



# PROVINCE FLASH DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CALCUTTA PROVINCE

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APRIL

NEWS BULLETIN

FOR PRIVATE

CIRCULATION ONLY

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

*With faith, picking up the broken pieces of our lives, filling the spaces in our emptiness with His love and being ready to start, all over again...* These lines echo the sentiments and feelings that are within us at this time, when we are devastated by the lethal corona virus, when we find ourselves at the lowest ebbs of our life and when the death toll of the global corona virus epidemic continues to rise. The God of history who intervened to alleviate human suffering in different ways is suffering with us and is guiding us to a new way forward. When everything seems all over on Good Friday, the grace and power of the Lord intervened to change the sadness into joy, the darkness into light through the resurrection of Jesus on the Easter morning. Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion, is the most important event in the Christian calendar.

We live in a situation wherein we are unable to celebrate Easter together due to social distancing and limits on public gatherings because of the corona virus. The fear is real. We have never been through anything like this before, and the unknown can be terrifying. Life is filled with disappointments and frustrations of all types. Then comes "the third day," the day of our salvation, the day on which God has good news for us. The good news is that, our God is a God who in the end does not disappoint, a God who in the end is not absent, a God who in the end does not abandon his creation and his people. At the resurrection of Jesus, God pronounces the definitive and decisive no to all injustice and sin, to all that impoverishes and enslaves us, to all that belittles and dehumanizes us, that in the end our God is victorious over all the negative and destructive forces and powers that threaten us. He has overcome all that which disappoints our hopes and dashes our dreams. He is the God who raised Jesus from the dead, and in doing so has overcome the power of "sin and death."

Together with Mary, at this difficult time, let us stand at the empty tomb, believe in the good news of resurrection, and then have the courage to proclaim it to the world. At this Easter, may what we believe in our hearts and profess with our lips, be seen in the work of our hands and the quality of our daily lives. Alleluia.



*May we be filled with hope, joy and peace.*

In union of Prayers,

*Regife*

Sr. Regi Mathew F.C.  
Provincial

# Happy Easter!



## St. Vincent's Home, Kidderpor



### Women's day celebration:

Calcutta Archdiocese celebrated Women's day with great enthusiasm. Our community was happy to be the part of this event. Four sisters from our community attended the whole day's programme. We met many women and wanted to shake hands and wish them but as a precautionary measure greeted each other with '**NAMASTE**'. We registered ourselves and went for the Holy Eucharist. Two members from each parish and congregation were called for the entrance procession with candles in their hands. Archbishop Rev. Thomas D'souza was the main celebrant. At the very beginning of the

mass he gave some important message with regard to the Corona virus. After the Holy Eucharist all of us had breakfast. The invited guests were felicitated which was followed by an inspiring talk by a lady who runs Ankurkala NGO empowerment for women. There was a wonderful cultural programme by the women's group of each parish. Programme ended with lunch. It was a good time to meet many women from different parishes.

### Pilgrimage to Bandel Basilica:

Our community went for a long awaited pilgrimage to Bandel Basilica on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. At 6:15 am we started our journey and arrived Bandel at 8.30 am. We spent a fruitful time together. We also made a visit to the Don Bosco School. We came back with blessings and contented heart.



### Our solidarity with people against NRC and CAA:

It was indeed a great feeling of being one with the people. We were blessed to be part of forming the human chain rally organized at park circus against NRC and CAA. It was deeply appreciated by the people for whom we went to show our solidarity and to say no to NRC and CAA.

**A day of outing:** On 26th of January workers' picnic was organized at Pujali by both the communities of St. Vincent's Home and St. Teresa's along with the sisters of both communities.

It was indeed a great time of being together. Games were organized and music, dance doubled our joy.

*Sr. Julita Kujur F.C.*



## Formation Centre

Calcutta known as the 'City of Joy' is truly a city of joy consisting of beautiful monuments, food, culture and people. We the Postulants have been deeply touched by the poverty and misery of the slum dwellers at Bhatta Nagar, Howrah. It was a golden opportunity for us to visit this place once a month. When we first reached there it was very painful to see the misery and the poverty of the people living there. Children were walking bare feet in the scorching sun, people surrounded by garbage, pigs, and dirty waters. We couldn't believe to see the human beings living in the huge pipes. Polluted and contaminated, filth and dirt of the city was heaped in this slum. It was indeed a shocking experience for us. We were able to see the suffering Christ in the suffering humanity, which were very close to the heart of our Blessed Foundress Mother Marie Therese. We were welcomed by the people. We visited the families, talked to them, taught the children to read, write, dance, play games, drawing and taught them action songs. Children were beaming with joy at their wonderful performance. This unique experience of being one with the poor and the down trodden have strengthened our own vocation.



*“Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.”(Lev.19:32)*

### Our experience in St. Catherine's Home:

The bright Monday morning inspires us to radiate love and compassion to our dear Aunties. It is very touching to take care of the elderly, because we feel that they are our grandmothers. In the beginning we were afraid to go to them and they were also doubtful because of our age, size above all our inexperience. But slowly we began to develop our relationship with them. We have learned to take care of them, listen to them, bathe them, feed them above all love them and pray for them. They have taught us their life

experience which has enabled us to see the realities of life such as; loneliness, helplessness and all kinds of pain and sufferings. Their love, blessings, prayers and encouraging words have strengthened our vocation. On the other hand, our elderly sisters are great example for all of us. It was so motivating to see them going often to the chapel to pray. Sr. Luciana's grace filled presence and long life, Sr. Ann Bernard's motivating talks and thrilling jokes, and Sr. Divya Kishori's energetic and cheerful approach has given a great impact in our lives.

*Dear sisters, we request you all to keep us in your prayers as we are preparing to go the noviciate.*

*Postulants.*

## St. Catherine's Home

**World Sick Day:** We celebrated the world sick day with our inmates, sisters and staff on 11<sup>th</sup> February. We had Holy Mass in the evening at 4 p.m. by Rev. Fr. Rudolf D'souza. After the holy Eucharist we had the anointing of the sick. Inmates and sisters were happy to receive the sacrament. They felt the healing touch of the Lord.



**Day out** – On 15<sup>th</sup> February our entire staff went out for a picnic. They were accompanied by Sr. Rufina, Sr. Genevieve, Sr. Josephine and Sr. Juli and Ms. Betty Martin. All of us enjoyed the day on the bank of the river at Budge Budge Park.



**Women's Day-** On 8<sup>th</sup> of March we celebrated the International Women's day. It was a memorable day for all of us. Mrs. Indira Dhar Mukherjee, an ex-student of St. Paul's Boarding and Day school, launched her new book **"The Angels on Earth"** at St. Catherine's Home. The eminent personalities present were Bengali film Director Mr. Ringoo Banerjee, Assamese Actress Tanaya Nandi, Mrs. Parul the owner of **"Baked with love"** – a Bakery shop. Our inmates and staff put up a small programme, which was appreciated by all. At the end of the programme they gave some refreshment to all. They were very happy to spend their time with our inmates.

*Sr. Juli Kujur F.C.*

### **My Experience in Cameroun Mission**



I had a beautiful opportunity to be one of the Missionaries to the Cameroun Mission where I learnt many things with lots of experiences in a unique way.

Within four and a half years of my stay in that Mission, I feel greatly challenged by the life in that part of the world. As a religious and missionary there is much to learn from the people living there. Their simple life has taught me a lot. I saw a completely different life – they are very generous, out of their littleness they come out to share with big hearts. They are courageous – I saw and experienced this during the political unrest. Living in the midst of turmoil situation, they reach out to others. They are very hard working.

Faith formation of the faithful is taken very seriously by the Church as well as the people. Their discipline in the Church is something to be admired.

*Sr. Shila Louis F.C.*

### **St. Agnes' Convent, Howrah**

Amidst the busy schedule of exams the staff and students of Agnesian family gathered around to bid farewell to our dear teacher Mrs. Swapna Barman, a simple, warm hearted and motherly person whose loving care has been

experienced by everyone for the past fourteen years.

We fondly remember Mrs. Shukla Chowdhury who even after her retirement served the institution for one year. She also has been a great instrument in shaping the young minds, a gentle and cheerful personality who has a deeper knowledge and command of English and is ever ready to extend her helping hand.

We are also grateful to Mrs. Bernadine Hall who with her experience and dedication has been a great strength to the family of St. Agnes as a coordinator for the past one year. We are sure to miss these mentors who have given a world of knowledge and opportunities to the students to explore and learn to improve themselves with a strong foundation to improve confidence, concentration and performance.

Class XII batch 2018 – 2020 were given a memorable farewell by the school. They were truly grateful to the management and staff for the years spent to mould them to be what they are today.

Exhibiting the creative talents of the students were yet another much awaited day for the Agnesian family. The Art, Craft and needlework exhibition of classes LKG to VIII was also a time for the parents to appreciate the hard work of their children.

*Sr. Anjali Francis F.C.*

## **News from Novitiate**

### **Nativity of Our Lord Celebrated:**

Preparation and celebration of the Nativity of our Lord was a beautiful spiritual experience for the community. Each day of the holy season of advent was marked with the prayer "ROOT OF JESSE" getting in touch with the ancestors of Jesus from the Scripture.

The **"ADVENT HOUSE/ CALENDAR"** contributed to each one with insightful spiritual message for the day to be pondered, reflected and bring them in prayer. The "O ANTIPHON" prayers reflecting on the messianic titles of Jesus along with meaningful prayers prepared by each group was a source of spiritual nourishment. And the novena for Christmas helped all to be focused on the imminent coming of the EMMANUEL (God is with us). Besides the above mentioned spiritual preparation the physical preparation with making of the crib and decoration for the occasion were meaningful activities which added the inner joy for everyone at Christmas. The crowing of the occasion was the well prepared liturgical celebration of the Nativity of our Lord at the Vigil Mass celebrated in our hall at 11.00 PM with our neighbouring religious communities, Minor Seminary and some faithful from around.

### **Sharing Of Christmas Joy with Brick Kiln Children:**

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 around 10.30 in the morning was the day with children from nearby Brick Kling. We shared our Joy of Christmas with about ninety two children with activities organized by the novices like games, sports, dancing, singing etc. Special snacks were served and Christmas meal was shared. The children enjoyed to their heart's content.

### **Day with Senior Citizens:**

A joint programme was organized by the five religious communities along with the Minor Seminary for the Elderly Residents of two Homes for the Aged. It was a beautiful occasion to bring smile on the faces of thirty Senior Citizens living away from home atmosphere, most often suffer from loneliness.

A short programme was organized contributed from all the five houses. They were served a sumptuous meal and small gift was presented as a token of our love and appreciation for their lives. It was indeed a significant day for all meaningfully sharing Christmas message of joy.

*Novices*

## **St. Joseph's Convent, Kurseong**

We welcomed the year 2020, and began our journey with the Lord after the severe winter. Now the flowers are blooming, birds are singing. There is an atmosphere of life line after the arrival of the students to the schools. St. Joseph's H.S. School resumed on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and Primary School on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Sr. Saly Joseph organised a day of Orientation for the teachers on 10<sup>th</sup> February. Teachers from the Primary School and Gurubathan joined the Programme. The Resource person was

Fr. Josh S.D.B from Sonada. St. Joseph's School's Spell Bee Contest was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

SJS Idol, Singing Competition was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Many amazing singers were identified.

We have 20 girls in the boarding which added joy to the convent.

D.B. Tech Staff and students had organised a wonderful programme on the Women's Day inviting many girl children and women. A Few of them were given opportunity to speak about the speciality of the Day. The resource persons were Ms. Cecilia George a Social

worker and the Director of Safair Oriflame - a Cosmetic Company. Sr. Jasbin Lepcha gave the welcome speech, highlighting the work of our foundress Blessed Marie Therese and the Pioneering sisters. They were welcomed with the traditional Khada followed by beautiful dances, songs and the recitation of poems. We take part in the SCC meetings, family visits, distributing Holy Communion to the elderly and the Sick; on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month we have adoration with the Associates of the Daughters of the Cross.

*Sr. Marie Therese Rai F.C.*



### **Shanti Bhavan Convent, Siliguri**

Lent, the season of grace through sacrifice and mortification brings us all closer to God through various spiritual exercises. The Maria Mahila Sangh of Pradhan Nagar Parish undertook a pilgrimage to St. Francis of Assisi Church, Fagu on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. This was also an occasion for them to celebrate the International Women's Day. The members had a very prayerful and enriching experience there. After reaching Fagu they took a walk up to the Mission Hill where Ram Munda Alias Joshua shared his faith experience with the group. Joshua was a 'Sarna'- worshipper of Nature, who didn't know Christ but the events in his life led him to Christ, finally for the evangelization. *The Rock with the cross inscribed on it which he found in his*

*property and the spring below this rock has not dried so far. The water from the spring first healed him of his leprosy and continues to heal many even today.*

After this trip they had a talk by Sr. Agnes Dung Dung F.C. on "Responsible Parenting". The Holy Eucharist was concelebrated by four priests. The people were helped to prepare themselves meaningfully for the Eucharistic banquet through the sacrament of reconciliation.

After the Mass they felicitated Sr. Agnes Dung Dung F.C., the resource person for the day, Sr. Alexia Tete F.C., the local spiritual animator for the Mariya Mahila Sangh, the office bearers and the priests. All the pilgrims were served a sumptuous lunch by the Fagu parishioners.

After nourishing and energizing their souls the pilgrims started their return journey from the mountain where they spend a prayerful day. A small detour on the way and the women were treated to the scenic sights along the Teesta Barage before returning home.

*Sr. Juliet George F.C.*

### **Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Gavaganga**

The school reopened on 6th January. The Annual sports were held on the 20th January. As usual the Republic day was celebrated grandly in St. Peter's ground, uniting three schools in front of a big crowd of guardians and parishioners.

This year 186 girls appeared for Madhyamik and 154 for H. S. Examinations.

The community and a few students and teachers were invited by the Jesuits to witness the welcoming ceremony of their superior general Fr. Arturo Soosa SJ.



Our Provincial Sr. Regi Mathew's visit on 16th, 17th of March was a time of grace. All are grateful to God for the same.

F.C. Associates participated in the prayer n fasting day for the nation, organised by the local CRI. Associates conducted way of the cross in sick and old people's homes in Lent. They visited more than forty families.

Corona virus disrupted many of our plans. Well, God's plans are different. So we are trying our best to respond to God's will looking at the signs of the times.

*Sr. Shanti Picardo F.C.*

## **Navjeevan Convent, Gayaganga**

**Republic Day:** The celebration started with morning Mass at 6.30 a.m. followed by hoisting of the National flag at 7.45 a.m. Fr. Simon SJ presided over as chief guest. GNM Students participated in parade while NIRME students presented a beautiful patriotic Play. The students also joined St. Peter's and St. Mary's School for common parade and presented their patriotic play in St. Peter's ground.

**Lamp lighting Ceremony:** On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 was the lamp lighting ceremony of 12<sup>th</sup> Batch of GNM Students. The ceremony was honoured by Col Ms. K. Vala, Chief Nursing Officer as chief guest from Bengdubi, Army Hospital. The students' parents were present for this ceremony and they were delighted to see their children's performance. On the same day 9<sup>th</sup> batch of GNM Students were awarded with certificate.

## **12<sup>th</sup> February 2020:**

Keeping in view that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year GNM Students Urban Community Posting in April, a short seminar was organized on "Tobacco Prevention" so that they create awareness among the mass community. Sr. Antonia Arulandu F.C. was the Resource person.

We the Navjeevan family anticipated the international women's day celebration on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Amdangi. The students' from Navjeevan campus put up an appropriate play, songs and dances which was based on today's life scenario. They even gave a health talk on anaemia and demonstration on hand washing Technique. It was beneficial one for the tribal people. The women were really taken up by the student's performance. After the programme they were given some snacks.



On 8<sup>th</sup> March the Parish also international women's day. It began with a solemn Mass followed by programmes for the Women of our parish. Navjeevan students also took part in this programme. It was really an educative as well as entertaining programme.

*Navjeevan Convent, Gayaganga*

## **St. Joseph's High School, Matigara**



performance. They had also carried some food items, clothes etc. The patients were very happy. Our sisters and staff thanked the students and teachers for the visit and the visiting team also thanked them for doing such a wonderful service and returned with an inspiration to work for the weak and the suffering humanity.

**Art and Craft and Needle work Exhibition:** On 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 2020 an Art, Craft and Needle work exhibition was held at the school hall of St. Joseph's High School, Matigara. It was inaugurated by Sr. Catherine our former Principal at 9:00 a.m.

**Visit to Hatighisa:** On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 class XII science students went to visit Health Care Centre at Hatighisa run by our sisters. Three teachers accompanied them the students. A warm welcome was given to the visiting team and they were briefed about the establishment as well as the functioning of the centre.

The children and teachers were overwhelmed to see how the dedicated staff takes care of each patient who are old, paralytic and even terminally ill. Children on their part tried to bring a smile on their face by putting up some song and dance

The students had worked tirelessly with the teachers in order to put up a spectacular exhibition. The hall was decorated and adorned with an exquisite look with the display the variety of art works, needle works, crafts and paintings done by the students during the academic year to depict and promote their rich sense of aestheticism. Parents of both the Primary and High school students were invited to witness this great day. Exhibition was closed successfully at 3:00 p.m.

**Kathak Dancer:** The SJS family is blessed to have a budding Kathak dancer Ms. Nikita Bhowal of class XI Science Stream. She has participated in different dance competitions and has won awards in this session. On 28<sup>th</sup> of January she won the first prize in the District Level Students' Youth Festival 2019-20 organized by the Government of West Bengal. On 5<sup>th</sup> of February she took part in the International Indian Classical and Folk Dance Festival organized by the Nataraj Sanskritik Silpi Samaj (Assam) held in the District Library of Guwahati, Assam. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 she was invited to take part in the Inter-District level students youth festival held in the Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata.

**Dance Bangla Dance (Zee TV):**

Aradhya Chaudhuri of class KG-A is selected in Dance Bangla Dance (ZEE TV) out of 3500 students and she was the only one selected from North Bengal to participate in the dance competition held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 in Kolkata.



*Sr. Lucy Thaikkattil. F.C.*

### **F.C. Convent, Hatighisa**

Winter is over. Elephants have disappeared. When elephants disappeared some hooligans came for a night stroll to our girls' hostel. No harm is done, nothing is stolen. But the boys from the boys' hostel gave them a good treat and hammered them when these guys went to harass them in their hostel. They even took their photo. Since then all seems to be peaceful. But we have appointed a night guard for us. Our community coped quite well with the winter except Sr. Insamma who had to be hospitalized in Navajeevan. She is back in Hatighisa and recuperating.

**Corona! Corona! Corona!** Are the head Lines in everybody's' conversation these days. But the Gospel says *"Upon you no evil shall fall, No plague (Corona virus) approach where you dwell, for you, has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways."* (Ps. 91)

**Lent** is in full swing with prayers, fasting and good works which keep the Corona virus miles away and gives us inspirations to understand the **"Mystery of Suffering"**. Suffering is a Door inviting us into the Mystery of Love which in turn helps us to reach out to the suffering humanity both in the community as well as outside of the community. Jesus on his way to Calvary needed Simon to help him carry the cross. **Now he needs us...** to help many who are carrying crosses, too heavy for them to handle alone. Jesus did not give up the cross on his journey to Calvary. He didn't work miracles for himself, his mother Mary didn't encourage him to quit his journey and to come back home with her. He carried the cross until his Mission was completed and on this cross he carried me with my sins so that I may have life eternal. I am redeemed by his blood. He came out of the Tomb victoriously.

**Happy Easter!!!**

*Sr. Francis Anne F.C.*

### **Daughters of the Cross Convent, Jorethang**

Music plays a vital role in everyone's life. It keeps us busy and makes our life peaceful. Music, for the entire human species, is a gift

given by God. Therefore, like every year we had a Winter Camp for Music under the guidance of Sr. Francisca and three other guest teachers.



Thirty-five enthusiastic children came to experience and also realise their potential and manifest their talent in **Sursadhana Niketan** school of Music. At the end of the month they had a small programme for their dear parents. The guest of honour was Mrs. Sunnita Gajmer (M.L.A) of Zoom Salgari, sisters and fathers were present here to encourage the participants.



On 8<sup>th</sup> February, Recollection was conducted for mothers in South Sikkim Denary level. The theme of the recollection was **'The Role of a Mother in the Family and Society at Large'**. Seventy five participants were present for the recollection. The programme began with the rosary, then a talk by Fr. Solomon SDB and confessions followed by Holy Mass.

On 17<sup>th</sup> of February we inaugurated the Play school "Tiny Tots". The fabulous colouring and designing was done by our hostel girls. We began with just 12 students. Tiny Tots will help the students to develop motor skill and provide them with a comfortable atmosphere to positively channelize their emotions.

*Sr. Hema Kujur F.C.*

### **E.C. Convent, Rinchenpong**

**Mission at Rinchenpong West Sikkim - Evangelization and Education:**

A beautiful place on the mountain top. Our School was established in the year 1996 by the Salesians of Don Bosco. Our pioneer sisters joined them in the year 2000 and worked in collaboration. And school was handed over to Daughters of the Cross in the year 2009. The Catholic presence is limited to the teachers who are teaching in our school. At present we have 6 Catholic teachers and 136 students. Our sisters with missionary zeal and enthusiasm worked very hard. We know our mother earth

is harmed in various ways maybe that's the reason we are not able to harvest sufficiently!

*Sr. Oliva Bilung F.C*

### **Daughters of the Cross Convent, Mamring**

The Investiture Ceremony of our school was conducted with great pomp and dignity in the school campus. The newly elected leaders of the school did the march past to begin the programme. Mr. Subham Pradhan was elected as the head boy and Ms. Bhargabhi Cintury as the head girl. All the elected leaders took oath led by the head boy during a prayer service followed by the lighting of the lamps symbolizing the dispelling of darkness. Mrs. Shalini Chettri mastered the whole ceremony, Sr. Helen Francis felicitated the leaders with their respective badges and advised them to be the good role models in the school. Function was concluded with the School Anthem.



CRI Meeting of North Sikkim was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020, at our Convent. There were sixteen participants from six congregations. We had talk, penitential service, confession, adoration followed by the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Walter Crasta was the resource person for the day. Meeting was concludes with delicious meal prepared by Sr. Priyanca Kullu and the helpers.

*Sr. Priyanca Kullu F.C.*

### **Daughters of the Cross Convent, Jordighi**

This year we have 25 Hostel children. As they attend Government School, we have to do most of the teaching. Fortunately we have got an ISC passed girl to teach them besides the sisters.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2020 we had the joy of Welcoming Sr. Regi Mathew our Provincial for the Canonical visitation. Sister spent two days -

3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> with our two communities in Raiganj and of course spent time at the construction site, meeting engineers, contractors, supervisors etc. It was also a very joyful time as the two communities of Raiganj had a get together as the climax of our visitation.

Our Parish has twenty three sub-stations. Therefore, there is much to be done. We accompany the priest in most cases for mass in the Villages which takes the whole day. Fortunately to most places we are able to reach by Toto except a few where walking is the only way of transport...!!! The people are very simple, most of them uneducated but they are very welcoming and happy with our visits. Most of them attend the occasional Mass in the village but to come to Parish church for Sunday Mass etc. is difficult for them. We see them in church only on big feast days like Christmas, Easter etc. That's a great effort.

*Sr. Leela Mancheril FC*

#### **Daughters of the Cross Convent, Goromtoli**

We have started Youth programme in our parish. There are about fifteen of them who take lead on Sundays' liturgy every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week under the guidance of Sr. Pushpa. They have started to help in the parish activities. Sisters are involved in different activities of the church such as; Sr. Mariana helps the Mahila Sangh and Sr. Bridget takes care of the Crusaders. We also have begun the Associates of the Daughters of the Cross.

It was a great privilege and joy to have Sr. Regi Mathew in our community for the Canonical visitation. She encouraged us to be more effective in our mission here.

There are 147 children in our hostel this year.

*Sr. Pushpa Ekka F.C.*

#### **Sacred Heart Convent, Baidvapuri**

The season of Lent is a time of preparation and a time of great blessings. It is a time to find a way to renew ourselves. The CLC mothers of our Parish have decided to visit the sick and offer special prayers for them, recite rosary in the Church before Mass. They are committed to their decisions. It brings happiness and joy among the families.

*Sr. Agatha Dung Dung*

The Baruipur Diocese is going to hold the regional SCC Convention in Morapai from 1st June to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020. In preparation of this programme, there was a day of prayer and input session in Bandel for all the units of SCC on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. Seventy members were present for this great day.

*Sr. Rita Perrumadan F.C.*

**Sacred Heart School:** We had Eucharistic celebration for the school on 13<sup>th</sup> January; Investiture Ceremony was conducted on January 17, 2020. Sr. Nirmala gave orientation to the teachers on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Our teachers are involved in conducting SUPW, Crusaders, LTS, Remedial classes etc.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we had the joy of welcoming Sr. Regi Mathew, our Provincial for the canonical visitation. Children gave a small programme in her honour.



The school is a place where children learn through play. They learn to co-operate, build trust in self and the others. They let out their energy and feel relaxed. Keeping this very goal in mind school organised a cricket and foot ball match for both the girls and boys from classes 1 to IV on 25<sup>th</sup> January and March 7, 2020 respectively. It was very interesting. The awareness talk on corona virus was given by the staff and sister.

*Sr. Nirmala Dewan F.C.*

#### **Little Flower Convent, Basanti**

**"Let the Hungry Be Fed"**. Praise the Lord for all that He does in our lives that we may acknowledge His power. He takes care of his sheep and feeds. Yes this Corona virus swept

some parts of the globe badly. Many suffered and lost their loved ones. Many scaled distant lands hoping to reach their homes and join their families leaving behind the place of their livelihood. Walking along with their vulnerable members of their families, children and elderly.

*Yes, Lord you have seen their pain and sufferings. Come to our aid. Have pity on those who are helpless. Save all from this peril of Corona virus. Amen.*



Yes, Basanti, Teresa's Girls' High School (HS) joined hands with the Government to distribute Mid-Day Meal Rice and Potatoes to the children's guardians during this Lockdown days, and hoping soon our students will be back to school.

*Sr. Maxima Bara F.C.*

### **Marie Therese Convent, Gosaba**

29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was a great day for us as the Teaching Staff of St. Teresa's Girls' Primary School, St. Teresa's Primary (English) School Basanti and St. Joseph's Primary School, Gosaba came together for a day of Orientation held at Gosaba. Nineteen members took part in it. The resource person Rev. Fr. Ramen Poilan the Youth Director of the Diocese of Baruipur made the input sessions very lively with various games, action songs and group activities. He explained to us in details the effects of our spoken words while dealing with the young ones. He also enlightened us about the human body, mainly made up of water, and showed us the video clips and pictures of both the positive and negative effects of sounds which changes its colour and shape accordingly. It was really surprising for us to know the reality and for many of us it was a new knowledge with a

deeper understanding. We concluded the programme with the Holy Eucharist.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were very important and days of graces for our Community, as we had Sr. Regi Mathew our Provincial with us for the Canonical Visitation.

On 13<sup>th</sup> February our Parish Church organized a day of Healing Prayer Service conducted by Rev. Fr. Julian Das SJ. Many people took part in this and got healed of many sicknesses.

*Sr. Mamta Bara F.C.*

### **Prerna Niwas Convent, Deonia, Nepal**

On 19<sup>th</sup> of February at 2.30 am an unexpected guest (elephant) visited us. He didn't alarm us, just broke the boundary wall, ate the banana plant and went on his own way. We came to know only after Mass in the morning.



**Family picnic:** Deonia parish had been waiting for a family picnic since last two years. Finally the day dawned on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and we could see the joy and enthusiastic in our parishioners. All the crusaders youth, parents, brothers, sisters and fathers had a day out together. St. Xavier's School campus took a new look with pleasant weather, the aroma of the delicious food, entertaining programme, games etc. A newly professed C.J. sister from the parish and her family too joined with us. All were very happy, enjoyed and went back to their contended.

*Sr. Maria Goretti Kullu F. C.*

### **F.C. Convent, Rangjuli**

There are twenty three sub-stations in our Parish. One of them, New Mushkuli were blessed on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019 by Rev. Bishop Mulachira. There are ten Catholic families at present.

Exposure programme 2020 was held in Tejpur Diocese from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January. Many priests, religious, formators and formees

took part. We were divided into different groups and allotted certain villages. We were given a village called Rabha. We visited the families and conducted some awareness programme for the people.

The Annual Sabha (Gathering) was conducted from 29th February to 3rd March. We prepared 95 children for the Holy Communion, 96 for Confirmation, 15 couples for blessing of the wedding and 10 for Baptism, from different villages. Many faithful, Priests and religious from different places came to witness this great event.

*Sr. Gladys Tom F.C.*

### **St. Joseph's Convent, Hathigopa**

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 the school reopened for the new academic session.



On 24th February, 2020 we had the investiture ceremony and the inauguration of the Annual sports of 2020. Fr. Genstar, the Capuchin priest from our neighboring parish inaugurated the Annual sports day. 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 was the closing of our Annual sports 2020. Our chief guest was Fr. C.A. John, parish priest of Gojapara. For the first time, this year we had the Garo traditional dance called 'Wangala'. It was a great success.

*Sr. Anu James F.C.*

### **F.C. Convent Alipurduar.**

Our community participated in the nine days Novena in preparation for Christmas. Villagers came together in the evenings prayed, took part in Bible sharing and intercessory prayers. It was concluded with confession and Mass.

There was a Mahila (women) rally organized at the Deanery level at Alipurduar. Sr. Elizabeth Minz F.C. motivated the women and many participated in it. Srs. Shila Louis and Jessy

Anthony visited many villages and met some young girls.

Sisters go to substations for Mass, Lenten prayers and gami Mass.

People also call for special prayers during sickness and other difficult time. Now Stations of the Cross is conducted every Friday for the villagers. BCC prayers have begun in a small way with young girls taking leadership in it.



Sisters organized a short women's day programme the first time. The ladies were happy. Tailoring, Remedial and computer classes are going on well.

We are having evening Mercy Rosary and prayers with local people walking through the village for protection from corona virus.

*Sr. Jessy Anthony F.C*

### *Gone to Heavenly Abode*

- 06.01.2020 - Sr. Genevieve Toppo's  
Brother-in-law
- 11.01.2020 - Sr. Lucia Kajuri's uncle
- 15.01.2020 - Sr. Jyoti Kess' uncle
- 20.01.2020 - Sr. Jessy Anthony's uncle  
Fr. Thomas Pullenkav SJ
- 23.01.2020 - Sr. Anjilina Barla's  
Grandmother
- 30.01.2020 - Sr. Flora Dung Dung's  
Sister
- 31.01.2020 - Sr. Sanju Toppo's uncle
- 23.02.2020 - Sr. Gracy Khawas' uncle
- 02.04.2020 - Sr. Teresa Anne's  
Sister-in-law
- 05.04.2020 - Sr. Saly Joseph's cousin
- 06.04.2020 - Srs. Teresa & Veronica  
Chungath's brother

