

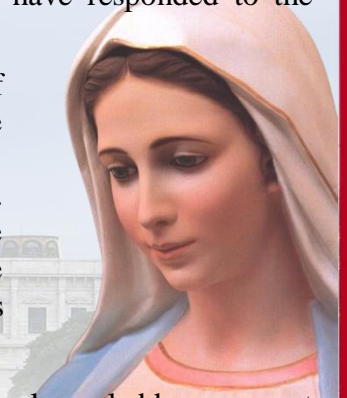
PROVINCE FLASH DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CALCUTTA PROVINCE

PF/2022/2 September News Bulletin For Private Circulation Only

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

The present socio-political unrest, war and violence and destructions of various kinds will remind us of the time of Blessed Marie Therese. She was a woman of prayer and faith, zealous and daring, compassionate and caring. The experience of the love on the Cross inspired her to respond to challenging situations where others feared to move into. How would she have responded to the present situation?

The Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross was born on the birthday of our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Looking at her life, we learn that she does not allow herself to be overcome by difficulties and absorbed by fears. She puts God first in her life, which becomes the source of her Magnificat. Her joy is born not from the absence of problems but from her faith in the ever-loving God. Her life testifies that the Lord works wonders with those who are lowly and who give generous space to God in their life. What does she teach each one of us today?



The Cross is the ladder Jesus made to lead us upward to heaven, but it is also a ladder we must embrace and climb. Jesus asks us to courageously choose a life similar to his own. Suffering cannot be avoided nor ignored by those who follow Christ, especially the Daughters of the Cross. We are called to contemplate Jesus Crucified in order to understand the language of the cross which is folly to those who do not believe, but to us, is seen as God's power to save. We are called to understand and experience the love, forgiveness, humility, obedience and self-emptying revealed on the Cross. We are called to know that God brings good out of all things, even our suffering. Jesus is close to those who suffer, and His strength is available to all those who believe in Him.

Let us thank the Lord for protecting and guiding our Congregation down through the years. May blessed Marie Therese and our pioneers intercede for us to live as dedicated and zealous Daughters of the Cross. May Mary our mother teach us not to alienate ourselves from the Lord who is the source of our life. May the Crucified Lord who knows how weak our faith is, and how difficult our journey is, become the source of our strength and guide us in our endeavors.

Happy Feasts to one and all!

In union of Prayers,

Regi

Sr. Regi Mathew F. C.
Provincial



News from the Provinciate

Two years of lockdown which kept us confined to our places is finally over!!! Sisters are now able to travel and meet together. St. Vincent's Home was very busy hosting meetings and welcoming sisters for various occasions:



Formators' Gathering:

From 6th to 8th May 2022, the formators from Rourkela and Calcutta attended a Formators' Renewal program at Kidderpore, conducted by Fr. Anthony L. CMF. The theme was based on the various challenges to train the candidates. The questionnaires were: 'How to meet the expectations of the formees in order to promote genuine vocation', 'how to guide and motivate to live authentic life and have passion for serving Christ' etc. Everyone contributed and shared their difficult circumstances and experiences of dealing with the formees and the present challenges of family background.

Fr. Anthony updated us with new and various ways like: Addiction to media, unintegrated self, resistance in responsibility, carefrontation and evaluative system. We ended our seminar with new perspectives to guide and accompany the formees.

Sr. Manasi Naskar F.C.

Superiors' Meeting:



In order to help the leaders of the province, our Provincial arranged for a two day Orientation programme for all the Superiors on 6th and 7th August 2022 at St. Vincent's Home. In the course of two days' programme the resource person, Fr. Michael Fernandes SDB spoke on various topics

like; Understanding Consecrated Life, dealing with Bishops and dioceses, Leadership in **Religious Communities, Community Life, Animation and Administration, Spiritual Guidance and Religious Life – a call to move beyond.** Father began with the Code of Canon Law explaining various terminologies in use and progressed through the topics with many practical examples giving a better understanding on the subject. He explained the basic difference between animation and administration. A religious superior's role is to animate but very often we get caught up in the administration leaving out animation. '**Religious Life – a call to move beyond**' focused on "**mission shaped religious life**" which exhorts us out of our comfort zones and challenges us to get involved in the lives of those who we serve and work with.

We thank Sr. Regi and her councilors for arranging this enriching session.

F.C. Educators Meet:



Around 26 sisters in the Education Ministry of our Province came together for a two days' seminar on 20th and 21st August 2022. It was an enriching experience listening to the resource persons: Fr. CJ George SDB and Mr. Terence John.

On the first day Fr. George spoke to us on our role as educators based on the Church document: **Congregation for Catholic Education: Consecrated Persons and their Mission in Schools – Reflections and Guidelines.** The document was very well explained reminding us that we are religious first before being professionals. We are consecrated for human mission. It is important that we give testimony of Christ through our lives in our educational places. The examples father gave us from his varied and rich experiences of administration and social work gave us enough food for thought. He also spoke to us about Emotional Wellness which now has become a very important aspect of every one's life more so in the life of affected children as aftermath of Covid-19. Teachers play a significant role in building up the emotional wellness in the lives of the young students entrusted to their care. A teacher can make or break the impressionable minds under her care.

The second day with Mr. Terence was spent in understanding the nuances of our Constitutional rights in administering our institutions. He explained to us the genesis of minority institutions in our country and the various measures undertaken by the founding fathers of the Indian Constitution to

protect the rights of the minorities. We discussed and clarified our doubts regarding the Right to Education Act (2009) pertaining to Minority Institutions. He helped us to understand properly the different aspects of school administration.

Sr. Juliet George F.C.

Anand Bhawan Convent, New Delhi

I had the opportunity to visit the jail no-2 with other four members of prison ministry of India. It has got many factories where the convicts work permanently for their income. They make things like furniture, cakes, biscuits, mixture, cornflakes, oil, soap etc.

In order to give the spiritual support to the prisoners, we organized a prayer service in jail no-1 on 1st August 2022. We came together and prayed through the intercession of Mary our Mother. The prisoners had the opportunity to make their confession and be renewed.

Sr. Gloria Dung Dung F.C.

Prerna Niwas Convent, Deonia

Few days ago an elephant entered the compound, shook the jackfruit tree and ate the fruits, visited the staffroom and principal's office, and walked out gloriously as the guard opened the gate as though the jumbo was on a visit to the school to find out about the admissions may be!

We had grand farewell and welcome programme for Srs. Jyotsna and Urmila respectively with Holy Mass offered for them. We continue the mission by visiting families, teaching Catechism and B.C.C. prayers in different houses of our Parish.

Sr. Maria Goretti Kullu F.C.

Christalaya Convent, Maheshpur

On 16th May 2022 His Excellency, the most Rev. Arch Bishop Leopoldo Girelli, Nuncio for India and Nepal came to Eastern Nepal for the Pastoral visits. St. Xavier's parish, Maheshpur had the joy of welcoming him. Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind from Bagdogra, Rev. Bishop Clement Tirkey from Jalpaiguri and Rev. Bishop Stephan Lepcha from Darjeeling were present for the occasion. Our hostel children led the choir during the Eucharistic celebration followed by the cultural program. Next day Sr. Mallika and Sr. Urmila had the honour of accompanying the Nuncio and our Bishop Paul Simick to Sadakbari and Korabari.

Following events took place in our mission;

- ✚ Sr. Rita prepared two couples to rectify their marriage
- ✚ Sisters conducted two deliveries at home in our Maheshpur tea garden quarters
- ✚ This year we have started LKG. Nursery has 20 children and LKG has 8 children
- ✚ We conducted three medical camps and treated 748 patients. One camp was conducted in Chandragadi Jail and 485 patients were treated with the help of the doctors from Om Sai Pathibara Hospital, Chandragadi.

Sr. Mallika F.C.

St. Joseph's Convent, Nepal

The number of the students in our school has increased to 278. Students are very happy to use tie and belt for the first time this year. As the motto of the school is '**Grow and Glow**' we see glow on their faces. The cycle stand for the students is extended behind the school building. As our school is situated in the middle of the paddy field snakes visit us often. But we experience God's protection always. Catholic families in our sub-station have increased to 36. They were only 25 when we came here. We are

very much involved in the pastoral ministry especially faith formation and the other activities. We are ever grateful to God for his many blessing for this mission. We are also thankful to all the well-wishers and donors for their help and support to develop this mission.

Mission in North-East

Sr. Lucia Kujur F.C.

Northeast India is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse regions of Asia. The VIBGYOR has made this region witness awesome beauty and bewildering diversity. The eight colourful states are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. These enchanting lands being fertile for Evangelization many stalwart missionaries worked tirelessly to reveal the face of Jesus and face of merciful and forgiving God the Father. Today this North Region has given many holy daring consecrated men and women.

The society of Don Bosco has a strong foot hold and firm foundation in the Education ministry.

We the Daughters of the Cross as their collaborators took great responsibility to take care of the girls in our Helena Hostel. This Session 2022-23 we have accommodated 150 girls of the Arts, Science, and Commerce streams. There are fourteen Catholic girls

and many other belonging to other denominations. The house management is a herculean task. We need life skills to take care of these students from different backgrounds. The girls take interest to be in touch with the nature by gardening and keeping the compound clean and green. Our warden Miss Irma manages to keep discipline, monitors the navigation of screen-time, supervise their study. In the light of our Charism we give special attention to the weaker students. The students are happy, healthy and cheerful.

We also have got new bore well dug providing clean water for all the hostellers. We are grateful to the benefactors for their generous support for this noble cause.

Sr. Dominica Kindo F.C.

St. Joseph's Convent, Hatigopa

1st to 3rd August, 2022, we had the L.T. S. program in our school under the guidance of Fr. John Rogers S.J. The program was vibrant and inspiring with lots of group works and games, which helped our students to be motivated to become good leaders.

Sr. Anu James F.C.



Daughters of the Cross Convent, Rangjuli

It is good to look back at the events that took place in the mission field our community. Soon after the Easter we were busy in the Pastoral field. We went for house blessings to the substations of our parish. Sr. Mariam took marriage preparation classes for two couples from the Tea Garden. Sr. Gladys together with Sr. Agnes MSHC took 115 youth from our parish for a three-day inter-state Youth Convention held at the Retreat Centre, Khetri, Guwahati.

We also had the joy of the visit of Sr. Jessy Anthony to our community in June and Sr. Regi and Sr. Dominica in August.

Sr. Mariam Barla F.C.

Daughters of the Cross Convent, Alipurduar

On 31st May 2022 our community joined the parish for Rosary procession with the parishioners. After rosary there was cultural program from different villages in honour of Mary our Mother. Our children also joined in the programme. Our community has taken one village for S.C.C. prayers. We go there on Wednesdays evening and pray with them. They are very happy with our presence.

Sr. Shila Louise had gone for vocation tour to Odisha and Jharkhand, and attended a vocation camp in Kandhamal. Many girls have shown their interest to join us. Let us keep them in our prayers. Nowadays we are busy with our farming works. In the evenings we join with the families for prayer and listen to their problems and difficulties, in this way we are trying to reunite the broken families.

Sr. Shila Louis F.C.

F.C. Convent, Jorethang

On 28th May 2022, Jorethang Community had arranged for a Career Guidance programme for the girls of South-West deanery Sikkim. 18 girls had responded from three parishes. Resource persons were Fr. Mani Lepcha, Mr. Prabash and his team enlightened the girls on career guidance and the family life. Our sisters Winifred Rai, Marina Thapa, Annette Lepcha, Deepshika Rai, Francisca Lepcha and Wilfrida Dungdung shared their insights on religious life, health, life of Mother Marie Therese and our Charism. They also shared their vocation story. Girls were happy to attend this programme. Five of them have given their positive response.

Sr. Francisca had arranged a day of recollection for Nari Sangh at Namchi parish for the south west deanery.

Sr. Wilfrida Dung Dung F.C.

Sharing my Experience of Mamring, Sikkim



I joined the Daughters of the Cross Convent, Mamring in June 2022. Though it is a small place, small school and equally small Parish life is rather busy. I must say busier than other places I am used to.

Though the Parish is small, it seems to be well-abreast of what is happening around the world. The concept of Synodal Church has already taken deep roots. I was pleasantly surprised to hear everyone, actively participating in the Eucharistic celebration. Even a four year child knows the prayers and responses of the Mass. It is indeed so nice to hear the whole congregation singing and responding in unison during the Eucharist. Whenever there is any function in the Church or celebration, all come together to celebrate.

On the day of the Elderly, we felicitated the elderly people of our parish. Sisters also went to help the parishioners in preparing food for them. The

Crusbir children under the guidance of Sr. Agnes gave a lovely cultural programme. After the programme everyone was served with aloomatar and puri.

The SCC is very much alive here which keeps the sisters also active. There are five units with only forty two Catholic families in the parish. Parish priest and all the sisters in the community attend the meeting. You will be surprised to hear the little boys and girls of aged 8/9 years making spontaneous intercessory prayers during the SCC meetings.

House visiting on Wednesdays is compulsory for the community. Now our parish priest also is inspired to join us for the family visits.

Working in a co-ed school is altogether a different experience for me. They are so innocent and guileless. The male teachers take care of the discipline, so I do not have to worry in that front.

Sr. Margaret Subba F.C.



Life in the hills has come alive with the marching of the students on the road on their way to school. As the students are back to class and we are trying our best to give them what they lost. Nevertheless it's a challenge for the management, teachers, parents and the students to get back to the normalcy when it comes to the academics. During the period of pandemic and lockdown teachers tried their best to impart the quality education but the results were not as effective as the normal classes. We are trying our best in every possible way to cater to their needs. We organized many extra-curricular activities; inter-team and inter-school along with their academics. Activities like fancy dress, dance, elocution, art, picture talk, storytelling quiz, spell bee competition were conducted where our children took part actively.



Apart from these activities we also observed important days like:

1st May - Labour Day where class IX students conducted the morning assembly honouring and appreciating the entire group D staff of our school.

5th June-the World Environment Day was observed and we had the Sit and Draw Competition for the primary section and for senior section Creative Writing Competition and we also planted around 30 saplings provided by the Forest Department of Kurseong.

On 13th July Bhanu Jayanti was celebrated. Rev Fr. Samuel Rai SDB gave a talk on safe use of social media to the students of classes' VI-X.

Our students took part in the march past on the Independence Day celebration.

On 1st August Lions Club of Kurseong had a tree plantation drive in our campus with our teachers and students.

On 4th August we had members from Geo-science and Planetarium. They organized space science and geography based planetarium programme in our school premises. The objective of this programme was to provide practical and observation knowledge regarding the topics which they have been learning in geography and science. Students were also provided with the opportunity to watch the advance 4D technology and get the real feeling of going to the magical world, Jurassic Park and taking a virtual Roller Coaster ride etc.

Apart from education ministry sisters are also involved in pastoral activities. Sisters go for house visiting and communion distribution. We had parish feast celebration, senior citizen day celebration and the closing of the Ignatian year in a great manner where all the sisters actively took part.

Sr. Deepshika Rai F.C.



St. Joseph's Convent, Kurseong

It was an immense joy to have a retreat at St Joseph's convent Kurseong after the devastating pandemic, from 2nd to 10th July 2022. Really we were very happy to meet sisters from different communities with their cheerful faces and miles of smiles. Our community welcomed them with warm hearts. Retreat went well under the guidance of Fr. Joe Victor S.J. Sisters looked very serene, quiet with their bright faces. Sisters kept hale and healthy during the retreat with the grace of God.

On 7th August we organized a One Day programme for the Associates of the Daughters of the Cross from the Hills and Terai. The programme was organized by the coordinators of the Associates of the Daughters of the cross. Sr. Mariana Soreng and Sr. Shanti Picardo spoke on the life of Mother Marie Therese and the Cross. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Sandeep S.J. After lunch there was a group discussion and the evaluation.

Farewell: St Joseph's H.S. Girls' School gave farewell to Mrs. Laxmi Rongong on 28th July. She served our school for last 29 years with great dedication and loyalty. She began her professional odyssey as teacher in St. Joseph's school on 5th July 1993. The whole SJS family proudly congratulated her for the milestone of completing 29 years of glorious service wished her a happy life ahead.

Guides Investiture Ceremony was held on 10th August 2022, 70 students of classes VII and VIII got enrolled. All the Guide Captains and leaders of Kurseong District were present.



Sisters at St. Joseph's Convent, Kurseong

Karuna Nilaya Convent, Gorubathan

In the month of May we had the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary near the parish grotto with all the parishners. On 31st May we had the solemn procession in honour of Mother Mary.

Greenery is basically giving new life and hope. Every year 5th June is celebrated as world environmental day. Since this year it was a holiday our students did a good job by planting saplings in their houses. The Bhanu Bhakta Jayanti honouring the famous Nepali poet was celebrated on 13th July respectfully in every institute in the hills. We also had a good celebration in our school. Various competitions like recitation, dance, etc. were conducted.

Sister Shanti Picardo came to meet our associates on 21st July and had a session about the life of our beloved foundress and about the role of the Associates in today's context.

24th July, Grand Parents' Day was celebrated very solemnly in our parish.

Sr. Jyotsna Barla F.C.

St. Joseph's Convent, Matigara

Get together of F.C Associates: On 7th August the Associates of Daughters of the Cross had gathered in St. Joseph's Convent, Kurseong.



Activities in the School:

Orientation for the Students: On the 8th April, classes X & XII students had an orientation on addiction to social media and the importance of time management. Fr. Xavier Alangaram S.J. the resource person spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of social media. Students were very happy with the orientation because during the pandemic they were addicted to the social media and had ignored the importance of time management.

Orientation for the Teachers: On the 13th April, our teachers attended an orientation programme. The resource person Fr. Santy

Mathew SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's School, Alipurduar, spoke about the difficulties and hardships faced by the schools and teachers during the past two years of worldwide pandemic.

BOSCO CRIZ: On the 15th May Catholic and Christian students of classes VIII to XII participated in Inter School Christian Students Meet at Don Bosco School, Siliguri. 80 students from 4 schools participated in this programme. The theme was "Do all things through love and nothing thorough constraint". All the students took part in the Bible Quiz and were very happy to participate in Bosco Criz after two years.

BOSCO MUN: On 21st to 23rd June 24 our students attended the Model United Nations organized by Don Bosco School, Siliguri. They participated in five different committees which included UN Human Rights Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council. International Press and the only Indian Committee in the event, the Lok Sabha. Our girls participated as delegates of countries, as journalists, photographers, caricature artists and as members of the Indian Parliament. Muskaan Kedia of class XII, Commerce, won the prize for the best Journalist.

Bosco Fest: Bosco Fest was organized by Don Bosco School, Siliguri on 21st August. Overall, our school became 1st Runner up in B category. We bagged 5 Trophies.

Teachers' Training: On the 6th July, the entire teaching faculty of SJS, Matigara underwent a teachers' Training programme conducted by Fr. Xavier S.J.

ICSE & ISC Results: All passed the ICSE & ISC examinations. ICSE Highest: Megha Ray with 97.6%, ISC Highest: Reet Karnani with 98.00%.

Teachers' Day Celebration: We celebrated Teacher's Day on 2nd September. Students organized a beautiful programme for the teachers. They gave them sumptuous lunch and gifts. Teachers were very happy and they enjoyed the day.

Sr. Lucy Thaikkattil.F.C.

Jesu Ashram convent Matigara



Post Covid-19 Pandemic the numbers of patients in Jesu Ashram has gone up. In the General ward the number of patients is 55, in Tuberculosis ward 81 and in the Leprosy ward 57 thus it makes 193. Among the tuberculosis patients 10 is school going young people.

There was a seminar “**Eye Care of Leprosy Patients**” for all the students and staff of Jesu Ashram on 9th July 2022. The resource person was Dr. Rupanjali Lakra, an Ophthalmologist from North Bengal Medical College and Hospital.

Our 16 Community Health Workers trainees of 2nd year had exposure for 15 days in a super specialized Hospital. Beside these, all the 1st & 2nd years’ trainees had wonderful working experience in Navjeevan Hospital for one month. These opportunities have given them foretaste of real life of a nurse in real working situation.

Sr. Julietta Kindo F.C.

Shanti Bhawan Convent, Siliguri

Shanti Bhawan Convent had the joy of welcoming three sisters of Daughters of St. Paul. They arrived on 13th May 2022. They have come to Bagdogra Diocese and will have their book center at Seva Kendra, Siliguri. They are staying in our boarding for the time being.

We also have the opportunity to welcome our sisters coming to Siliguri from other communities of ours and others.

Our family visits on Sundays and Wednesdays brings people joy. Last month one Hindu mother who was very sick send her son to call us to pray for her. She had given up taking medicine and going to hospital. Her last desire was that sisters would come and pray for her. So we went and prayed for her. After a day she died.

We had several celebrations in our Parish. 45 children received first –Holy Communion and 85 received confirmation. On 26th June we had the closing ceremony of AMORIS LAETITIA. Liturgy was made very meaningful by Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind. Each family sat together for the Holy Mass. They washed each other’s feet and exchanged the greeting of peace. On 24th July Parish celebrated grandparents’ day. After Mass there was a short greetings and breakfast. I too was invited for this occasion.

The Parish schools both Hindi and English Mediums had good results for class X examination. Now children are having regular classes. Hindi school just finished their second term examination.

Sr. Veronica Chungath F.C.

Navjeevan Convent, Gayaganga

Hospital foundation day was celebrated on 30th April. Our day began with the Eucharistic celebration offered by Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind. After the Mass we had the cultural programme by campus staff students. Mr. Pema Sherpa WBCS district and nodal officer was the chief guest of our program. Awards were given to staff who completed more than 10 years of service. Mrs. Sarita Beck was awarded for the 25 years of her service. She began her services from the old Bogivita hospital. Sports were conducted for all the staff and students of the campus on 6th and 7th May.

Free eye camp was organized about 75 patients benefited from it. On the Occasion of international nurses’ day, Eucharistic celebration was specially offered for them. The campus week celebration came to its end with the international Nurses day celebration on 12th May marking the 102 birth anniversary of Ms Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Prizes were distributed to the staff and students those who won in the sports. On 1st July international *DOCTOR’S DAY* was also celebrated in our hospital. Doctors were honoured and appreciated for their service. New RMO Dr. Patricia joined our institution for 2 years rural bond from St. John’s medical college, Bangalore. We also have a new radiologist in the hospital.

Navjeevan College of Nursing: Month of May has been always a significant month for Navjeevan family since its conception. Its vibrant energy got revived with the arrival of its campus day celebration.

Taking the good advantage of this celebration, the 14th batch of GNM and 1st Batch of Basic B.Sc. Nursing students took their maiden oath as novice Florence Nightingales on 5th May in the presence of their parents/guardians’, special guests from far and near, teachers, senior students.

Sr. Lidwin Mary F.C.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Gavaganga

After a gap of two years 34 of our sisters came together for Annual retreat at Gayaganga June. Retreat was preached by Fr. Vincent K.P. S J. All the participants had a joyful and fruitful time with the Lord.

Associates of the Cross: The Associates of the Cross actively participate in our missions under the able-guidance of Sr. Shanti Picardo F.C. They had various activities like walking- Pilgrimage, Synod sharing in the villages, Night vigils, revival of SCC, Charismatic Retreats, visiting the prison and the sick. There was also a gathering of Associates in Kurseong on 7th August which was participated by all. In spite of their commitment to their families, they find time to have regular meetings, recollections and serve the Lord.

St. Mary's Girls' High School & Primary: School Re-opened after the two months of summer holidays on 27th June. Children are happy to return to school. A few students have dropped out and it is a challenge to bring them back. The first term Examination is over and we are now getting ready for various school activities both academic and others. On the whole children have become weak and lack motivation. We need to take extra care and continuous efforts to bring them back in to the normal times.

Hostel: This year we have enrolled 200 students in the hostel from classes V to XII returned to the Hostel. Classes XI and XII had a day of Orientation programme on 22nd July by Sr. Marina Thapa F.C.

Sisters at Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Gayaganga

Navjvoti Convent, Dundajhar

Sr. Anjela Kujur attended the meeting of West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission. Medical and civil authorities were present for the meeting and spoke on various issues.

We had eye camp on 19th May
Our BSS students had programme on Synodality, by Sr. Shanti Picardo F.C. We now have the permission from the West Bengal Skill Development Office to conduct various training programs at our centre. We already have 54 enrolled for it and many more are still taking admissions for various training programs.

Sr. Sanjita Barwa F.C.



Daughters of the Cross Convent, Goromtoli

Goromtoli parish celebrated the feast of the Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary. The celebration began with the Holy Mass followed by the Rosary procession in the school ground which ended in the convent. The parishioners venerated Mary with arti according to their Santali custom. This is a gesture of welcoming someone to their house.

Sr. Embrenca F.C.

Associates of the Cross:

On 22nd May Sr. Shanti F.C. came to help and instruct our Associates at Goromtoli. She explained about the works of Blessed Mother Marie Therese, Foundress of our Congregation. All the parishioners listened attentively. Again on 19th June she spoke about the life of Mother Marie Therese, her faith and courage which led her to follow the Crucified Lord. She also reminded them to pray at home and make confession and attend the Holy Mass on every Sunday. We chose three members to go to Kurseong: Mrs. Assunta, Mrs. Monica and Laxmi accompanied by Sr. Celine.

Sr. Celine Lakra F.C.

Good news from Daughters of the Cross Convent, Jordighi

To take care of our common home, mother earth and protect the environment we sisters with the bedside nursing students, and our supportive staff planted about 200 dragon plants. Our garden has varieties of fruit trees and vegetables. We appreciate Sr. Shanti's effort in making our vegetable garden supply most of the vegetables for our use. Laudate Sei is effectively practiced.

English coaching class and collaborative mission: Sr. Pushpa took the trouble to visit many poor families and motivated the parents to send their children to English tutorial class. As a result 48 children below the age group of 12 are attending the class. Their progress is rewarding.

St. Paul's English Medium School in the parish is attracting the students of this locality. Sr. Pushpa is teaching in the school and the roll strength is increasing. Sr. Leela is taking tuition for the girls above 12 years of age who go to other schools. Sr. Winefred Rai taught the students to do march past to the rhythm of the drum beats.

Hostel: Month of June our Hostel re-opened with two children from Deuria village. Now we have 13 children in the hostel. Every day extra coaching is done by Sr. Pushpa and she conducts various activities.

Training Programme and Capacity Building:

- Bed side nursing students completed their course and some of them got jobs.
- On 1st May 35 students registered their names and joined the English coaching class. The duration of the course is 2 months.
- Sr. Shanti Picardo was the main coordinator. This 2 months English class was organized to build self-confidence, life skill, to enable the girls to choose vocational trainings like paramedical courses and to prepare them for different entrance exams in the Healing Ministry. Some of our students have taken their admission at Navjeevan Training Centre and some have written the GNM entrance

Exam conducted by the West Bengal Government.



Spiritual Journey:

❖ 31st May 'Day of our Mother Mary'. People gathered in our convent had Rosary procession with devotion and then Holy Mass was in the parish church.

❖ The community attended 3 days of prayer session 27th to 29th May organized by Catholic Charismatic Renewal on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of the movement and we were awarded memento of participation, Holy Father Francis granted plenary Indulgence. "A path to Holiness for us"

Karuna Health Mission:

- Construction of the hospital building is on war footing.
- Physiotherapy is given at our Centre mainly to the old and infirm both in their homes and occasionally at our Centre.
- Community Health Training completed for our health workers and at present Palliative care training is on progress.
- Through the Government we were able to get a few of our women take the training in cooking.

On July 24th a day dedicated for grandparents and elderly: We visited the villages along with our health workers and our Palliative care Trainees and honoured the elderly and home bound with kadha and distributed some snacks. Their vitals were checked and health education given. They were also given massage oil where needed. Some children of the village were prepared and they entertained the elderly. Our whole community got involved in this Programme and it was a joyful day for all of us.

Sisters from Jordighi Community



Marie Therese Convent, Gosaba

Along with the curricular activities the extra-curricular activities play a vital role in the holistic growth of students thus we conducted some Recitation of poem, Storytelling, and Picture Talk etc. These activities gave them the opportunity to explore different areas of interest, increase self-confidence and build leadership skills.

Van Mahotsav, with the theme '*Each one plant one*', was observed on 7th July. Each student brought a sapling with lots of joy and excitement they went to the spot and planted their saplings. It was their first experience and they were really happy. The students of class IV had prepared the

introduction and benefits of planting trees which they shared before the tree plantation.

Tailoring course - Four girls successfully completed the six months tailoring course and received the certificates on 30th May.

We have begun English coaching classes for the boys and girls of classes X to graduation level. Seven boys and girls have finished in the first batch. In the present batch there are 11 boys and girls.

Last year due to cyclone Yaas a portion of our boundary wall had fallen we sought help from the panchayat, and some other persons but no help came but by the grace of God and the support of our Provincial our wall is now rebuild and we also raised mud all around the wall and fortified it .We have made a small fishery, planted 100 arachnut trees, banana trees and some other fruit trees in the garden and have grown vegetables.

We celebrated our Independence Day with the true spirit of patriotism. The Panchayat Pradhan of Gosaba was invited as the Chief Guest to hoist the national flag in St. Joseph's Primary School. Parents enjoyed the colourful programme put up by their children and thanked the Sisters and teachers for training their children and instilling in them the spirit of patriotism through these programmes.

Sr. JulitaKujur F.C.

Little Flower Convent, Basanti.



Blessing of the new kitchen block: The Blessing of the new kitchen block was on 18th June. Sr. Regi Mathew, Provincial inaugurated the new building by lighting the fire. Fathers from our Parish, Sisters from Gosaba community and our co-workers were present for the occasion. After the blessing we had lunch together.

Basanti St. Teresa's Girls High School

✚ On 3rd July an orientation programme for Class XI & XII was conducted by Juian Minj youth Animator for Don Bosco Park Circus.

✚ An orientation programme for Class VIII, IX&X by Fr. Soumitra.

- ✚ An NGO conducted Health & Hygiene awareness for class VII & VIII
- ✚ L.T.S Programme introduced in the school.
- ✚ Career portal introduced to the students of class IX –XII.

Rejuvenating Lives in Baidyapur

Sr. Sheena Poulose F.C.



Time is moving through various phases, seasons and weather. Lives of people are also on little improvement. As we have already stepped into second half of the year few pages of our life have already turned and now the new phase of live has started.

Sacred Heart Primary School has celebrated its Feast Day with solemn Mass in the school. The entire school took part in the Eucharistic celebration making it more meaningful. Now after the hot summer vacations school resumed and students had their Half Yearly examinations. All took it seriously. Teachers performed their duty

very well. After the exams, there was parent teacher meeting which helped both the parents and the pupil to improve in their studies. Sisters on the other hand help the weaker students by giving them remedial classes. House visiting of both parishioners and students' families are regular. We visit the parents and faithful at their workplace as well. Many people depend for their livelihood on the fisheries. They feel happy and blessed when sisters visit them. We also attended funeral Masses and prayer services in the villages.

Now the life almost seems normal after the past years of uncertainties. We pray that God may continue to give all of us safe and joyful days ahead.

Sr. Maxima Bara F.C.

News from the Novitiate, Barasat

With great excitement we all looked forward to the 28th May 2022 as for the first time the 3 Provincials were to jointly visit us with the thirteen Postulants who were to enter the Novitiate on the 1st June.

The Provincials met and appreciated the efforts made by Sr. Flora and Sr. Imelda for their devoted service in the novitiate marked by love, care and concern. The new team consisting of Sr. Catherine. K, Sr. Nirmala Xalxo, Sr. Margaret Xess and Sr. Rohini Fernandes were then given a few suggestions on how to move along the signs of the times yet making our Religious Life a joyous experience of intimacy and faithful commitment to the Lord.



Through a simple yet prayerful ceremony on the 1st June the thirteen novices entered their Novitiate. The 2nd year Novices joyfully prayed and sang hymns making it a solemn occasion for them. The Provincials Sr. Regi Mathew and Venita welcomed them, gave them a clear message what a life of a Daughter of the Cross is all about, and how important it is for them to grow in their personal love for Jesus. The novices were then greeted with songs as they cut the cake followed by a sumptuous meal.

For the feast of Cannon Habets, we chose to study and act out the beautiful qualities of his confidence in God; we wrote out small scripts

which Sr. Rohini corrected and we displayed our learning and talents. We truly discovered what a gem of a person God had chosen to assist our dear Foundress and early sisters to set our Congregation on a firm footing.

On Sunday evenings we go to visit the Homes for the Aged and the Brick Kiln families. When we return, we do a social Analysis and also look at the Mission of Jesus, and his struggle to help the people of His day to change the unjust structures that denied justice to the poor. We end our reflections with prayer and look for ways of making a difference for the poor.

To make 'Sr. Emilie's Day'- 6th July a memorable one, we read the book on the life of Sr. Emilie, focused on her life of prayer and her spiritual growth. After reading and reflecting, on the 6th July we met as a community for a faith- sharing.

On 24th July we celebrated Grandparents and Elders' Day. We visited and wished our dear old friends at the Old Age Homes. We offered each one a rose and sang a greeting song. We also conducted a short prayer service and shared with them the message of Pope Francis for the day. It was delightful to see some of them making effort to sing, move their hands and legs. We distributed sandwiches we had prepared.



We are having classes on the Constitutions. We had sessions on Introduction to Salvation History and the books of the Old Testament, Personality development, self-awareness, how to let go of useless fear and to live with freedom and grace. Sr. Martina taught us the Gospel of St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Fr. Vivian came to teach us Phonetics for a week. We are continuing with the classes on Prophets.

We also had the joy of learning to catch fish in the pond and to make tasty curry and fried fish at least twice a week.

Novices



St. Agnes' Convent, Howrah

Nature Club: On 15th August 2022, the nature club conducted a **WALKATHON-2022** on the topics **“SAY NO TO PLASTICS”** & **“SAVE A MARINE LIFE”**. The motto of the Walkathon was to spread awareness on the aforesaid topics. After the Independence Day Programme students of Classes VI to XII and their parents walked from the school to Howrah Bridge gate. We highlighted the walkathon by using several posters and placards which were prepared by our students. We returned back to school by 12 noon. Our toppers for ICSE and ISC 2022 were facilitated on Independence Day. A catholic student of Howrah parish scored 95 percent in ICSE.

Guide Camp: A guide camp was conducted in

our school for the students of 6 to 10. The district guide inspector and four other trainers were present for the training session. It was on 27th of August from 8.30 to 5 pm. They had many lessons on rules regulations and other practicals were also introduced to the children in the field.

Arch Bishop Thomas D' Souza came to St. Agnes' Convent for his pastoral visit on 18th August 2022. He offered Holy Mass in the community and joined us for breakfast.

I had an opportunity to be in the team of Don Bosco Ashalayam Institute of social action with children in the margins. It was a moving occurrence to see the reality of children's helplessness to save themselves from injustice done to them. Though it was for short duration but it gave a glimpse of social evil which exists very close us. I am grateful to Fr C. J. Mathew who gave chance to collaborate with their activities. We were helping the child line team in Howrah Railway Station to rescue the lost and trafficked children.

Sr. Ani Kindo F.C.

St. Teresa's Convent, Kidderpore

Workers' Day was celebrated on 2nd May in the school. The students honoured the support staff and gave colourful programs for them.

On 13th May, the 1st Death Anniversary of Sr. Pranita Lepcha, we had the Holy Mass in the community. The neighbouring communities were invited for Mass and dinner.

Sr. Jasmine Sebastian F.C. was welcomed as the new Principal to the school. The students gave a short programme in honor of her. The community bid farewell to Sr. Margaret Subba on 2nd June.



We had Investiture Ceremony for the Student Council on 28th July.

ICSE & ISC Results

ICSE Highest:

Nishantika Banerjee 98.6%

ISC Highest (Humanities):

Apurva Anand 99.25%

ISC Highest (Science):

Shannelle P Sehgal 97%

The School also felicitated the toppers of ICSE and ISC with garland and momentous.

The ISC topper was presented the Certificate of Honour by the Chief Minister Ms. Mamta Banerjee.

First time all subject exhibitions were displayed by the students on 5th August. It was well appreciated by all.

Sr. Cecilia Surin F.C.

A Day for the Elders and Grandparents: We the St. Catherine's Home community celebrated the grand parent's day and elders' day on the 26th July on the feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne. We had a special prayer service and Eucharistic celebration for all the inmates. The beautiful programme by the staff, formees and sisters added colours to the day. Our inmates were overwhelmed with joy and laughter.

On 23rd May, five MSc Nursing students from Command Hospital came for a week as the part of their training on Geriatric care. They organized Health Talk on Divertional Therapy and management of depression, and demonstrated Active and passive exercises. They put up some entertainment programme and refreshment for all the inmates. All inmates were happy and benefitted from it.

St. Catherine's Home being an Old age home we see death very closely and it is the natural process but what stands out is the way some accept their pain and suffering. Eleonor Iris D' Rozario had come to us for the nursing care from another Home. During her short stay with us we saw a saint in the making. She was a source of inspiration for all who visited her and took care of her. While she went through a lot of pain she never uttered a word of complaint. She bore it all for her beloved Jesus. She constantly expressed gratitude. Her desire and willingness to suffer out did many of us.

Sr. Sony Thomas F.C.

Tata Medical Center (Premashraya)

On 14th May we celebrated the International "Nurses Day" in Tata Medical Centre. Dr. Sanjay Kapoor the Deputy Director of TMC was the guest of honour for the day. Our staff from palliative ward participated in various cultural activities. Palliative care is an interdisciplinary medical care-giving approach which is aimed at optimizing quality of life and alleviates suffering among people with serious, complex and often terminal illness, with death as the outcome. We sisters prepare them well through our ardent prayers; provide the anointing of the sick to the Catholic patients and support to the relatives by counseling, going the extra mile without limiting our time and energy.

Sr. Artima Horo F.C.

News from Hatighisa

- We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Salini on 3rd May.
- Awareness on drug addiction for the Parish youth was conducted by Sr. Anthonia and our Associates of the Cross. 100 youth took part in it.
- There was an Orientation programme for our Associates conducted by Sr. Shanti Picardo.
- 11 Associates of the Cross had gone to Kurseong for the gathering.
- Entertainment programme for the elderly and Palliative care for the home bound cancer patients and other sick people were conducted.



Sr. Aruna Tirkey

St. Vincent's Home, Kidderpore

May being the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the sisters and the supporting staff of the communities and the institutions of St. Vincent's Home compound recited the Holy Rosary together throughout the month. On the last day our young sisters and the girls presented a short programme in honour of Mary our Mother.

On the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, we wished all three priests of our parish together after Mass. We presented them with bouquets and cut a cake in honour of them.

God never ceases to bless us. On 27th August Calcutta province was blessed with three new sisters: Sr. Eliza Rai, Sr. Kiran Kerketta and Sr. Lalita Lucy Tudu. They made their First Profession in a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Jeyaraj Velluswamy SJ and concelebrated by Frs. Sajeev and Vivian. Our candidates gracefully danced and led them to the altar. The choir was beautifully led by Sr. Jasmine and sisters with the help of Sr Francis

Sr. Nirmala Dewan F.C.

Health Apostolate Meeting

The Health Apostolate meeting was held on 27th & 28th August at Navjeevan Hospital. Dr. Fuad Halim from Kolkata gave sessions on Medical Challenges and Management of Medical and Surgical cases in Post Covid-19 times. Mrs. Violet a staff of CMC Vellore and also involved in

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare gave sessions on self motivation and Community Based Health care for all the staff, students and sisters. On the second day the sisters had lot of interactive sharing of their work, challenges and concerns for the Apostolate.



Sr. Anthonia Arulandu F.C.



Sr. Teresa Margaret FC

Gone to Heavenly Abode

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|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>1st May</i> | - | <i>Sr. Sheena's grandmother</i> |
| <i>8th May</i> | - | <i>Sr. Punitha's eldest sister</i> |
| <i>19th June</i> | - | <i>Sr. Mariana's cousin</i> |
| <i>20th June</i> | - | <i>Sr. Teresa Margaret</i> |
| <i>22nd June</i> | - | <i>Sr. Mina Barwa's grandfather</i> |
| <i>27th June</i> | - | <i>Sr. Dibya Bara's aunt</i> |
| <i>7th July</i> | - | <i>Sr. Reena's aunt</i> |
| <i>13th July</i> | - | <i>Sr. Rashmilata's cousin brother</i> |
| <i>16th July</i> | - | <i>Sr. Aruna's father</i> |
| <i>10th August</i> | - | <i>Sr. Mariam Lakra's older brother</i> |
| <i>3rd August</i> | - | <i>Sr. Leela's niece and</i>
<i>Sr. Juliet George's cousin</i> |
| <i>1st September</i> | - | <i>Sr. Clinty's grandmother</i> |

Congratulations



Dr. Sr. Bini Konikkara



First Profession on 27th August



Sr. Kiran Kerketta

Sr. Lalita Lucy Tudu

Sr. Eliza Rai