



PROVINCE FLASH DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CALCUTTA PROVINCE

PF/2021/2 September News Bulletin For Private Circulation Only

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

The month of September rings in the joy and blessings of our feasts. The triple feasts marked in the FC calendar definitely ring the festal bells. The sisters, associates, friends and well-wishers gladly prepare and partake in the celebrations which are occasions for us to review to and renew our lives and mission in the light of our Charism. The preparations leading to the feasts give us an opportunity to stop, look and analyze our lives as FCs – to see how faithful and fruitful we have been in our journey so far.

Mary is a shining example of faithfulness to God's plan. Her sense of commitment is evident right from the Annunciation till the fulfillment of the salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today when commitment seems challenging, Mary's life stands against the ever compromising standards of the world. Her absolute faith in God's word makes us wonder if Mary ever went through struggles in her faithfulness after her unconditional *Fiat* at the annunciation. The journey on which Mary had embarked on was a very courageous one. It took her courage to say 'yes' and even more courage to remain with the 'yes' till the end. The pandemic has affected everyone in some way or the other in varying degrees. As the great tennis player Arthur Ashe said when the going gets hard we have questions to God and the foremost is 'why me Lord?' But on the contrary this question never crosses our minds when things go according to our plans or when we receive undeserving blessings. Mary's journey was definitely difficult in every aspect but her trust in God was unquestionable. As we celebrate her nativity let's sincerely implore her help to be grateful in this journey of faith that we have undertaken.

Mother Marie Therese was a woman of vision; she knew how to reach out to the needy even with limited resources in the times of need. Her trust in the Divine Providence always stood tall. May we, her daughters be able to reach out to our brothers and sisters as a soothing balm in these times of pain and anxiety and bring some solace to the troubled hearts through our joyful, kind and compassionate presence.

Just as Christ on the Cross changed the meaning of those wooden beams and transformed them into signs of hope and life, may the sufferings around us not go in vain but bring about a transformation within us; may it show us the preeminence of God in our lives. May our trust in the Lord grow stronger like Mother Mary and Blessed Marie Therese.

Happy Feasts to one and all!

In union of Prayers,

Regi

Sr. Regi Mathew F. C.
Provincial





Congratulations!



Provincial Councillors



Entry to the Noviciate



Entry to the Postulancy



First Profession



The lord gave and the Lord has taken backblessed be the name of the Lord (Job, 1:21)

The cyclone YAAS on 26th May passed off without causing much destruction to the Island of Gosaba, but the very next day on 27th May 2021 the river embankment was broken in several places due to high tide and the saline water entered the island filling up the fields and ponds and fisheries of the people and finally their houses. Almost the whole island was under water. All the fish in the ponds and fisheries, the paddy field and their vegetable gardens were destroyed. A part of our boundary wall fell due to the force of the water and our fields and ponds were submerged in water. It also brought along plenty of garbage and the dead fish from the villages. Around 60 families were sheltered in our school building. Many NGOs, religious groups and the government came forward to people's relief during the crisis. Many religious groups came to our place and distributed relief materials to the people. We had the joy of helping them in packing and distributing, we also shared our meals with them.

People were just getting back to their normal life when there was a cloudburst bringing torrential rain which continued for three days, once again fields and ponds overflowed with water, so the fish from the ponds went out. People were very sad yet with trust in the Lord they said "*the Lord had given and the Lord has taken back*".

We thank each and every sister of our province for their prayers and support. A 'Big Thank You' to Sr. Regi our provincial and sisters who personally visited us and helped us. Our sisters in Basanti were a refuge for us, from the beginning till the end they were with us, they brought us safe drinking water and other things. May God reward all of you for all that you have done for us and still doing for us. Thank you.

Sr. Suchita Tete F.C.



LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, BASANTI

An Orientation programme for the teachers of the High school, Primary and English Medium School was conducted on 19th August 2021. Programme began at 10.30am and ended at 4pm in the school hall. Fr. Kanouj Roy, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Baruiipur was the resource person for the day. 35 teachers participated. Main points like; 'Who am I?', 'What is my identity?' and 'What is my responsibility as a teacher during this pandemic?' were discussed. Teachers were happy to have this Orientation programme.

SACRED HEART CONVENT, BAIDYAPUR

Our school had started regular classes for our students in February, 2021. It went on smoothly till 20th April. From 20th April to 31st May School was closed for summer vacations. School remained suspended after the summer vacations due to the corona virus. Most of our students' parents and the members of the families have lost jobs due to the covid-19 and lock down throughout the country. Cyclone Yaas added to the misery of the people making the whole situation worse. People of Baidyapur were affected very much as all their fisheries and land, the only source of their livelihood were under water. God is never blind. He visits and sends His angels in the form of our auditor, Mr. Rajiv Panja and his team, who extended their helping hands to these people. They sent relief materials to 400 families. The team also supported our students with relief materials. People are very grateful to Mr. Rajiv and his team.

Sisters visited students' families and the sick people around, giving them moral support. Our teachers also join hands with regular online classes. Thus the Lord of Mercy and Compassion continues to accompany us.

Experience at NBCLC

On 26th July Srs. Sheena, Josephine Lepcha and myself left for Bangalore for eight days leadership course. Our programme started on 28th morning. There were 21 participants, from various congregations. Days were packed with classes by different resource persons. It was very enriching. It deepened our faith, helped us to understand the true meaning of leadership based on the Old and New Testaments.

We thank our Provincial and her team for giving us this opportunity. Thanks to our communities for their support.

Sr. Maxima Bara F.C.

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS, NOVITIATE, BARASAT

Entry to the Novitiate: We arrived in the Novitiate on 6th July 2021 accompanied by Sr. Rose, Sr. Nirmala and Sr. Veronica. We are five of us, two from Mumbai, two from Rourkela and one from Kolkata. Our hearts were filled with joy as we entered the gates of the Novitiate to find ourselves in a beautiful place. The novices and sisters gave us a warm welcome. We experienced the serene prayerful environment and positive vibes as we entered the house. We were quarantined for three days and were preparing for the 'Entry' into the Novitiate on 10th July 2021. We had special Holy Mass in the morning imploring God's blessings on us. At 11.00 am during a solemn Prayer Service Sr. Regi Mathew, Provincial Superior accepted us as Novices of the Daughters of the Cross. It was a grace filled day where we experienced God's blessings as His chosen ones and felt the vibration of prayers from all our sisters. It was followed by a short felicitation programme and delicious meal.

Novice Macquina Carvalho

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS, PROVINCIALTE, KIDDERPORE



Care for the Care Givers:

The dreaded corona virus has put everyone on the same scale. We being social creatures find it difficult to be in isolation for a long time; the pain, the helplessness unbearable with every passing day. In such trying times it is the moral boost and the tender words which keep one going. The nurses are the healing balm reaching out through their care and reviving the ray of hope. These angels of mercy too need time to pause and refresh themselves.

It was on this note that we thought of reaching out to the care givers. What better way could have been there than to spend some quality time with them just listening to them and talking to them. On the evening of 23rd May we invited the nurses from our own campus for a small get together. There were around fifteen nurses working in different hospitals who joined us. Sr. Regi welcomed and congratulated them for the selfless service they are rendering to humanity. The nurses were happy at sharing their various experiences of treating the COVID patients, with sisters who were so welcoming and receptive. They were also happy to hear from our nurse sisters: Sr. Reena, Sr. Sony and Sr. Anusha. At the end we played some music for them and shared the sweet mangoes from our garden.



Learning is always continuous. It never stops at any age or stage in life.

In making the best in the given times Sr. Sini Kurian, the Provincial Bursar, generously gave her time in teaching the sisters the basics of accounts and accounting practices. Sister was ready with her online mode of teaching for the virtual students who joined from the various communities away from Calcutta. The local students got an hour of regular classes for two weeks where we were introduced to the accounting practices and the working of Tally ERP 9. Like any good teacher, sister assessed our understanding of accounts and from there she took over explaining in details the basics of accounts, how entries are to be made and gave us the glossary of account descriptions. She even set us tasks to find out how much we understood from the classes.

We thank you sister for giving your time and teaching us with explanations and examples from everyday life, making them simple for us to understand.

Sr. Juliet George F.C

ST. VINCENT'S HOME, KIDDERPORE

The Tollywood (Bengali film industry) reached the campus of St. Vincent's Home!!! St. Paul's Boarding & Day School has a presence in the Tollywood through the ex-students. One of them Indira Dhar Mukherjee came back to her old familiar campus, with the purpose of telling a story through St. Catherine's Home.

Sr. Veronica A., Sr. Rosly Kerketta and some of our supportive staff from St. Paul's School and St. Vincent's Home were affected by CORONA. By the grace of God and the care of sisters at St. Catherine's Home they were cured. Praise the Lord! On 14th May at 4.00pm we had a prayer service for the departed soul of Sr. Pranitha Lepcha together with our supportive staff and Sisters.

On 31st May a thanksgiving Prayer service was conducted for the outgoing Provincial Council members and also God's blessings on 2nd mandate for the Provincial and her council. Sr. Sujata Kujur was welcomed as the new Provincial Councillor.

We had our Annual Retreat at St. Vincent's Home from 3rd to 11th June 2021, guided by Rev. Fr. Sunny George SJ. Nineteen sisters from neighbouring communities participated in it.

St. Paul's Day and Boarding School:

Classes and all the co-curricular activities have been conducted online.

The Pre-Board Examinations and Practical for ICSE and ISE were conducted offline.

Sr. Veronica A F.C.

ST. CATHERINE'S HOME, KIDDERPORE

Grandparents' Day: We celebrated the feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne, the parents of Mother Mary. Sr. Martina gave a talk on what the grandmothers do in their 70s, 80s and 90s.

Ruminare: Enjoy talking and sharing about the family which they have raised. Relive the moments spent with your grandchildren.

Be grateful: Remain ever grateful to God. Due to some circumstances found a Home away from home where your present needs could be met.

Surrender: By God's Grace "you fought a good fight, you have finished the race". Surrender the remaining years to the Lord.

We also had some visitors from the Catholic Association of West Bengal. They distributed some food packets and prayed for all of them. St. Teresa's Convent gave snacks for all the inmates.

Independence Day Celebration: The 75th Independence Day was celebrated on 15th August. The ladies enjoyed and prayed to Mother Mary to understand the will of God and remove from their minds all fears and to wake up into that inner freedom.



Sr. Sony Thomas F.C.

"Divine grace draws us into relationship and encourages us into fuller life."

Annual online Retreat: In our fast paced world, it is easy to become complacent about the value of our inner terrain and the One who holds us in love. We nine sisters: Sr. Martina, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Reena, Sr. Veronica, Sr. Juliet Rappai, Sr. Anjali Francis, Sr. Mariam, Sr. Jasmine, and Sr. Pratima returned to silence and solitude on 4th August at St. Teresa's Convent in order to continue to fan the flame of devotion and to foster the ability to follow our Master's way. We dwelt on the theme 'Rooted in Christ'. Each day the river of our prayers and reflections steadily carried us along on our journey with God. Reflections given by Fr. Augustine Vallooran V.C, led us into deeper understanding of the different aspects of our religious life. On the last day we had the sacrament of Reconciliation and the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Attley Gomes SFX. These eight days of profound communion with the Lord in prayer filled all of us with many spiritual gifts.



Investiture Ceremony at St. Teresa's School: On 25th August 2021 we conducted the Investiture Ceremony of the Student Council for the year 2021-2022 in the school hall. All the precautionary measures were taken by the school authorities. The student council members, their parents, the house mistresses and coordinators were present for the programme. Principal Sr. Margaret Subba led a beautiful prayer stressing on the responsibilities the leader will have to shoulder at all given times. This was followed by lighting of the lamp and a hymn. The leaders took their pledge and the Head girl spoke on the duties that she and other

members were ready to carry out. Programme ended with the School Anthem and vote of thanks by the principal. Light refreshment was served to all the invited guests.

Sr. Mary Jasmine F.C.

ST. AGNES' CONVENT, HOWRAH

Fr. Sunil Kujur is appointed as our new Parish priest.. We welcomed Fr. Sunil to the convent on 23rd June and had farewell Mass for Sr. Julita Kujur. She left our Community on 24th June for her new mission at Gosaba. We are happy to have Sr. Pratima Hemrom in the community.

We have been helping the widows with rations, financial and medical help. We provided dry rations to 45 families from Kona, Das Nagar and surrounding areas.

Recent activities of St. Agnes' Convent School:

- Anglo Indian Day was celebrated for the first time in our school on 2nd August 2021.
- Independence Day celebration started two days in advance with a panel discussion for senior classes on where we stand after 74th years of Independence followed by fancy dress, rangoli, art work and cultural activities by various clubs of the school and each class to mark the importance of the day.
- Counseling session for each class along with parents was our motto of July.
- Van Mahotsava 2021 was celebrated with online Plantation and Campaign to save Planets and save life.
- Grandparents Day was celebrated by YCS.



- Active participation of our students in 1st ever virtual Bosco Utsav was a pleasant change.
- Regular debate, storytelling, elocution, talents contest, extempore etc keep teachers and students busy besides the academics.
- Online celebration of retirement of Mrs. Verma and Mrs. Sethi witnessed the active participation of students and teachers alike.
- Distributed dry ration to one hundred Catholic families of our parish.

Sr. Anjali Francis F.C.

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, KURSEONG

St. Joseph's Girls' Higher Secondary School, Kurseong witnessed a glorious moment in July 2021 as the Madhyamik Board Exam Results were announced and Sabya Hussian, the school topper, who scored a whopping 98.5% in the Madhyamik Pariksha ranked 8th in the State of West Bengal and was felicitated with a letter of recognition and honour by the Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee as well as by various esteemed Institutional offices and organizations. This recognition and fame is a milestone wherein the school is setting trends, raising its bar and defining standards with unmatched quality education.

The School's 2nd topper Akriti Subba scored 98.1% in the Madhyamik Pariksha. The 3rd topper Deepshika Dahal scored 96.1%.

We, the St Joseph's Family applauds our toppers and all the other students for bringing glory to the name of their Alma Mater and also to the Daughters of the Cross.

Sr. Josephin Lepcha F.C.

ST. HELEN'S CONVENT, KURSEONG

- ✚ We celebrated the Independence Day and hoisted the National Flag on 15th August 2021.
- ✚ St. Helen's feast was celebrated on 18th August. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. David SJ followed by a sumptuous fellowship meal. Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent doubled our joy by joining us for the celebration.
- ✚ In spite of restrictions due to the lockdown we often go to visit sick and dying people in the villages as and when the situation permits.



Sr. Salomi Surin F.C.

F.C. CONVENT, JORETLIANG, SIKKIM

In the month of May Sr. Francisca F.C. was tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted at Gayaganga Navajeevan hospital. We express our sincere gratitude to all the sisters and staff for taking care of Sr. Francisca. Now sister has joined the community and is active with her daily chores.

Sr. Francisca F.C. and Sr. Deepshikha F.C. had gone to meet the young girls at Khamdom and we are glad to receive one candidate (Monica Rai) from Khamdom Sikkim. Let us continue to pray for her. On 21st July 2021 candidates Francisca Lepcha and Apeksha Bhitrikoti after completing their +2 have gone for their further formation to Kidderpore. Both the candidates have passed with flying colours.

Sr. Hema Kujur F.C.

F.C. CONVENT, RINCHENPONG, SIKKIM

We are conducting online classes through WhatsApp and Google meet regularly. We managed to conduct the first term examination online and have begun the second term classes. On 5th June we celebrated the World Environment day where students actively participated for the same. We also conducted various competitions virtually such as Rhyme, Singing competition for LKG, Picture Talk Competition for UKG,



drawing competition for classes I and II, English Elocution competition for classes III-V. Winners were given certificates and the trophy.

On 13th of July we celebrated Bhanu Jayanti virtually where students paid their tribute to Nepali Adhi Kabi Bhanu Bhakta through their song, dance, and recitation of the poem written by Adhi Kabi himself. We also had Nepali Elocution for the occasion. We celebrated the 75th Independence Day virtually. We have many other upcoming extra-curricular activities for the students along with their classes online.

We had our annual online retreat from 11th June to 19th June directed by Rev. Fr. Ashil Joseph OP. It was a refreshing and enriching experience for us.

Sr. DeepShikha Rai F.C.

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CONVENT, MAMRING, SIKKIM

During Summer Vacation we had our fruitful Online Retreat.

After Summer Vacation classes were resumed, we are carrying on with Online Teaching. Our Teachers have become very creative in making videos for their lessons and teaching methods. Children are equally cooperating with Teachers.

Our students have become very creative and active in YouTube, able to express their ideas and views by uploading their videos. Mostly all the School events are conducted online. Recently we celebrated Bhanu Jayanti, where the children presented lovely virtual programs. However at present our School Premises look empty without children.

Sr. Ani Kindo F. C.

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CONVENT, GOROMTOLI

Hostel building is ready but is closed due to the pandemic. We cannot go out except for emergency. We try to keep in touch with the students by visiting their families whenever it is possible. We are planning to have 2nd and final term examinations in November 2021. We go for holy Mass to the parish church whenever it is arranged. We are busy in Bible sharing and other documents of the congregation.

This year we were blessed with plenty of mangoes, guavas, fish and vegetables. Since children are not there to eat, we shared them with our sisters and neighbours.

Sr. Anita left for Nepal for her further studies. Sr. Embrencia Toppo has joined our community.
Sr. Bridget Kerketta F.C.

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CONVENT, JORDIGHI AND KARUNA HOLISTIC HEALTH

Deepening the Charism: To experience our passion for FC Charism and Mission, besides the study of the constitutions we had daily classes, Discussions and sharing on:

- Provincial chapter 2017 and General chapter 2018 Documents.
- Documents on vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding policy and procedures 2017 and child protection a safeguarding policy and procedures 2017 both

the documents from the Generalate and of the province.

- Guidelines for Formation
- Financial Guidelines.
- Efforts to improve English language and Study of Bengali.

For our online retreat we chose different talks daily by different preachers, Bible reflections helped us to listen to the spirit within us. One to one confession, Reconciliation brought us closer to each other.

We as a community felt the need to spend more time in prayer to support the various needs of the world, Congregation and Province- to this end each one of us has taken a day of prayer in a week. Our Hospital Construction work at Narayanpur is moving forward after a long gap due to the strict lockdowns.



To commemorate the “Going Home day” of our dear Sr. Luciana we planted many fruit trees in our compound. We also gave out over 100 fruit plants to the people to plant in their own homes.

Training: We are collaborating with NIRME to conduct one year certificate course in Bed side Nursing. Two of NIRME staff conducted a motivation programme for the youth. As a result 20 youth opted to go for GDA training at NIRME, three opted for Lab training, and 12 Boys opted for one month training as security guards.

We are helping to get admission for 4 girls for GNM course at St. Ann’s School of Nursing in Vishakhapatnam. 15 students have started bed side Nursing course in Jordighi. For these students an intensive course in spoken English is started from 1st of August.

Our domiciliary Palliative care program and the village health workers programme continues.

Our response to other needs:

- We started a three months course in Tailoring.
- Encouraged the widows by giving some help to purchase pigs, goats as per their interest.
- Empowered a widow by giving a Toto. And now they were able to buy a Toto on their own within four months. Now the Toto is given to another needy person.

Orientation days: The village health workers, widows and tailoring students came for an orientation

programme in the campus on 31st July 21. After a short prayer service, talks on women empowerment, importance of hard work were given by Sr. Regina and Sr. Shanti Picardo. They also had group discussion with sisters animating to finalize the coming events. Our whole community got involved in the programme.



On the 2nd August the Inaugural Ceremony and Orientation was organized for our first batch of students of Bedside Nursing. Sr. Jaya was the M.C, Sr. Rani, the coordinator welcomed the students. Prayer session was conducted. Fr. Nimai, Sr. Regina, Sr. Shanti Picardo gave motivational talks in Bengali.

Sr. Flora Dung Dung F.C.

Minister’s Visit to Karuna Holistic Health Mission, Buniadpur

On the 11th of August 2021, Sr. Regi, our provincial and Sr. Sini arrived at Jordigi to give the good news that Mr. BiplabMitra, the minister of Agricultural Marketing, Govt. of West Bengal will be visiting us the next day. With the help of the health workers we were able to have a memorable day on the **12th August 2021**. About 350 poor people were invited for the programme.



The minister arrived at 1pm. Sr. Shanti introduced him with a few words. Sr. Regi welcomed him by offering him a plant. Sr. Regina spoke about our health mission in this locality and briefed him about the hospital as well as the college of nursing and other related training programmes which will be held in this site. The Minister was very happy and encouraged us to go ahead with our plans and spoke very well on the missionary zeal of the religious to uplift the poor. He thanked the sisters for coming to this village to

extend their service to the poor and sick. In fact, he is aware of the village health camps and other social work conducted by the community last year. The minister promised to help us in the coming days.

We distributed ration bags to all the 350 who came. The village health workers did a good job to bring the needy to our campus. We thank Sr. Regi for inviting Shri Biplab Mitra to Buniadpur. Thanks to all who made the day a fruitful one. The FC Charism is still active!!!

Sr. Shanti Picardo

NAVJYOTI CONVENT, DUNDAJHAR

"It is a super human work to train young people for God."

Our young trainees' number is increasing day by day.

A bore well was dug to solve the water problem in the campus.

Understanding the need of health condition of people in our mission areas Sr. Sanjita and Sr. Anjela visited Dr. PD Bhutia and requested him to come and help us in our mission. He has begun to treat patients in the OPD twice a week; from six, the number of OPD patients has risen to 17-18 on a daily basis. Dr. Bhutia has gifted us with a sterilizing machine, an anroid BP-apparatus, a glucometer and a SpO2 machine.



On 12th July the new garage for school bus was blessed and we got a new school bus for NIAHE students to go for hospital, practical duty.

On 20th July 2021, the occasion of Banomahotsav day we distributed 400 saplings to the nearby villagers arranged by Dr. PD Bhutia, the main Forest Wild life Warden and Mr. Sonam Bhutia the head of the Range Officer of Forest Department (W.B) with his team. Sr. Molly and Ms. Anita from Navjeevan hospital were present for this programme. Sr. Molly, Dr. Bhutia, Mr. Sonam spoke on forest conservation and save environment and planted one plant in our compound.

On 26th July we had orientation programme for our teachers on Psychotherapy in our center by Br. Ralf from Mumbai.

Sr. Sanjita Barwa F.C.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CONVENT, GAYAGANGA

In the month of July we completed the paddy plantation. This year we hope to get a good crop as the green field delights our eyes. Our new kitchen building is coming up. The community is helping the poor families and widows from different villages by providing them ration.

School: All the students of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary passed with good results. The students of class IX and X received bicycles from the Government. School office is always open for the various office works. Class XI admissions are almost over. They will soon begin their online classes. Children from class KG to class VIII are getting Midday Meal Ration every month. Teachers are giving them assignments as the parents come to take ration.

Sr. Nilima Dung Dung F.C.

NAVJEEVAN CONVENT, GAYAGANGA

Before starting the vaccination in our Hospital there was an inspection by CMOH- II Darjeeling. We started the COVID vaccination on 23rd July. We have vaccinated 529 candidates. After a long period of lock down Navjeevan Institute of Allied Health education (NIAHE) Students of pharmacy and physiotherapy joined for their practical training in the hospital on 1st August 2021.

Caritas India donated six beds, PPE kits, Oxygen Concentrators, and other items to the hospital. Central Oxygen supply has been started for the COVID ward.

School of Nursing: Three batches of GNM Students are having their regular classes as well as their clinical exposures.



As a part of their periodic **STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION** fund raising activity the first years put up a small food fare with variety of delicious items. This added flavor to their life after a long period of dull days.

School also organized 75th Independence Day with great vigour and enthusiasm. Students had March past, drills and other cultural items on the occasion. Sr. Beena F.C. the Headmistress of St. Mary's Girls' High School was the chief guest who enlightened us with valuable words on the meaning of Freedom. The students were also awarded prizes for the best march past on the occasion.

Sr. Lidwin Mary F.C.

SHANTI BHAWAN CONVENT, PRADHAN NAGAR



We the community of Shanti Bhawan Convent, along with the parishioners of Our Lady Queen Church, the Parish council, NGOs and the Holy Cross Sisters distributed food packets to the patients in medical college for 45 days. Food was cooked and packed in the parish. Ration and Medicine were given to the people infected with Corona Virus. After completing 45 days of distribution we had evaluation, sharing and a thanks giving Mass followed by meal.

We continue to visit the families and distribute ration especially to the old and sick. Every Sunday, breakfast packet is given to the Patient party at the Medical college. They are sponsored by the generous people of the parish. Apart from this we also distributed ration to the needy family

around Siliguri, Matigara, Bagdogra, Fulbari and different Tea gardens. We also serve snacks and drink to the Traffic Police for their dedicated, selfless service.

We celebrated St. John Mary Vianney's Feast on 4th August 2021. Rt. Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind was the main celebrant along with our Parish priest Fr. Naresh and Assistant parish priest Fr. David Ekka. On the same day Bishop welcomed two Providence Sisters to our Diocese of Bagdogra.

We continue with our online classes in the Parish School. Sr. Rojinta went to Hathigsha on 13th August 2021 for the 'Come and See cum career guidance programme organized by Sr. Antonia F.C. and team.

Sr. Joyti Ekka F.C.

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, MATIGARA

A Seminar on “Safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults”: A seminar on “Safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults” was organized by Bagdogra Catholic Diocese Education Forum on the 19th and 20th of March 2021. Two teachers from our school attended this seminar.

The seminar started at 9:00 a.m. with a prayer followed by a brief introductory speech by Fr. Lawrence Thanislaus S.J. Mr. Tej Kr. Thapa, Child Protection Officer, Darjeeling and Fr. Stanley S.J, Rector, St. Joseph’s School, Darjeeling were the resource persons for the day. A video highlighting child right was shown. The importance of UNCRC was discussed.

The four main rights under UNCRC; ***the laws under POCSO, Women Protection Act and Juvenile Justice Act*** were discussed in detail. The difference between human rights and child rights, the roles of stakeholders in safeguarding children were discussed. Over 50 teachers from Catholic schools in and around Bagdogra diocese were present. It was indeed a very informative session and teachers were made aware of their responsibilities.



Celebrations: The school celebrated Rabindra Jayanti, Bhanu Jayanti and Independence Day virtually. The students took part in all these celebrations.

Sr. Lucy Thaikkattil F.C.

JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

On 17th July, we shifted all our belongings along with the kitchen staff to girls’ hostel building on top of the general ward. The Scholastics and the girls of Jesu Ashram helped us. Now we are well settled and having our community meals together. We have a small Chapel with Blessed Sacrament and a small community room.

We have started taking new admission of TB, leprosy and general cases. TB patients are more in number. Jesu Ashram has started a safe home for the

‘mother and child’ who are affected by the Novel Corona Virus. Accommodation and food is provided by Jesu Ashram and the medical care is given by the doctors and nurses appointed by the Government.

At present there are 49 students with us in three batches. We have our Eucharist celebration everyday by our residential priests. By the grace of God, we are all keeping well.

Sr. Insamma F.C.

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CONVENT, HATIGHISA

Under the initiative of Sr. Antonia the grass root health workers (ASHAs) were called for a meeting keeping in mind connectivity to the people far and near. The response of the health workers was amazing. We hope to reach out to the people who are really in need during this pandemic situation.

“The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few”.



Keeping these words of the Lord in mind we felt the urgency to call the local girls for a one day program on 13th August, 2021. Sixty five girls from our neighbouring parishes attended the program. Having an unvoiced intention of vocation promotion led us to conduct career guidance. Bro. Ruell SJ, Srs. Manasi, Sobhasini, Rojinta, Ebha, Sanjita and Mr. Theodore were the main speakers for the day. The co-operation of the sisters from Terai communities was encouraging. We imparted the life and mission of Mother Marie Therese with a power point presentation and sharing of our vocations. Six girls have expressed their desire to work in His vineyard. We ask the Lord of the harvest to prepare the hearts of these girls.

Sr. Clinty Sebastian F.C.



ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, HATIGOPA, ASSAM

On 27th July, 2021, the statue of sleeping St. Joseph arrived at the sub-station of Hatigopa village Church. All the faithful from the villages were invited to come and pray to St. Joseph on that day and at 3.00 pm the statue was brought to our Convent along with the faithful. The arrival of St. Joseph gave a prayerful atmosphere to the people around the village. On 28th July, 2021, we had Eucharistic celebration with the villagers in the Convent and three children were baptized on that day. The two days were grace filled and it which brought a lot of joy and happiness to all of us.

Sr. Anu James F.C.

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS, CONVENT, RANGJUL

Goalpara district was under complete lockdown due to the covid-19 till the end of July 2021. As the situation seemed to improve in our district Sr. Gladys along with MSMHC sisters and Youth of the Parish began to go to different villages to Catechize children, preparing them for first Holy Communion and Confirmation. Altogether 188 children received the First Holy Communion and Confirmation on 5th September.

Sr. Juliet Rappai was given farewell from the school on 8th July and Thanksgiving Mass was offered in the Parish Church on 11th July. She left for Kidderpore on 15th July.

We celebrated St. John Mary Vianney's feast on 4th August in our parish with all the priests and religious of Goalpara zone.

Sr. Gladys Tom F.C.

HELENA CONVENT, DIPHU, ASSAM



We welcomed Sr. Dominica on 10th March 2021 to our Community. To mark this day we along with the students planted 25

plants and fruit trees in the campus.

We had organized *Come and See* programme for the probable candidates of class VII to X, who remained with us for a month. Sr. Dominica and Sr. Jyotsna had gone to bring two candidates from Tezpur. Sr. Dominica reached them to Kidderpore.

On 8th August we bade farewell to Sr. Philomena. During her stay here she has touched the lives of many. Our students are very grateful to her. Not only the students but staff and all those who came across in her life have been touched by her. Though the Diphu mission will miss her, she is called for a greater mission. We wish her God's blessings for her new mission in Cameroun.

Newadmissions are going on for class XI. Already 100 forms have been submitted. In spite of lockdown the community is blessed to have daily mass following the covid19 protocols.

Sr. Helen Momin F.C.

PRERNA NIWAS CONVENT, DEONIA, NEPAL

We are very grateful to God for having daily mass during this pandemic. The faithful also come to receive Holy Communion sometimes. We continue to have daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the suffering world.

Now and then we have some visitors. Monkeys visit during the day and Elephants at night. On 5th July at 10:30pm an elephant broke the gate no.2 and entered the school compound and stood for sometime under the jackfruit tree, ate some jackfruits and came out gloriously when security guard opened the main gate. Monkeys are also coming and staying here in our campus. When we chase them they play hide and seek with us jumping on the trees and the roof. Every morning and evening we see different types of beautiful and colourful birds chirping in front of our house. We enjoy the beautiful creation of God.

Sr. Jyotsna Lakra F.C.

CHRISTALAYA CONVENT, MAHESHPUR, NEPAL

Everything seems to be unusual!!!

Christalaya Hostel and Morning Star Nursery is in complete silence. The boarders are at home. Those who can afford to have mobile and network are attending the online classes. Many are deprived of these facilities. Just a few days back four girls of class XI finished their exams and returned home and one girl of class XII is waiting for her exam.

Pastoral Care: - Sr. Rita is on the move by her scooty attending to sick calls at home and distributing food grains to the poor and needy. We had the joy of preparing 22 children for the first Holy communion and five couples to rectify their marriages. There was a 5 days Catechist training programme for the Purvancal region of Nepal; around 58 participants attended the seminar. We were given one day to give class on hygiene, first aid, home remedies for minor ailments and natural family planning.

We made our community annual retreat prepared by each sister for two days; Sr. Urmila from Korabari joined us. It was a grace filled and rich experience by each one's sharing, prayer and reflection. We are privileged to have Sr. Anita Hembrom as our new community member.



Mobile clinic: Even though the lockdown is very strict and sometimes there is curfew, we are attending to the patients at our health center; we refer some of them to the hospital for Covid test and also help who are in need financially and with dry rations. During this second Covid wave with the advice of Dr. Amar Kapuri we have treated 19 very serious corona patients. Some took three to four weeks to recover. For two months we could not go to the regular mobile clinics. Now we have started the mobile clinics on a regular basis. We are grateful to Sr. Molly for providing us with PPE kit.

Help to the needy: During this covid-19, Fr Boniface SJ helped us with the project from the

CDSS to help the needy and deserving cases. We managed to reach out to-100 families with dry rations besides 15 walkers, 15 walking sticks, 15 plastic chair commodes and 25 profiles for the bed ridden patients. For six months we are helping with Rs.1000/- worth things to 30 widows and widowers, 25 T.B Patients, 25 hypertension and Diabetic patients, 25 Expecting mothers and 25 breast feeding mothers. With all these we as a community feel happy that we are able to reach out to the people in their struggle and difficulties. We take difficulties as God's blessings and we thank Him for all the favors He is showering on us each day.

Sr. Bindu and sisters

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, KOROARI, NEPAL

COVID – 19 Pandemic made us reflect on our spiritual journey and led us to give more time to prayers and transform ourselves. Due to lockdown our daily routine has to be re-planned in creative ways. We have an hour of adoration every day. We have cultivated vegetables and planted fruit trees and other trees. We also have transplanted paddy in our field.

As the lockdown continues, we are helpless and unable to give online classes to our students due to lack of internet access.

We feel happy to see the progress of our convent building construction. Hoping it will be ready soon and we will be able to reside in the new convent.

Sr. Basanti Lakra stayed with us for six months. We are grateful to her for the help given in the school and community.

Sr. Lucia Kujur F.C.

ANAND BHAWAN CONVENT, DELHI

Ever since Brother Thomas Thanickal SG, general secretary of AINACS has been elected the President of CRI West Unit- II Delhi, there is revival of vibrancy. He is a live wire. Meetings are regular, relevant topics are discussed and actions for mission are taken very seriously. This year 15th August celebration was very

special. The combination of three events: **75th Independence Day, Feast of Assumption, Prison Ministry Sunday**. Sister Inigo and Brother Thomas were the resource persons; the conference hall was full to its capacity. She gave eye opener talk on Prison, Prisoners and Prison Ministry India. Her presentation with a power point kept the participants spell bound.

From the Old Testament Joseph, Peter and Paul, John the Baptist and Jesus were thrown into the prisons without trial, the situation is the same till the present time. So, prison ministry is Biblical ministry, Human ministry, social ministry, Jesus' ministry. Prison Ministry India P.M.I was founded in 1986. It is recognized by CBCI and has a desk with a chairperson Rt. Rev. Bishop Alvin D'silvia. There are 8000 volunteers in India. In Delhi we are 14 volunteers reaching out to 16 jails. Poverty and crimes are related so the jails are bursting with over population; in Tihar Jails there are 20,000 prisoners right now. The society has a responsibility to look into this burning issue. Holy Father persistently tells us to open our gates and visit the prisoners. They are caught we are not caught. The four pillars of Prison Ministry Spirituality are: **Sensitivity, Solidarity, Serviceability and Sustainability** - the core message of Christianity is service.

The President Brother Thomas exhorted the group to make concrete action for this ministry, besides being praying force. Everybody became a Think Tank for this Church's Ministry.

Sr. Winefred Rai F.C.

A PANDEMIC TIME EXPERIENCE

In July and August, I was happy to be associated with the Salesians at Nitika-Provincial House in their **"Free Covid Clinic"** for the poor. The programme offers free medical consultation, blood tests and medicines to the beneficiaries mostly from the surrounding slums.

From Monday to Saturday schedule begins at 9.15am with the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. As patients arrive, their data is documented. Doctor arrives by 10.30 A.M. and meets patients till 12.30 P.M. Each patient who meets doctor, is given medicines and relevant advice, and their blood samples are collected. I was able to overcome my fear and can now draw blood efficiently. About 30 patients came to the Clinic per day. While this clinic began as a camp to detect Covid-19, it now serves also as a general check up clinic. Most of them are suffering from Dengue, Malaria, Typhoid, TB, and other waterborne diseases. So far more than 1600 persons have benefitted from this clinic.

This was a happy experience of helping slum dwellers- my first direct exposure to their poverty and to their gratitude. Some were open-minded, and began to share about their families. This was a new experience for me.

Apart from the Doctor, our Team consisted of another Sister (RNDM in July and SJC in August), along with Five ladies who are staff of Nitika's slum outreach. The running of the clinic is managed by Fr. Gilbert Choondal SDB, under the overall supervision and organization of Fr. Jijo John SDB, the Provincial Economer. I find the Team very cooperative and enthusiastic about this service. The Salesians have been very caring, hospitable, helpful and attentive to our every need. Outside clinic hours, I could offer my services as a nurse to care for several aged and sick SDB fathers in the Provincialate. The Covid-19 Pandemic has been a bitter experience for most, but for me it has been a sweet experience of humanity, of sharing and of cheerful service.

Sr. Anusha Ramala F.C.

STAVROPOL, RUSSIA

In April 2021, I participated in the international scientific conference in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I presented the scientific paper on the study to assess knowledge and provide information on Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) among 30 junior Girls of our university, as PCOS is a health problem that affects one in the ten women of child bearing age (18-44 years).

Month of May and June were tougher as days were spent on preparing for five mock tests, five practical and theory exams of 2nd semester of 5th year. I thank and praise God for His help and guidance to do my 5th year exams successfully. Thanks to you sisters who remembered me in your prayers.

In July, as part of volunteering team activities food items and clothes were collected from our senior students and distributed to the poor and old people.

In August I made my retreat using retreat recordings, meditations, and adoration material of Sr. Inigo SSA. It was really a privileged time to be closer to the Lord.

Life here is almost returned to normal, as all Staff and students of our university are getting jabbed against COVID-19 with Sputnik vaccine. Hope and pray that the final academic year will open up more opportunities through offline classes and lectures. I ask you Sisters for your continued prayerful support for upcoming 6th year studies which will begin on 1st September 2021.

Sr. Bini Konikkara F.C.

Hi Tech's Prayer

*O Lord when I Whats App You. You are there
When I dial your number You always receive
When I am offline you are online watching me constantly
When I Google, You reveal all your creations and
Your unending love
When I chat with you, you pour out and
express your steadfast love
Please download all my good deeds and
delete the unnecessary data from my account
Please do email and update when I am not updated
Message me Lord always with Your Good News
Let me read the PDF of your living Word
O when will I take Selfie with You
So that I may always cherish the encounter with You
Whatsoever there is no network issue with you at all
Lord please Subscribe my prayer so
that my faith may continue to grow in you. Amen.*

Joke of the day:

*Son – "Papa what is the specialty of 2nd October?"
Father - Gandhi Jayanti! We celebrate the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
Son - Yes I understood it's the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi but who is Jayanti?"*

Sr. AniKindo F. C.

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

I raise notes of thanksgiving dear sisters, novices and candidates especially of Kolkata Province. I did feel and experienced your prayerful support during my illness.

Quick decision of Sr. Pushpa, the Superior General, hastened to avert the worst. Within a week the arrangements were made to fly to India for treatment.

Sr. Regi, Your loving care and concern I shall ever remember. Your comforting words bring healing. Thank you.

Sr. Sini, your availability was remarkable. Despite your busy schedule you accompanied me to Tata Medical Centre where the enemy "Cold Antibody" was silenced and defeated.

Dear Sr. Juliet George, Thank you for being a life giver by sharing your blood with me. God bless you.

Thank you Sr. Cecilia, Srs. Anne Joseph, Helen, Rosly and Sampa for your tender loving care. All of you were so attentive to my every need. May God bless you all.

Oh! How can I forget my angels, Srs. Stephy, Lucy Abraham and Sampa, you were my help in my helplessness. Thank you dear sisters.

St. Catherine's Home became my second hospital and Sr. Reena as my medical advisor. I appreciate your availability and patience Sr. Reena. God bless you.

I am much better. There is a lot of improvement in blood counts. Do continue to pray for complete cure.

*Once again **Thank You** dear sisters, thank you one and all.*

Sr. Martina Beng F.C.

ANNUAL RETREAT

On 5th August Rourkela province had organized the annual retreat for juniors in Jharkhand in Simdega. Provincial Sr. Anupama gave me the opportunity to have retreat with juniors of Rourkela. Juniors are big in number in the province, so it was

divided into two groups and I was in the first group with 16 juniors.

I am grateful to Sr. Anupama, the Provincial of Rourkela for giving me the opportunity to make a good retreat.

Sr. Rashmilata Beck F.C.

NEWS FROM PAKYONG

Due to lock down Sr. Mamta and myself are staying in Jorethang and having online classes.

On 16th June 2021 we had online adieu programme for one of our leaders, Sr. Celestine Lobo. The programme was well organized by our seniors. Everyone could participate. Activities were divided according to the possibilities of trainees. We four sisters were given charge of prayer service.

On 19th and 25th June we had physical education, development class in Google Meet. It was very interesting and helpful for our health and fitness.

On 28th July we had gone to visit the Carmelite Missionary Sisters at Salebong, Namchi. We had Holy Mass followed by lunch.

Sr. Prabha Lakra F.C.

Gone for Eternal Reward



Sr. Awit Pranita Lepcha F.C.
13th May 2021



Sr. Mary Luciana F.C.
9th July 2021

18 th April	Sr. Nilima DungDung's Uncle
23 rd April	Sr. Nilima Dung Dung's Aunt
23 rd April	Srs. Mary Therese and Winifred's Sister-in-law
24 th April	Sr. Suchita Kerketta's Brother-in-law
28 th April	Sr. Insamma's Brother
30 th April	Sr. Beena's Uncle
1 st May	Sr. Celine's brother-in-law
4 th May	Sr. Wilfreda's mother
10 th May	Sr. Teresa Ann's Cousin
13 th May	Sr. John Narikuzhi OSU (<i>Sr. Regi's aunt</i>)
15 th May	Sr. Dominica's Mother
24 th May	Sr. JyotiEkka's Father
27 th May	Sr. Fulgentia's Brother-in-Law
31 st May	Sr. PrabhaLakra's sister
1 st June	Sr. NirmalaDewan's Cousin
8 th June	Fr. Jose Pallisery sdb (Sr. Teresita's cousin)
9 th July	Sr. Insamma's sister-in-law and Sr. Anjali Francis's aunt
28 th July	Sr. Geeta's Mother
5 th August	Sr. Ankita's brother
9 th August	Sr. Anjugam's grandmother