



PROVINCE FLASH DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CALCUTTA PROVINCE

PF/2020/2

SEPTEMBER

NEWS BULLETIN

FOR PRIVATE

CIRCULATION ONLY

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

The month of September brings a lot of joy to the Daughters of the Cross, our associates and collaborators. The feasts of our Congregation offer us opportunities to review our life, relationships and mission in the light of our charism and spirituality. On September 8th, we celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foundation of our Congregation. On 14th, we celebrate the exaltation of the Cross and on 15th, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.



It is interesting that when we celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary we read not about the birth or lineage of Mary but about the genealogy of her Son Jesus. It is theologically meaningful to stress that any celebration of Mary the Mother of God cannot be separated from her Son Jesus. God chose Mary to cooperate with his incarnational salvific plan. This brings us to the feast of the exaltation of the Cross. God's self-emptying started at the incarnation. The paradox is this: the Cross that has given Jesus tons of sufferings became the catalyst in the completion of His mission. There is no exaltation of the Cross without the salvific sacrifice of Jesus. We celebrate the feast of the Cross because the Cross lost the fight with Christ, death is not the final answer. A soldier might return from war with enemies' flag he picked up from the muddy battlefield. The Cross is Christ's trophy. The Church exalts the Cross because the enemy of life was destroyed by the Son of God.

Mary, our mother standing at the foot of the Cross, teaches us to confront the crosses in our daily lives with positive faith and unshakable trust in the Lord. While we face new challenges brought by the pandemic, let us not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by difficulties and absorbed by fears.

As we celebrate the feasts of our Congregation, let us thank the Lord for His amazing love, protection and guidance all through the years. We thank God for Blessed Marie Therese and all our pioneers for their life and example which led the Congregation to this day. Let us also look into our life and mission in the present world. The crosses and challenges are many – how do we respond to them? Are we fleeing from them or facing them with trust and faith? May blessed Marie Therese intercede for us to live zealously and respond effectively to our call as Daughters of the Cross. May Mary our mother who followed Jesus to Calvary, also accompany us and help us not to fear the crosses. May the Crucified Lord become the source of our strength at all times.

In union of Prayers,

Regife

Sr. Regi Mathew F.C.
Provincial

Happy Feasts to one and all!



Provincialate, Kidderpore

Compassion, generosity, other centeredness are some of the many gestures we witnessed during these days of lockdown. The pandemic Covid-19 has made it very clear that 'being human' to one is the greatest treasure to possess and the greatest gift to give.

Our comfort zones were shaken to the core. We realized how fortunate we are – our needs are met even before we realize it. But everyone is not as fortunate as we are. Our society has a mixture of the affluent, the middle class and those who have to work hard to earn enough to put food on their plates every day. People fall into their own category depending on the work they do and the money they earn – and all these seem well. But have we ever wondered what happens to those who are on the fringes?

This pandemic has taught us not to differentiate between human beings. We are all bound by the same bond of humaneness.

The provincialate community joined hands with NGOs with the help of Mr. Rajiv Panja, our Auditor and his team in reaching out to the LGBT community and the sex workers in and around Calcutta. Their lives were the hardest hit in this entire ordeal. The social taboo they face has escalated their woes.

The whole campus got together in doing their bit by helping to pack the food grains that were given out to the needy at various places.

Sr. Juliet George F.C.

St. Vincent's Home, Kidderpore

The Covid-19 and Lockdown have affected the life and mission of everyone and so ours too. During this Pandemic season we made use of the time by making our Annual Retreat by ourselves (Online) in the month of May. It was a unique experience. We had the privilege to have Final Profession of our Sisters- Punitha Alpin, Clinty Sebastian, Anusha Ramala, Sanjita Barwa, Dibya Bara, Gloria Dungkung, Rojinta Kujur and Ani Kindo on 10th June, 2020. Rev. Fr. Shaju Joseph S.J. was the main celebrant. Our neighbouring Communities witnessed this gracious and

solemn ceremony.

The Pandemic gave the opportunity to make masks and distribute them along with the food packets to the needy. In the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan we helped our Auditor Mr. Rajiv Panja and his companion Mr. Vijay in packing the food packets nearly two weeks along with Provincialate Community, Formation and the supportive staff of St. Paul's Boarding and Day School. Our Sisters – Julita Kujur, Sampa Dhara, Shiela Louise and Juliet George had the privilege to go to different villages such as Raja Ranipur, Satjelia, Tetultala, Basanti, Gosaba, Baidyapur and other villages for distribution.

On 16th June, three newly Professed Sisters along with Sr. Jyoti Parmar, Asst. Novice Directress and Sr. Suchita Kerketta came to meet Sr. Provincial and our Sisters on their way to Bombay. It was great joy to welcome them in our Community.

We are having virtual classes as well as co-curricular activities in the School. We also had virtual Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM). Now children are preparing for online exams. Children who are unable to attend classes on line are called to the School so that they can update with their lessons. One of our Supportive Staff of our school, Mr. Shankar Singh received adult Baptism on 14th of August. Sr. Sheila Louis had prepared him for baptism.

Sr. Cecilia Surin F.C.



Congratulations!



St. Catherine's Home, Kidderpore
A Garden of Love grows in Grandparents' Heart

On the occasion of the feast of the St. Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus, we the St. Catherine's Home community celebrated the Grand Parents' day, a day to honour them for their presence with us. Our inmates' hearts were overwhelmed with joy and laughter. The day began with a special prayer service for all the inmates. It added colours to the day as our staff put up a beautiful dance programme which kept them spellbound. We ended our celebration with a delicious meal. It was a memorable day for all the inmates who are left with pleasant memories, lots of

appreciation and heaps of blessings to all. We were very happy to see the joy in the faces of all the inmates who made the most of this wonderful day with happiness

Sr. Anusha Ramala F.C.

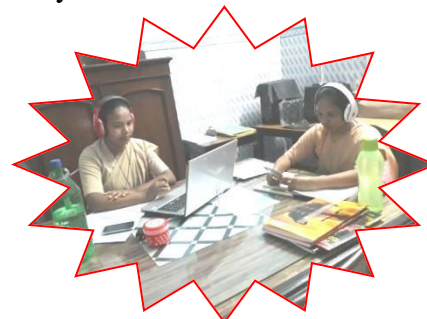


St. Teresa's Convent, Kidderpore

7th July 2020 was an auspicious day for the sisters of St. Teresa's Convent, as we welcomed Sr. Pranita Lepcha, the new animator of the community.

Due to frequent lockdown Sr. Meera Kujur who completed her studies this year and is transferred to Korobari, has not been able to go to her new community. She is rendering her service at St. Catherine's Home these days.

Sr. Mina and Sr. Pratima have been attending their online classes,



which has become a mode of teaching and attending classes now.

Sr. Margaret Subba is fully engaged in attending Webinars, online staff meetings and various online inter house competitions. School office is fully functional. Sr. Teresa Ann is active and alert reminding us of safety measures while important works must be completed.

The test on Constitutions kept us busy whole of August. Not even University exams kept us so glued to the book as this exam did! We are grateful to Sr. Regi for making the whole Province participate in the test with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Today the world is facing the corona virus crisis, a pandemic that has changed life for millions of people. We are reminded of the sayings of the great Philosopher Socrates who once said ***"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."***

May God grant us the grace and wisdom to renew our heart, mind and spirit as we celebrate the feasts of our congregation.

Sr. Pratima Hemrom F.C

St. Agnes' Convent, Howrah

The long awaited Canonical visit of our Provincial Sr. Regi Mathew took place from 17-18th June. She was given a red carpet welcome with the

sisters and the non teaching staff (due to Covid-19, teaching staff and students were missing) standing in line. She was welcomed with *arati*, *chandan* and a *Khada* and was brought to the chapel with

singing and dancing. After a short prayer we had tea together. Sr. Regi met the non-teaching staff separately. They were elated to have a chat with the provincial. Later she met all the sisters individually following which there was a community meeting which enriched all of us.

During the lockdown period we collaborated with Pilar Fathers, the Parish Priest and the youth in feeding the stranded labourers and the poor parishioners. The thirty widows whom we used to help were given extra amount as they were completely off their help from their children.

During the month of August, the community was busy thanking, bidding Farewell and welcoming. We gave farewell to Sr. Teresa Chungath on 2nd of August where two priests from the parish joined for the same. On 3rd of August we had a special mass in honour of Sr. Teresa. Thereafter we



reached her to the new community St. Catharine's Home.

On 3rd August Sr. Anjali Francis took over as principal of St. Agnes' Convent School. On 17th August we welcomed Sr. Julita Kujur to our community. Classes and co curricular activities for the students are going on, online. The compound wall which was broken due to *Amphan* has been repaired.

Sr. Deepshika Rai FC

Anand Bhavan Convent, Delhi
Pandemic Period...Full Cup of Sorrow

Till the end of 2019, there was a climax of rat race, hi-tech, throat cut competition, consumerism, materialism, globalization, power, position, and success dominated the human

history. There was time for no one. Even the religious were not spared. But as 2020 dawned one microscopic unicellular virus COVID-19 invaded the entire world. We did not even imagine it would attack our secure homes, convents, institutions, business centers, places of worship.

On 20th March the four convicts of Nirbhaya case were served Black warrant. Two volunteers of Prison Ministry India Delhi Unit after consulting the Archbishop with prior appointment with Nirbhaya's mother went to visit her home on 10th March on the festival of Holi, if we could make her an angel of mercy and forgiveness but her motherly heart was brimmed with pain and revenge. She only wanted justice for her daughter. On 25th March at 5:30a.m the four accused were hanged. There was a cry of victory outside the jail, but we felt capital punishment could be stopped, promote life not death.

To be on the safe side of Covid-19 Prime minister declared public curfew on 24th March. We were unaware the follow up of lockdown would proceed with face Mask, sanitization and social distancing to break the chain of infection, to stay safe at home from the community transmission of the disease. Hundreds and thousands of migrant laborers left the cities for their home states. But unfortunately many never reached home because of starvation, thirst, scorching heat, accidents, brutality of police. Adhering to the Supreme Court directive to the states to consider releasing some prisoners to decongest jails to curb the spread the Covid-19, Tihar jail having 18000 population released 4000 prisoners, under trails, on parole, on bail and acquitted.

During the lockdown Sr. Winefred is keeping in touch with 50 boys and a few parents, encouraging them to keep safe, counselling and praying for them, giving some monetary help to those who are in dire need. Tihar jail is likely to start allowing virtual visits by the families of inmates.

Sr. Rajni is becoming an expert in online teaching, attending seminars, and training. She is also excelling in culinary art.

Most of the time Sr. Celine F.C. is on her knees, rosary in her hand imploring God like Father Abraham, ***"If there are only five faithful on this earth would you save the world?"*** God must be whispering in her ear ***"in my own time."***



power, position, and success dominated the human

The COVID-19 crises have given us plenty of opportunities. We are sustaining our faith by participating in stream Eucharistic celebration, spiritual communion, retreats and talks.

We have improved our reading habits. It's a time for searching and discovering self, God and getting

rooted deeply in love of God. We are breathing fresh air, clear blue sky is the feast for our eyes, trees laden with green foliage, birds flying freely in the sky chirping and singing but lockdown continues till when?

Sr. Winefred Rai F.C.

Art Integrated Learning

“Students can learn the arts as well as learn through the arts.”

On 22nd June 2020 I had the opportunity to attend the webinar on Understanding and Implementation of Art- Integrated Learning (AIL). The resource person Dr. Shiksha Kaushik explained about the need of integrated art in our classrooms, which can become a very useful teaching aid and a medium of joyful learning for the students. To know the importance of art integrated learning she also spoke about the NCF- 2005 and NEP- 2020. It was a very good learning opportunity.

Catechetical during Pandemic: I attended the seminar cum catechism meeting on July 24th 2020, organized by the Loreto Catechetical Team. Principals, sisters and all the catechism teachers of 18 Loreto schools of South Asia participated in this programme.

The resource person Fr. Robert Johnson explained the following points- *Communicating faith, Identify challenges and difficulties, What are the creative methods and tools at this present time?*

The new ways of catechizing: *Formation of catechists, a culture of inclusion, preferential option for the poor, catechesis for prisoners, Use of technology.*

The challenges faced in today's world are: *How does catechesis get into the process of making faith seen? What is the role of catechesis in this instant communication system?*

Thus today we need to see the new shifts in catechesis from its traditional paradigm because the modern communication is quick, universal and visual. On the other hand our children spend more and more time engaged with the media culture. Secondly media literacy enables our students to have a clearer vision to understand the message.

We cannot ignore the possibilities and opportunities that new media has to offer for our catechetical ministry. Learn before you teach.

Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini said; *“For authentic communication of the message we must commit to improving our competence in communications in order to place it at the service of the gospel.”*

Sr. Rajni Prisca F.C.

Novitiate, Barasat

Entry into the Novitiate

The long awaited day finally arrived bringing lots of joy, hope and blessings, as we the eight postulants from Calcutta, Rourkela and Bombay Provinces entered the house of prayer 'Novitiate'.

We had been waiting for this significant day of our life since the month of May. Yet the will of God turned out to be different and he continued to give us hope to look forward for this day, in spite of this pandemic situation. The Rourkela postulants arrived on 18th August and were quarantined for a week. On 26th August the postulants from Calcutta Province arrived. The first year novices gave us silent yet warm welcome as the second year

novices were making their retreat for their preparation of their first vows.

On 28th August we had a great joy and delight of entering into the grace filled family of novitiate. During the prayer service we remembered our companion at Bombay, who at the very same time entered the novitiate in Bombay with the same prayers and ceremony.

We were blessed by the presence of Sr. Regi Mathew the provincial of Calcutta Province, who accepted us as novices in the Congregation. We were inspired and enlightened by her message as she encouraged us to deepen our personal relationship with our Lord and made us understand the importance of the two years of novitiate. We



too had the grace to have Sr. Flora, Sr. Veronica, Sr. Suchita and Sr. Emelda who doubled our happiness, by their presence, as we too felt the prayerful vibes of all the sisters from the Provinces. After the prayer service the senior novices congratulated us with their melodious hymn and Sr. Veronica edified us with her encouraging message to us. A delicious meal was prepared in our honor. We really felt loved, accepted and strengthened by God as well as by our sisters.

Novice Eliza Rai

News from the Novitiate, Barasat.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans quotes **'If God is for us, who can be against us?'** The present situation has strengthened our faith and conviction that God alone can grant us safety. Since the beginning of the complete lockdown, we have been able to value and cherish our health, known the importance of leaving every moment in awareness of God's manifold blessings especially in the form of nutritious produce from our own garden and his protection from all illnesses. Apart from this we have come to feel one with the suffering world, being in solidarity in spirit of prayer with the suffering people. With the suspension of Eucharistic celebration in the house, our sisters have been breaking the 'Word of God' to nourish our souls.

On the 14th June, 2020 three novices from Bombay province made their first profession. In spite of the absence of their family members and guests from outside due to pandemic, a rich and meaningful liturgical ceremony and joyful disposition of the sisters enabled us to experience the vibration of prayers, love and best wishes from all over and very especially from each sister of our

congregation. Sister Regi Matthew our provincial received their vows and thereby as members of the congregation. On 16th June we bade them farewell and wished immense God's blessings for their mission.



The eight second year novices made our retreat in preparation of their first commitment from 19th to 27th August. We were blessed to have Father Francis Nallappan OMI as our retreat preacher. Once again we received an opportunity to revive our vocational identity that is in **"being –The Beloved of God in God's mission of liberation"**. Through all these opportunities and events taken place in our house in spite of uncertainties, we feel that God is continuously manifesting His love and faithfulness towards us.

Novice Rose Mary Rai

Sacred Heart Convent, Baidyapur

Who can forget that terrific day and night!!! **AMPHAN!!!** I had never experienced this in my life before! It destroyed many houses and trees but thank God people were saved.

We distributed tarpaulin on 29 May 2020 to 75 people whose houses were blown off because of wind. The Provincialate in collaboration of the benefactors arranged the packets during this pandemic and distributed to the people of this place.

The online exams under the guidance of the Sr. Regi our provincial on the Constitutions and the Directory of the Congregation was time to recall review and evaluate the life of the individual. It gave us opportunity to grow and to have regard for the rule book. Above all it gave ample time to launch into the depth to prepare ourselves for our feast days' celebration, felt serene and inner joy.



Thanks to our provincial Sr. Regi for her love and encouragement. We also thank Sr. Catherine, in charge of the ongoing formation and the temporary professed sisters for her initiative in making it a reality.

Sacred Heart Primary School: After the study of the situation during this pandemic, at the staff meeting we decided to put forward chapter wise work for each month to the students. Thus teachers prepared questions and reached them to the students' houses. It was the willingness and hard work of the teachers and sisters. Parents were happy to receive and help their children.

Sr. Nirmala Dewan F.C.

Marie Therese Convent, Gosaba

20th May 2020 saw a great disaster brought by the super cyclone **AMPHAN** in and around the coastal areas of Bengal. People were just recovering from the loss and havoc created by the previous cyclone BULBUL in November 2019. Around thirty people were sheltered in our convent for a day and night of 20th May. Others were shifted to safer places in different school buildings, Churches etc. so they were safe but the after effect of the Amphan left them in darkness without electricity for at least a week, many with no roof over their heads. The River Banks were washed away; as a result water entered and drowned one of the villages completely. All the people were shifted to a nearby School building for a month till the bank was repaired. On 14th June we had Bible Quiz on the Book of Exodus which increased our knowledge on the History of the Israelites.

On 15th July Gosaba Parish bid farewell to the former Parish Priest Fr. Ujjwal Mondal and welcomed the new Parish Priest Fr. Jonas Singha.

We are privileged to have daily Eucharistic Celebration and praying for all.

Sr. Mamta Bara F.C.

Little Flower Convent, Basanti

Unique Experience of Amphan, Covid-19 and Bandh Days

The order came from the Government that from 16th March 2020 all the schools, colleges will remain suspended due to the spread of 'Corona Virus' a deadly Pandemic. It forced everybody to remain indoors, keeping social distance, using masks and sanitizers, washing hands often, keeping oneself clean, avoiding crowd by all means etc. All went under strict rules for safety. Yes, police department and the hospitals were to be on duty to keep everyone safe. It never happened like this before. No sound of children in the school or anywhere. No hustle and bustle on the roads and the market places were deserted. All were anxious to know how long these *bandhs* are going to keep them under arrest. Some were looking for food stuff, some were looking for current news of any development. Some were taken to hospitals who were found with corona positive and some were quarantined. Students were restless at home and longing to get back to schools. Teachers, parents all are worried as to what is going to happen to the future of these students and children. We began online classes. Activities were given to get in touch with their lessons. Many learned how to operate smart phones, yes this was one positive effect. State run schools started giving the midday meals - rice, potatoes and other eatables along with sanitizers to the guardians of all the students. In the midst of all these there came on 20th May 2020 the '**Amphan**', causing lot of destruction around us. Many were badly affected, specially the poor. We also were affected by destruction of property. But God still takes care of His people. It gave us an opportunity to extend our help to the people. God also gave us ample time to be with Him. Time to pray and reflect. Searching God in this situation. We need to change ourselves for better. We thank God for all that He allows to happen in our lives. Sisters of Little Flower Convent also joined hands with others to help poor people in affected areas of Basanti.

Sr. Maxima Bara F.C.

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Goromtoli



Sr. Bridget Kerketta and Pushpa attended a healing session at Mallybari conducted by Fr. Marcus Mardi. We visited the families and encouraged them to join this programme with the youth. Our community helped them for their spiritual and physical wellbeing during the lockdown. The youth of our parish took initiative to collect food provision and distributed. Sr. Pushpa helped them. Four laborers from Kolkata were taken care of by the community for about two months during lockdown.

On 24th August there was a recollection for the priests and sisters organized by the parish priest Fr. Protas Bara. There were thirteen of us. Fr. George sdb gave a talk on prayer OUR FATHER. St. Monica's feast day was celebrated in the village. We also joined. There was holy mass followed by fellowship meal.

Sr. Mariana Soreng F.C.

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Jordighi

Corona has controlled many of our Apostolic activities. Schools, hostels are closed. Family visits are not possible and yet our inner being is more active as ever. Our concern for others, feeling with the people who are suffering due to unemployment, not able to earn their livelihood etc. draws us close to the tabernacle to plead with the Lord, interceding for them. We spend much time with the Lord. Of course study of the constitutions, preparing for the exam was a thrilling experience a very good preparation for our feasts on 8th, 14th and 15th September 2020. On complete lockdown days we have at least 5 hours Adoration praying for the world and for our province. We are fortunate to have the Daily Eucharist in our chapel and we pray for many of our sisters who are deprived of this blessing.

We try to reach out to people in our own little ways by sharing vegetables from our garden, to some we gave ration, to some we gave work in our garden so that they can earn a living.

On the 3rd August Sr. Regina Kottackal and Sr. Anjugam Chellappan joined our community. Their presence makes a difference in community with more life and vigor in all that we do and we are very happy.

The monsoon is weaning off and we are getting ready to plant the winter vegetables. Also the flower garden is getting ready. Social distancing keeps us apart bodily, but our hearts are united in prayer. Stay Safe, Take Care. God bless you all!!!

Sr. Leela Mancheril F.C.

Daughters of the Cross, Hatighisa Convent **Lockdown Effect and Corona Care**

Sisters at Hatighisa have been involved in various activities during the lockdown period. The sisters identified eleven tea gardens with 161 families and six villages with 139 families going to bed with one meal a day. Realizing this urgent and pressed need of the people under Hatighisa Parish and Gram Panchayat the BDO and Police were contacted and then dry food grains were distributed to people. Masks and sanitizers to Police station and Soaps and Masks to vegetable vendors and poor people around.

In Collaboration with Navjeevan Hospital and their help awareness programme given to people through **Pamphlets and Flex prepared in Hindi and Bengali**. The Flex is placed in Churches, Markets and other public places. Sincere gratitude to St. Mary's School staff and sisters at Gayaganga and Sr. Oliva Bilung at Rinchenpong for Translation in Hindi, Prof Gangotri Chakraborty for Bengali translation.

The Palliative Care Centre which had stopped taking patients during lockdown has resumed after having confirmed from Navjeevan doctors and their report for continued care. Our occasional visits to people in the villages help us get vocations and are in touch with some of the students.

Hatighisa Convent

St. Joseph's Convent/High School, Matigara.

The Corona Virus has taken the form of a pandemic. Millions are infected and many are dying gasping for breath. The world has experienced a lockdown situation whereas the worst affected are the poor and the daily wage earners. Amidst such situation we have stood by the poor, the downtrodden, and the needy through various outreach programmes. We distributed Rice, dal, sugar and oil to many poor people. Financial and material help was given to 100 grannies and leprosy patients every month in spite of lockdown. We tried to reach out to the poor at tea gardens in Matigara and Hatigisa.

Sisters stitched masks and distributed among the poor people. Masks, gloves and PPE kits were distributed to North Bengal Medical College and Navjeevan Hospital. We are very grateful to all those who have extended their helping hands and assisted sisters in their noble job. The whole outreach programme was the joined work of the community. We experienced love, joy and togetherness in all that we did. We thank God for His immense love and protection.

We express our gratitude to Sr. Regi Mathew F.C (Provincial) for being with us and helping us in our outreach programme during the lockdown period and supporting us in various ways.

During the lockdown we had our annual retreat. Fr. Tommy S.J. guided us in our 8 days spiritual journey. During the pandemic, this retreat helped us to look back to our life and see how much we have experienced the love of God and to come closer to Him. It was an enriching experience for all of us.

Amidst the scary Corona pandemic, SJS family is striving to continue its normal schedule, be it in academics or co-curricular activities using WhatsApp and the zoom app as platform.

In May 2020 we celebrated the Rabindranath Jayanti with Rabindra Sangeet sung by Ms Mousumi Dey. In July Ms. Binu Shilal organized song and dance programme on the occasion of Bhanu Jayanti. Our online classes are going on in full swing. Keeping in mind the overall health of the students, we have around five online classes a day, over the zoom app with a break of 15 minutes after each class.



Unlike other years, this year we celebrated the Independence Day on the 15th August virtually. Students performed and sent recorded videos of their dances, recitation and speeches. It was then combined into a lovely programme by the teachers and the entire school could witness the program sitting in their homes.

The SJS family was also grieved at the sudden demise of two of our staff members, Ms Pricilla and our beloved Puran daju who had been a part of the school since its inception.

It is a difficult year but so far we are continuing with normal event schedule of the school by the grace of the Almighty God.

Sr. Lucy Thaikkattil. F.C

Jesu Ashram, Matiga

This year we had limited our activities due to Covid-19. Yet we had the lamp lighting ceremony of our health workers. Eighteen young and enthusiastic ladies received the lighted lamp from Sr. Insamma as a symbol of their commitment. We three sisters organized the program. Sr. Julietta Kindo's inspiring words really encouraged them. All the Fathers, Sisters, Doctors, Staff and health



workers were present. We were also happy to have the presence of Sr. Anthonia Arulandu who was part of the healing ministry team in Jesu Ashram. It was indeed a memorable day for our 18 young volunteers.

Sr. Geetha Cherian F.C.

Navajeevan Convent, Gavaganga



Navjeevan Hospital Rural Health Care center started treating COVID patients from the month of August. At present in our COVID ward we have three patients. One patient was treated and is discharged. For COVID testing swab collection began at our centre. All our staff is provided with protective gears.

During this pandemic, working in the health field is challenging, yet all of us are working with faith and trust in the Lord to serve the humanity. We have taken it up courageously. One of our own doctors is affected; all those staff who had contact with him are kept in quarantine. We also have prepared flex, pamphlets, and placed in prominent places, distributed in different villages to create HEALTH AWARENESS specially, protection and prevention from COVID. Our staff is also provided opportunities to attend many webinars on covid-19 prevention and treatment.

NIRME: The second year batch and one year courses students were called back to the institution and stay in quarantine to write their exams and complete their training. The exam was conducted from 23rd to 25th July 2020 and from 29th to 31st July 2020 for Physiotherapy and pharmacy. Due to pandemic situation examination of 1st year is to be conducted yet.

Navjeevan School of Nursing: Due to pandemic crisis, all the students of GNM were sent home. Online classes and exams were conducted for them. The Final year students were called back on 30th June and their regular classes are going on. The nursing tutors organized classes for the hospital nursing staff on Donning and Doffing of PPE And care of the patients with covid-19 in the wards.

Submission of online application was done from 10th to 25th August for new batch students.

Navjeevan Hostel had a tearful farewell given to the NIRME final year students on 31st August.

Sr. Lidwin Mary F.C.

Nav Jyoti Convent, Dundajhar

This long lock down phase looks like crossing the red sea. People are suffering in one way or the other. Due to corona virus many hospitals are not accepting patients and they are being harassed. We in our health centre NSK accept them joyfully with risk and care for them. We are treating fever, cold and cough patients and they recover. We also get many children with various sicknesses as well as accident cases. Health centre is picking up better. We get patients on a monthly average of 110 to 115 And day care patients around 4 to 5 per month. May the Lord continue to bless us and bless our mission and heal all who come to us.

Sr. Anjela Kujur

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Jorethang



God has never failed to surprise us. He gives us hints to spread the gospel. Sr. Francisca Lepcha has taken this privilege to evangelize the

Gospel through You Tube Channel which officially started on the 22nd August 2020. We request everyone to subscribe to the channel so that you get the updates on any new hymns added to the channel.

Sr. Prabha Lakra completed her class 12 with flying colors.



Congratulations!

We have already begun distance learning class for Nursery Class. Parents are really playing a vital role in the education of their children. We really congratulate them for their transformation from a parent to teacher.

Sr. Hema Kujur F.C.

St. Joseph's convent, Kurseong

Sisters and teachers of St. Joseph's H.S. and Primary Schools are engaged in distributing Mid Day Meal Ration for the students' families once a month which includes rice, pulses, potatoes, oil, sanitizer etc. St. Joseph's Convent and the teachers also contributed generously for the relief work to the needy families during lockdown period.

All Class X students passed but 6 of them got 'Compartment'. All Class XII Students passed. Class XI admission is over and online classes started from 17th August 2020.

St. Joseph's Girls' H.S. School had online examinations and Results were given on 6th August 2020. Our Teachers are also having "online Teachers' training programme" on different subjects. We are updated with new policies, new methods and new evaluation policies of west Bengal. Our office work has become hectic in both the primary and higher secondary school as Education Department has asked us to create a Banglar Siksha website portal for Filling up the forms of Kanya Shree, Sikshashree and (DCF) Data Capturing Format for all the students.

Online Classes are going on for D. B. Tech Students in Kurseong.

Sisters in the community are in sound health with Haldi, Ginger and Lime water!

R.I.P to Sr. Sally Joseph's Mother who expired on 11th July 2020.

Covid-19 has created havoc around the globe making life difficult and claiming many lives and jobs. For now all we really have is each other. So let us help each other through our prayers and through our technology. This virus has brought momentous changes in our lives but as any other obstacle we must tackle it and stay strong. We must follow the sentiment of nurturing and helping humanity this time of hardship. Do not squander your time; use it in a productive manner. Take up a

new thing or set up a goal. I am proud to see the school even in such difficult situations providing help and assistance to the community. 'What so ever you do to the least of my people that you do unto me'.

Sr. Josephine Lepcha F.C.

St. Helen's Convent, Kurseong



This vegetable garden is made during the Corona. It is fenced and under lock and key fear of wild monkeys.

Sr. Rose Namatathil F.C.

F.C. Convent, Rangjuli, Assam



On 11th June our Bishop John Mullachira visited our house. It was a nice time to be with him and share our Mission experience. On 19th August we had blessing of a Church at one of the substations of Rangjuli parish. 50 people including two Fathers and Seven Sisters were allowed to participate in this Eucharistic celebration. It was the first time 50 people participated in this great event with masks and sanitizers. Choir was led by the sisters.

Sr. Sumita Beck F.C.

St. Joseph's Convent, Hatigopa.

First batch of our 14 students had appeared in Madhyamik Examination. Six students passed - two 1st divisions, three 2nd divisions and one 3rd division. During Lockdown our school was a quarantine centre for fourteen days. In the Community we had Bible quiz. All of us took turn in preparing the questions to conduct the Bible Quiz. It was a great experience for us to learn the Bible and use our time fruitfully.

Sr. Angelina Tirkey F.C.

Helena Convent, Diphu

Lockdown 2020 - an Awakening of cosmic consciousness of God

Every event of life has - positive and negative aspects so also The Covid-19 pandemic. We know how this pandemic has shaken the whole world witnessing fear, panic and numerous deaths across the world, yet it has many more positive impacts.

Before the lockdown, we always had the opportunity to go to the church. But during the lockdown, with social distancing and other restrictions, the church came to the homes, instead we going to the church. Jesus' words thus came very true, ***"Now the time has come that you will not worship God in the mountains but in truth and in Spirit"***. We spent more hours of prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. We also made our annual retreat. Sr. Philomena helped us in directing our days' of prayer with points from Ignatian spirituality. Fr. Cornelius SDB from our neighbouring Salesian community was available for confession. We have been blessed with Holy Mass every day.

The long run 2020 lockdown has resulted a greater positive impact on the environment and the climate. We also contributed in the preservation of the mother earth by planting 700 tapioca stems, 175 arecanut trees, more than 100 yam, 10 coconut, Neem and varieties of fruit trees, ginger, turmeric, and beautified our gardens with many flower plants. All these helped us to nurture our positive energies and inspired to become aware of the need of weeding out the negative energies.

Our hostel girls though absent physically, regular in contacting us by the social media which is a sign that they are missing this home. Our online classes are in full swing with loaded home works and class tests and assignments conducted digitally.

Sr. Helen Momin F C

Remembrance of the great

Missionaries...

Sr. Anne Bernard F.C.



Sr. Anne Bernard was born to John Bernard and Brenda Iris Conquo on the 5th August 1925 at Calcutta. She was baptized Margaret Helen at the Cathedral Church of our Lady of the Rosary, Howrah.

In 1944 she entered the Daughters of the Cross and made her 1st Vows in 1946 at St. Helen's Convent Kurseong. Her final vows were made on 15th August 1952 at Liege, Belgium, at which she took her special devotion of the Most Blessed Trinity, placing in the hands of Mother Carola Mary, the Superior General.

It was from 1966 that she was given the nomination of Secretary to the Provincials. She worked with six Provincials with precision as though wedded to her typewriter.

Her love for the sisters knew no bound, caring and waiting in what part of the day! Her charity was remarkable no matter who the person, she treated them with respect. Many came to her for advice and help and gave quality time to them.

She was an avid reader. Her knowledge and critical analysis was far beyond our understanding. Though she was hot-tempered she never went to bed without reconciling with the person, keeping to what our Foundress Marie Therese told her daughters "Before the Sun goes down be reconciled". There was no compromise in her Obedience to the Superiors. The decisions of the authority were of the will of God for her and she submitted to it whole heartedly.

She completed 76 years of religious life in the Congregation of Daughters of the Cross. Her sense of belonging to the Congregation was outstanding. She had a very happy and fruitful life in the Congregation which she loved dearly and which in return gave her much happiness.

Sr. Maria Vianney F.C.

“Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you are called and for which you were made” (1Tim 6: 12)

This saying of St. Paul became a reality in the life of Sr. Maria Vianney Thadavanal.

Rosamma was born on 11th February 1941 to Mr. and Mrs. Mathai Thadavanal at Poonjar, Kerala to a devout Catholic family. She had two brothers and two sisters. At a very young age she had been inspired by her paternal aunt Sister Mary Luciana F. C.



Her letters were full of stories about encountering wild animals, the minimum facilities and difficulties in the villages which attracted the young Rosamma. Thus she cherished her desire to consecrate her life to the Lord in a missionary Congregation. After her studies sister was sent to St. Joseph's Hamirpur. There she whole heartedly lived her cherished desire of being a missionary through her Educational and pastoral care. She had also been in St. Joseph's Convent School, Matigara, and St. Agnes' Convent School Howrah.

Her transfer to Little Flower Convent, Basanti, was a turning point in her missionary journey. Her extraordinary missionary zeal was put to test as she accepted the challenge of the department of Education as the Candidate must have a degree in Bengali. Sr. Vianney graduated subsequently in B.A. and M.A. examination in Bengali. This is the caliber of Sr. Maria Vianney. There were many more obstacles of this sort: appointment of teachers by the department of Education, running back and forth from the court, bringing discipline and standard in the School. She was a Teacher par-excellence who touched the lives of so many children, Teachers and Parents. She bore suffering with great courage and all the hardships with great enthusiasm, even escaping from a Bangladeshi pirate boat on her way to the Sundarbans. On weekends she went to different islands in Sundarbans to visit families taking an adventurous journey by boat and on foot.

After her retirement she also rendered her services in the Bhutanese refugee camps with Caritas Nepal for almost seven years as a resource teacher. She excelled in learning languages other than her mother tongue, like English, Oriya, Bengali and Nepali. She was an orator with wit and wisdom.

She served as 20th Provincial superior of the Province of Calcutta from 2006 to 2012. She was one of those passionate leaders the province ever had. During her tenure our province witnessed a dynamic growth and progress. She encouraged, empowered, lifted and inspired all of us. She dedicated her time, talents and interest to the ministry of the Province.

She has been a sterling example of love for the poor. She touched our lives through her simplicity and commitment, love and kindness, humanity and holiness, wisdom and knowledge, sensitivity and caring, humour and laughter and her compassion for those in distress. Her deep faith in the Lord helped her to be faithful in her religious life. She had unassuming ways of doing and saying things and yet firm in her decisions. She would undergo any hardship for the sake of the Lord and His mission, without fanfare she gave herself completely to her master. Indeed a cheerful giver, gentle, generous and serene. Simplicity of life was her hallmark.

Despite her ill health and age she was ever-ready, always smiling and willing. She lived fully the words of Blessed Marie Therese our Foundress, ***“We should wish for nothing but that Jesus may be in all hearts, and for the rest we should abandon ourselves to the Divine will”.***

May she reap the reward of her goodness which she so richly deserves.

*Gone to
Heavenly Abode*



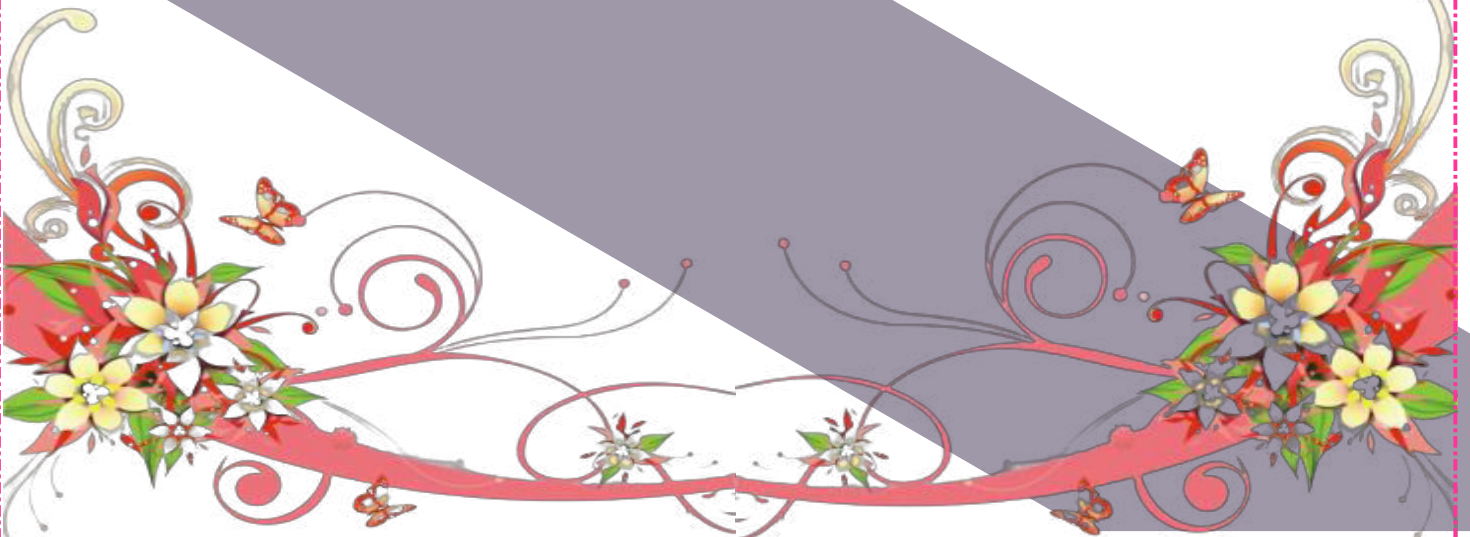
- 19.04.2020 - Sr. Basanti Lakra's uncle
22.04.2020 - Sr. Maria Vianney F.C.
24.04.2020 - Sr. Leela Mancheril's aunt
25.04.2020 - Sr. Hema Kujur's uncle
28.04.2020 - Sr. Mary Alphonsa's cousin
07.05.2020 - Sr. Mary Alphonsa's brother.
29.05.2020 - Sr. John Berchman's Sister-in-law
31.05.2020 - Sr. Lucy Abraham's Grandmother
07.06.2020 - Sr. Dominica Kindo's Grandniece
11.06.2020 - Sr. Anjali Francis' aunt
05.07.2020 - Sr. Lalita Russell's sister
11.07.2020 - Sr. Saly Joseph's mother
11.07.2020 - Sr. Regina Kottackal's cousin
30.07.2020 - Sr. Anne Bernard F.C.
14.08.2020 - Sr. Lucia Kujur's brother
24.08.2020 - Sr. Muktilata Kerketta's grand father
31.08.2020 - Sr. Sanjita Barwa's mother



Sr. Maria Vianney F.C.



Sr. Anne Bernard F.C.



"Mother My Dearest Mother"

Mother is the most sacred and sweetest
word

Ever uttered on earth from all eternity
The whole Creation sing out your love
In exaltation.

To praise your Glorious birth on this day
We come before you with heart full of joy
To sing a hymn of gratitude to you
with a beautiful smile for being you
On your birthday we glorify your worth
With this melodious acclamation.

As we celebrate you as the chosen one of
Yahweh

We highly appreciate and gratefully
acknowledge your mother hood.

Oh Gracious mother Mary
we pay our Homage to you
with a loud applaud

Hail full of Grace Mother of our saviour
You joyfully accepted the plan of God.

Thus you brought salvation to man kind
We admire your daring spirit and
Affection to spread the good news
As we kneel before you for your blessings

Your total surrender to the Divine grace
raised you as the first sanctuary
for the prince of peace.

In your womb the word become flesh
As you carried the Babe of incarnation
We honour your humility and holiness.
Faithfully and enthusiastically you pondered
everything

With great patience and perseverance
Attentively you listened to the prompting
of the spirit
Your passion for the poor and the needy



Kept you as a merciful mother
of humanity
Gracefully you stood beneath
the tree of Life.

Thus you encourage your
beloved son in his suffering
Oh most compassionate mother
Teach us to understand the
beauty of our call
To discern the Divine ways

As you did in your life for the
glory of God
Holy mother help us to fix our
gaze on him on Calvary
To encounter him in our daily
life

As we greet you with this
birthday wishes

Sr. Daisy Joseph F.C



**Sisters at service of the people
during Pandemic...**

