



DELHI DISHA

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PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

Jan – Feb 2022

News From our Communities

St. Francis' Convent

The new year was welcomed with joy and gratitude, gratitude that we are alive to see this day after a year marked by tragedy, pain, worry, anxiety and fear. 4th was a day of celebration. The retreat was over by mid-day and sisters from Kanpur, Sagar and Mauranipur were here to fetch their dear sisters back home. Meeting and chatting with them gave us great joy.

We were happy to welcome back Sr. Marcellina and Anjali who were away on home leave and Kiran and Alka who had gone to Kolkata for their Tertianship. Srs. Teresa and Juliana were also warmly welcomed when they arrived here to make their retreat under the guidance of Sr. Isabel in preparation for the renewal of their vows.



The Birthday of our Foundress Mary Ward was marked by a solemn High Mass, a beautiful and impressive prayer service by class 6 on virtual platform, a prayer service by FMW teachers' group and finally a prayer service by sisters in the chapel. To commemorate the week various activities were organized. Teachers who are members of FMW spent some time daily, praying on the Maxims of Mary Ward. Sisters in turn gave them some input on the spirituality of Mary Ward. The Mary

Ward week was concluded with a thought provoking and inspiring prayer service inviting the members to follow the example of that valiant and daring woman and to be agents of change in this digital world. The school also gave a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the nation. The day ended with all of us gathering around the portrait of Mary Ward and praying for 'Becoming One'.

30th January: the much-awaited day, 30th January dawned for our tertians Srs. Kiran and Alka and our juniors Teresa and Juliana who were renewing their vows. The profession ceremony took place in our chapel which was tastefully decorated by Sr. Divya. The solemn procession with the brides,



their relatives, the clergy and the bishop began at 11 am. Our bishop Rt. Rev. Peter Parapullil presided over the Eucharist with 6 priests concelebrating. Bishop Peter in his homily told the congregation that vocation is a gift and it is God who has called us and He will always walk with us. He exhorted the brides to cherish their vocation and respond to His call daily with love and dedication making His mission their own. The melodious singing by the choir led by Fr. Kantharaj created a divine atmosphere. Sr. Pratima in the place of the Provincial received the vows. After the Mass, the brides and the invited guests gathered in the beautifully decorated hall for lunch. The cake was cut by the brides Srs. Kiran and Alka, thus commencing the last festivities of the day. It was the perfect end to a beautiful day and for our brides, 30th January 2022 will always remain a special day to “cherish God’s vocation in them constantly, efficaciously and affectionately” in the true spirit of Mary Ward.



February brought us the good tiding that Sr. Isabel’s Diamond Jubilee is round the corner and we decided to make it a memorable day for her. The jubilee was celebrated on the 2nd in a simple and yet



beautiful way. The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist officiated by our bishop Rt. Rev. Peter Parapullil and concelebrated by Fr. Vianney. The Mass was followed by cutting of the cake and sumptuous breakfast. The specially prepared lunch, the special prayer service and the organized recreation added to the charm of the day.

We were glad to attend the FMW meeting held on 22nd. The scholarly presentation of 'the status of women in Mary Ward's time' was well received. We were also happy to attend a meeting organized by the Diocese to discuss the first step towards the implementation of Synodality.

The invitation to the silver jubilee celebration of Sr. Jyotika was a welcome change. It was lovely to be with her and to share her joys. A trip to the mission stations Moth and Konch instilled in us a greater desire to serve the poor in a more radical way.

As the news of a nuclear disaster looming over Ukraine, in fact the whole continent, breaks into the social media, our hearts reach out to those concerned and we ask the Lord to be their shield and protector. May He bring about peace between Russia and Ukraine.

Sr. M. Vijaya CJ

Mayur Vihar Community

Mary Ward Week - Virtual life is the reality of the times. We had virtual assemblies, competitions and activities for school to celebrate the Mary Ward week. Each day students and teachers were welcomed to reflect on and live by the maxim of Mary Ward. This practice was appreciated by the staff. We sisters in community reflected together and concluded the week with a day's recollection, guided by Sr. Merlin. Sister prepared a power point presentation on Mary Ward and her charism, with a special reference to the Just Soul. The day was concluded with Holy Eucharist.

School Special Activities- Online Parent Teachers Meeting was held on 8th January. Vaccination camp for students (age group 15 to 18) was held on 17th January in school. Parents and students co-operated well. School also initiated a teacher training programme on Personal Safety Education with Children to Prevent Child Abuse. The programme was held in two slots 17th- 18th and 19th- 20th. 10 teachers were trained from school. Career counselling/conclave was organized for the students and parents of classes 9th to 12th on 22nd and 29th January. Both the sessions were well participated and appreciated by the students and parents.

On 31st the last club meetings of the academic year 2021-22 were held. NISCORT Media held an online contest – UTUBE IDOL and Akshat Ujjain of class 7 won the title and was awarded with a certificate and cash prize for the movie review. On 18th February, Media club was privileged to go for an exposure programme to NISCORT Media College and had an enriching learning experience.

Silver Jubilee vibes continue in school through various modes of activities. Two such activities were special orientation for classes KG - 12 held in four slots for two days. The resource person, Mr. Arindham Bhattacharya a renowned counsellor and motivational speaker from Cradle Solutions,

enlightened the parents and students through the theme Winds of Change- New Learning Modicum. Silver Jubilee Talent Fiesta marked the height of it all. A variety of competitions were held and students involved in it with a highly competitive spirit. Agni house bagged the first position and the trophy. Lock- Down was lifted and from 14th February hybrid classes resumed for 9th to 12th graders.

On 19th Saturday an offline Parent Teachers Meeting was held to get the consent of parents for offline exams. Many parents are apprehensive to send their wards to school as they are not vaccinated. Hence, school decided to conduct offline exams only for those vaccinated i.e., classes 9 to 12. The staff picnic to Sunder Nursery rejuvenated the spirit of the Marian staff, and we did deserve it. At present school is conducting exams and are busy with winding up the session.

Parish - We were saddened by the unfortunate departure of Mrs. Stancy of our parish. Though aged, she fell in the washroom and was unattended for more than two hours. By the time her son-in-law managed to break open the door with the assistance of carpenters, it was too late. Srs. Poonam and Merlin attended the funeral Mass on 2nd February and the latter made it to the burial site. Sr. Poonam along with the Parish Youth animator Mr. Moses visited the houses of parish Youth. A task yet to be completed by coming months. Srs. Merlin and Tomsy regularly visit the elderly of the parish on Sundays and pray for them. It brings lot of joy and comfort in the hearts of both families and us.

Parish Junior Choir is formed to initiate the active participation of children in church activities. At present Sr. Tomsy helps the choir for practices on every Saturday. Women's day- in parish level, was celebrated on 27th February. Mahila Mandal of the parish organized the celebration. Women of the parish were blessed and given a Rosary each by the sisters during the Eucharist. Synod consultation in groups as scheduled, is the focal point of parish activity. An active and whole- hearted participation of everyone in parish is praise worthy. The Way of the Cross of the first Friday was conducted by CJ sisters and guided the parish community in prayer.

We are united in prayer for Ukraine and our hearts are raised to the Lord of peace. We pray for the safety of our sisters in Ukraine serving fearlessly, the wounded and those in shelter. Ash Wednesday was observed as a day of prayer and fast as urged by the Pope.

Tomsy CJ

Jesu Bhawan, Delhi

We began the new year 2022 with a meaningful Eucharistic celebration in the parish. The Congregation Day – 3rd January was celebrated with our neighbouring communities – SJ, CJs from Shahbad and Mayur Vihar.

After the third slot of vaccination, Sr. Elsy was down with high fever. Later she was tested corona positive and so she could not be present for the final vows of our dear sisters Kiran and Alka in Jhansi. Mary Ward Week was observed by the community with daily reflections from the booklet which was well prepared for this year.

9th February, birthday of Sr. Elsy was celebrated in a simple and meaningful way. During the Holy Eucharist which was celebrated with love and gratitude we raised our prayers for Sr. Elsy to the Lord. Srs. Mariella and Joseline from Jhajjar reached on time with birthday greetings. Our sisters from Shahbad community joined us for dinner. Soon after this Sr. Elsy proceeded to Nainital for her mission in Uttarakhand. We wished her good health and God's blessings.

'Becoming One' has become part of our conversations, prayers and reflections. As part of its activity the FMW conducted the webinar with the theme, 'The Role of Women in Mary Ward's Early Modern Times, why and how she was breaking barriers and what this means for our society' by Ms. Annette Haseneder was much appreciated. We were happy to welcome Sr. Marilla IBVM and our sisters Mariella and Joseline who paid us a short visit. Another step towards 'Becoming One'!

Ukraine is in our prayers; may our courageous sisters be blessed with strength to face the struggles before them. We are proud of their indomitable spirit. May there be peace both in Ukraine and Russia.

Jesu Bhawan community wishes everyone **A grace filled Lent!**

St. Mary's Convent, Nainital

From 25th onwards our sisters who were on home leave, started returning to the community. The community had special prayers during the Mary Ward week and on 30th the Sr. Elaine conducted a meaningful prayer service as a conclusion to Mary Ward week celebrations.

On 4th February the spectacular catch for the eye was the snow fall which lasted for 48 hours. The snow-capped mountains and trees and the snow-clad campus looked superb. On 6th there was some sunlight and the co-workers cleared some snow making a path for us to walk. It took the whole of February for the snow to melt completely.



Sr. Deepti who was in the Provincial house, Delhi, taking care of the candidates,

returned to the community on 7th February. Since the retreat director could not reach, the community members made their annual retreat privately listening to the talks from you tube specially that of '**Aroma of Christ**'.

On 19th four of our sisters went for the diamond Jubilee celebration of Sr. Laura at Jeolikote. On the same day the first JPIC E magazine of SMC, Nainital was released. On 28th the JPIC coordinators gathered together in the school to plan for the activities for the whole year.

St. Anthony's Convent Jeolikote

The New Year began with a holy atmosphere as half of the community were in retreat. On 3rd January the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus was celebrated with a Solemn Holy Eucharist

On 23rd January the birth day of venerable Mother Mary Ward was celebrated meaningfully and we recalled her great virtues and expressed our gratitude during the nine days Novena prior to her birthday. We expressed our gratitude to Allahabad province especially Srs. Marina and Lissy for the well-prepared videos on the maxims of Mother Mary Ward. On 30th January some of us enjoyed an outing to Nausar and visited Sr. Deepika's family.

On 1st February we were happy to celebrate the birthday of our dear Sr. Laura – we began the day with a meaningful Holy Mass. And the celebration continued throughout the day with delicious food, fun and laughter. *Snowcapped mountains praise the Lord.* The hills of Uttarakhand witnessed heavy snowfall in the first week of February which elated tourists from the plains. It was a glorious sight to see the snowcapped mountains from our campus itself. On 12th February we attended the blessing of the Grotto of our Lady at Rudrapur. Fr. Arun Saldhana made it very meaningful and devotional. We appreciate Sr. Assunta's untiring effort, in giving the convent a finishing look.

On 14th February we had the polling, it's a pity that though some of us are here for long years yet the names are not registered so among ten of us in the community only four of us could cast the vote. Our Sisters from Rudrapur came this way after casting their vote in Nainital.

Hearty Congratulations to our Diamond Jubilarian Sr. Laura. On 18th we had the concelebration of the Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr. Uday as main celebrant along with Emeritus Bishop Isidore and



Rev. Fr. Manoj and Rev. Fr. Yesudas. SDB. Fr. Uday highlighted the goodness of Sr. Laura and said that Sr. Laura's 60 years were like diamond Pearls as sister has touched the lives of many during

these years. It was indeed a memorable day for Sr. Laura and all of us; those who came to the Church admired the beautiful decoration of the Altar prepared by Sr. Pratibha and her team. The choir lead by Sr. Kanula added to the solemnity. We were happy to have our sisters from Nainital and Rudrapur and the celebration ended with a fellowship meal.

Our students are back to the boarding, some of them are coming after a long gap two years. We are happy that the classes are resumed. The students are getting ready for the final Examination. On 27th February the science stream of Class XII had their external practical examination.

We earnestly pray for the people of Ukraine, very specially for our sisters who are missioned there, and entrust them to God asking Him to be merciful to them. As we begin the season of Lent, we wish all our dear sisters grace filled days ahead.

Rekha. CJ.

Nirmala Convent, Jhansi

We welcomed the New Year 2022 with a Holy Mass in St. Anthony's Cathedral and we implored the Almighty God for His blessings over us. On 3rd our Institute Feast was celebrated solemnly in our chapel. Sr. Remya along with one candidate left for Delhi on the same day in the morning, from there, the former proceeded to Rome on 7th for an international formators programme and the latter to be in the provincial house for a month.

After the annual retreat in SFC Sr. Tessa returned with Srs. Daya and Cecilia of Allahabad province. We were happy to welcome sisters from Kanpur and Sagar community who came to fetch their sisters back home. We were glad to welcome the retreat master Fr. Joy Pulikunnel SJ who had lunch with us.

The school was reopened on the 3rd January and we were compelled to close the school due to severe cold and the spread of Covid. According to the order received from the education department the vaccination was given to all the children above 15 years old. After a break all the classes reopened and once again the children were happy to join the school.

On 26th Srs. Alice, Mary and Shalini attended the meeting on Synodality arranged by the CRI. Fr. Renoy SDB, the CRI president and Fr. Ronald Tellis, the diocesan president of Synodality Commission gave the presentation and explained to us the Synodal process very clearly and given us the questionnaire to discuss in the communities and then to submit the report by 25th March.

All the community members were busy preparing for the silver Jubilee celebration of Sr. Jyothika.

27th February was a day of rejoicing for all of us in Nirmala community as we celebrated the silver jubilee of Sr. Jyothika. Bishop Peter Parappullil celebrated the Eucharist with other five priests in our convent chapel. Our joy was doubled with the presence of sisters from SFC and Mauranipur. Sr. Annette welcomed the congregation and, in her introduction, she highlighted the life of Sr. Jyothika and her service over the past 25 years. Sr. Jyothika thanked the Almighty God for all the graces she



received and was grateful to all those who made it possible for this day to be a memorable one for her. A melodious greeting song, the Jubilee cake and the sumptuous lunch added colour and taste to the celebration.

Nirmala Community

St. Mary's Convent, Jhajjar



January was indeed a Mary Ward month for us. Our appreciation goes to Allahabad Province for their innovative video reflections on the Maxims of Mary Ward. Mary Ward Week had an added attraction as Francis Teresa Ball was alongside Mary Ward. 'The possibility of an important movement towards the Becoming One' is striking a deeper root in our consciousness and conversations.

The community had a day reflection and prayer (monthly recollection) guided by Sr. Mariella on the attitudes and dispositions of Mary Ward when she was arrested and imprisoned - her courage and optimism a light for our times.

Mary Ward's Birth and Death Anniversaries were observed with on line prayer assemblies in school. During the Mary Ward Week the Teachers held a debate on 'Today's women are empowered'. Speakers against the motion gave us an insight into the plight of most Haryana women – still very suppressed. Students had a heated debated on "Technology makes children smarter".

On 30th January the Eco –Friends Club paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his death Anniversary with an on-line programme, highlighting the role played by Gandhiji in promoting peace and non-violence. On this occasion some new members were also inducted into the club.

As if an answer to our prayers the Town and Country Planning Chandigarh called us for a meeting to review our application for Occupation Certificate. So Srs. Joseline and Mariella made a trip to Chandigarh. It appears that on their return they also brought along Covid Virus. In a week's time all of us were down including the kitchen maid. So the whole house became a sort of quarantine centre but all of us could freely move about. We were grateful that we all recovered soon.

An **'important movement towards Becoming One'**! On 27th Feb. we were invited to Loreto Convent Delhi for a meal and fellowship. We spent a good time with the sisters, saw their school and campus. We also traced some of our common friends and had video chats. From there we fetched Sr.



Marilla IBVM who came all the way from Kolkata to have a lived experience with us for a week. On the way we also visited ours in Shahbad and Jesu Bhawan. So, the month of February ends with a new beginning!

Sr. Grace CJ

St. Mary's Convent, Rudrapur

The New Year was welcomed with a solemn High Mass in the Parish. Around Christmas, the teachers had motivated the students to bring some provisions for the poor. The sisters with some students went to M.C. Sisters, Moti Nagar, with the provisions collected. The M C sisters were very grateful for it as they are not getting sufficient funds to care for the 49 inmates. The help from the local public too has been reduced due to the Pandemic.



The initiative of Srs. Rayna and Seema and the good attempt of teachers and students resulted in the first launching of e-magazine. It could be viewed in the YouTube. Though we had to be satisfied with online classes in January we were able to resume offline classes in the 2nd week of February. It was gladly welcomed by the teachers and parents. We had few visits from sisters and fathers of the diocese and our own from Nainital. The community paid a visit to ours at Puranpur, gladdening the spirit of both the communities.

The month of January was very cold and it rained most of the days. Since Omicron was spreading the sisters could not go for family visits. Therefore, they settled the school library and were getting ready with the file for renewal of Registration of the School to be submitted in February / March.

The long-cherished dream of the sisters to have a grotto made came true in 2021. But due to pandemic restrictions we could not get the statue. Sr. Assunta brought the statue from Kerala when she returned

after her home leave. The grotto was blessed on 12th February (12.02.2022) by Rev. Fr. Arun Saldanha, Parish Priest. The priests and sisters from



Kichha and Rudrapur parishes and ours from Nainital and Jeolikote were invited. We began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. After Mass we went in procession carrying the statue to the grotto reciting the Rosary. It was indeed a beautiful day for all of us. One of our workers on his way back home experienced healing of his pain. The next morning, he told us what happened and concluded saying, 'this statue has healing power'. Ever since he prays daily at the grotto.

Sr. Assunta

