t essential for us. It’s an experience of **‘Letting Go’** and **‘Letting Come’**. This also invites us to live in touch with oneself to lead us to discover the potential of others, listen with our whole being for a productive life, to give life by dying to oneself. An open mind, open heart and open will are the essential requirements for listening.

We were divided into six groups. Productive discussions and creative presentations opened our eyes to know the reality of ourselves and challenged us to be open to the new horizons for better life. The question **‘what do we want to create at our congregational level’** led us think and reflect. We have owned up many things positive and negative for a witnessing life.

The initiative has been taken to change oneself to see a change in others.

Sr. Clinty Sebastian



Annual Juniorate Programme-2022, Kidderpore

The long awaited annual Juniorate programme was held from 3rd to 12th October 2022. We were delighted to have classes on Charism and Spirituality of our Congregation by Sr. Bini K.B. She discussed with us how to be more effective and efficient missionaries in the present era. She encouraged us to live our youthfulness as vibrant missionaries, utilizing our talents and creativity in our mission. She motivated us to draw strength from the Lord through our personal prayer, daily reading the Word of God, which will enable us to serve more joyfully and be committed to the Lord.

We were fortunate to have three days sessions by the Brahmakumaris. They enlightened us through their spiritual lives, how to be connected with the Divine Supreme power. They also motivated us by giving positive inputs like: 7 essence of life, 8 spiritual powers through meditation, build myself and others, and always affirm one with positive thoughts.

We had classes on the Synodal Church by Fr. Michael Biswas. He helped us to increase our knowledge about Synodality, which means spirituality of consulting everyone, journeying together in the spirit of God. He gave us some important tips to live and carry forward our mission.

Annual Juniorate of 2022 was indeed a wonderful and enriching experience for all of us. Our sincere gratitude goes to Sr. Regi our Provincial, Sr. Jessy our Junior Directress for accompanying us on our journey, Sisters in Formation House, our candidates and all the sisters from the neighboring communities, who contributed much to make our juniorate programme a successful one. We are indebted to you all dear sisters.

Sr. Paratima Hembrom

Juniors Meet with the Superior General...

F*inally the day had dawned...*

The day long awaited was here when we were filled with mixed feelings of excitement, happiness and nervousness. Some read the Constitution and Directory of the Congregation and Synod on Synodality. Ah... what a preparation that was by all the budding F.Cs!

At last the time was here when we the temporary professed sisters met our sisters, Sr. Pushpa and Sr. Valerie. They spoke to us about the importance of our personal relationship with God because God is the source of everything. Like in the Gospel of St. John's we read; ***"If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*** (John-15:5). He is the one who has called us, He is the one who has brought us together from different places and made us a family. So, whatever may be whether it is our community life, apostolic life or living of vows every day our personal relationship with God is 'the core'.

Then all of us were given a chance to speak about at least one thing that we like as well as dislike about our Province or about our sisters. They encouraged us to keep in touch with everyone and encourage one another to live our Consecrated life well.

Lastly, we concluded our meeting with a small prayer by Sr. Pushpa. But, before ending our meeting she boosted us with two sentences and those are ***"Be the change, if you want the change"*** and ***"the Congregation looks up to you"***.

At the end of the meeting all were vaccinated with spirit of courage and enthusiasm. It was a blissful day.

Sr. Rose Anjlina Barla

G*o after the lost sheep...*

Accepting to be a leader is answering a call within a call.
A leader leads by example not by words.

Leadership calls for responsibility and accountability. One needs to conscientiously take up responsibility. With these words Sr. Pushpa, our Superior General exhorted all the leaders in the province during her one day interaction with us. Sister reminded us that ours is the way of Servant Leadership and Jesus the Good Shepherd is the role model for us as leaders and superiors. Following His example accompanying our sisters is our foremost duty. Moving from the ego system to the eco system is the signs of the times now which we need to imbibe. Sister stressed on the need to renew our lives. Renewal of our lives and spirituality as individuals, as community and as a province is the clarion call given by Sister to all of us.

Sr. Juliet George

Gone for Heavenly Reward



Sr. Alexia Tete



Sr. Suchita Kerketta

9th October - Sr. Marian's Nephew

10th October - Sr. Alexia Tete

13th October - Sr. Rita Perumaden's brother

1st November - Sr. Martina Beng's Brother

16th November - Sr. Florentina Ekka's Niece

18th November - Sr. Jayshri Kindo's Uncle

4th December - Sr. Suchita Kerketta

8th December - Sr. AlkaLakra's grandmother

13th December - Sr. Embrencia Toppo's Uncle

20th December - Sr. Mukti Madhuri's Aunt



