



*Loreto Provincialate,
7, Middleton Row,
Kolkata – 700 071*

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Sharing IBVM News:
March 2009

**First Profession on 19th March at
Abhilasha, Novitiate House, Kolkata:**

The Eucharist, with the Profession Ceremony, was thoroughly planned, every detail put in place, with the singing, commentaries, etc. just perfect. What was most striking was the radiant glow on the faces of the 10 Sisters who were professed.

They were lucky to have present Srs. Judy Kidd and Sheila Zettel, the Sisters who had originally come out from Canada to teach them English when they were Candidates. There were also a few sisters from other houses of the Province, and Sr. Monica Affonso from the Region.

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Reception: *10 dynamic Candidates were received as 1st year Novices on Saturday 28th March. The Reception Ceremony was creatively woven with song and dance, with special emphasis on responding to the rhythm of the Lord of the Dance.*

Departures: *Two first year Novices were asked to discontinue in February 09 – Kamala & Laurencia. They have returned home and plan to pursue College studies.*

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**Juniorate Academic Day on Sat. 28th
March 09 at the Juniorate House in**

BB: *It was a novel experience to have the five Temporary Professed Sisters, who are completing their Juniorate programme at the end of this month, present an account of the studies and skills they had acquired over the past year. The power-point presentation, the demonstration of their skills on the various musical instruments, their meaningful songs and dance kept the audience fascinated.*

Wholehearted CONGRATULATIONS to the Five Temporary Professed on the successful completion of the Juniorate year. They will proceed to academic Graduate studies.

Special Congratulations and thanks to the Juniorate Director – Sr. Geraldine Moktan. Geraldine has been admirable

in taking up different Formation assignments without reservation. This meant that she was constantly adapting, adjusting and devising new ways of handling the various Formation programmes that were entrusted to her. I sincerely thank Sr. Geraldine for her spirit of acceptance, cheerfulness, and the creative talents she brought to her tasks. By mid April, Geraldine will be departing on home leave, and then joining the Region. We shall truly miss her joyful presence, but we wish her every blessing for her new start in the Region.

From 1st April, the Juniorate House will transfer to Loreto Entally, with the 10 First Professed Sisters joining there.

Sabbatical: *Sr. Tressia Aricatt will complete her term of office as Community Leader in Lucknow, in May 09. She shall then proceed on a Sabbatical, doing a Retreat and various courses in India and the Bible Course in Jerusalem – “In the Footsteps of Jesus” – mid Sept to early Oct 09. In August she plans to visit some Ignatian sites in Spain. This sounds exciting and we wish Sr. Tressia a happy and enriching Sabbatical.*

Sr. Phyllis Morris is back from her Sabbatical experiences in Australia. She says that the courses she took in Australia seemed just the right ones for her. She also had the rare privilege of attending the Australian Province

Congregation Meeting. Of course, there is nothing like family – and Phyllis has a lot of family in Australia! No doubt Phyllis has come back much refreshed and renewed by her experiences.

Membership: *Sr. Subhashini Lakra had requested, after discernment, to be permitted to join the Region. With permission from the General Superior and Council, Subhashini has been granted this request, and would belong to the Region henceforth.*

‘Collective Voices’ project launched in Panighatta: *The Darjeeling Region has launched a social development project in Panighatta under the auspices of the Mary Ward Development Office in the Region, as part of the Mary Ward Centenary Project. The aim is to create awareness among women, youth and children of Panighatta of Government schemes that are available for social welfare and development. Congratulations to the Region on introducing this necessary and novel project, presenting a new way forward.*

Visitors from abroad: Welcome to:

➤ *Srs. Judy Kidd and Sheila Zettel who visited Calcutta from 14th March to 1st April 09. Their real purpose was to*

catch up with their students of 2005 who are now just Professed.

- *Sr. Janet Palafox of MWI Australia - who arrived in Calcutta on 23rd March to get acquainted with the Province and Region over the next two weeks. In the Province, Janet will visit Shillong, Loreto House, Thakurpukur, Calcutta schools, Entally & Satarda.*

- *Srs. Kathleen McLennon and Roisin Darcy of MWI Ireland - who arrived in Calcutta on 26th March and will visit Trichy, our ministries in Calcutta, Ranchi, and Bangladesh. They will also visit the Region.*

- *Sr. Deepa Biswas was in India over the last few months to be with her mother during her illness. Thankfully, her mother has recovered considerably, and Deepa departed India for Peru on Sunday 29th March 09. Deepa's mother would need continued prayers.*

GC Planning Team: *Congratulations to Sr. Igora Pinto who has been*

appointed on the GC Planning Team, along with Bernadette Turtle (England), Lucy Nderi (E. Africa), Maria Bierer (USA), Pilar Gonzalez Cano (Spain), Carmen Diston (general leadership; chair) and Barbara Murphy (general leadership). The facilitators are: Bridget Ehlert and Mary Harrington. The meeting will take place in Wheaton, Chicago, from May 22nd to 29th.

News abroad:

Sadly the well known Loretto High School, Sacramento, California, will be closing as of June 09. Your prayers are requested for a smooth transition.

Medical matters: *Sr. Stephanie M had a cataract operation on the second eye on 30th March. St. Stephanie is recovering well and thanks all for their well-wishes and prayers.*

In union of love and prayers,

Mantoinette Rodrigues