



*Loreto Provincialate,
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Sharing IBVM News:
May 2009

General Elections: *India – considered to be the world's largest democracy, can take credit that it has given the mandate for good governance, development and a secular India in the recent elections for Parliament. Contrary to expectations and 'the predictions of the experts' there has been a definite swing away from communal politics in favour of stability, integrity and credibility. This change could have been brought about by the large number of youth who played a vital role in this election. Jai Hind to the wisdom of the Indian voter!*

Staff member of Loreto Darjeeling died in a landslide, and another was hospitalized for injuries suffered in the same landslide. The homes of three of our Temporary Professed Sisters from the coastal areas of WB – Jhuma, Ballika and Baishaki - were either flooded or battered by the storm. A Domestic Staff member of Entally had her whole house blown away. Climatologists and weather analysts blame the ferocity of Alia on global warming. For your information, June 5th is World Environment Day. May our desire for Earth Care be translated into action.

Cyclone Aila wreaks havoc in Bengal: *On 25th and 26th May Aila had killed at least 82 in W. Bengal, and rendered lakhs homeless. Similar destruction was caused in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. The tragedy came close to home when a Domestic*

Bomb in Church in Kathmandu: *On 23rd May, a bomb was detonated in the Church of the Assumption in Kathmandu, Nepal. Two were killed – one being a CJ student. The CJ Sisters themselves were present in the Church at the time, and were severely traumatized by the incident. This is the first time that a Christian*

Church has been targeted in Nepal.



Mary Ward's Cause: It is fitting that in this year of the 4th centenary of Mary Ward's founding grace, the Theological Commission for the Beatification of Saints, declared Mary Ward to be a person of "heroic virtue". Sr. Mechtild, CJ General Superior, feels that this is a significant hurdle overcome this year. There is hope that Mary Ward will be declared Venerable next.

In 1984, the present Pope Benedict XVI, then Cardinal Ratzinger, wrote of Mary Ward: "With courage and decisiveness she opened the way in her own time for women to work in a new way in the Church... It may be said, perhaps, that precisely now Mary Ward's hour has come afresh."



Centenary Celebrations at Loreto Shillong: The elaborate preparations by the School, Community and Alumnae, and the dedicated, tireless work put in by the Staff members & Sisters paid off by the joy, warmth and enthusiasm evident during the week long celebrations, from 18th to 23rd May 09. The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri R.S. Mooshahary, who was Chief Guest for the inaugural programme on the 18th,

spoke feelingly about the quality, all-round education being given by Loreto Shillong. Contrary to his impressions of this school from his childhood days, he is happy to see that Loreto is catering to all strata of society. The Education Minister, a youthful past pupil of the school, is hopeful about working with the school for its growth and development. The dance items given by the various Loreto Schools on the 19th were a sheer treat for the aesthetic senses, while at the same time conveying meaningful messages for the times.

Congratulations Loreto Shillong! May the Jubilee Theme of 'Embracing the Past, Shaping the Future' find practical application in many and varied ways in the years ahead.



Formation: Sr. Therese Larkin, from Ireland, will be in India from 8th July to 20th August, to help out in the different Formation Houses in Kolkata. We are grateful to Therese for accepting to share her skills and experience in Formation with us.

Sr. Agnes Bhutia has completed her 4 months course in Atmadarshan, and will be arriving in the Novitiate on 4th June. Most probably she will leave for Canada on 14th June to attend the

Spiritual Directors' Course at Guelph.

For various reasons it has been necessary to shift the Pre-Candidate House temporarily from Ranchi to Kolkata. The Pre-Candidates, with Sr. Josephine, will move to Bowbazar by mid-June. The pre-Candidates are yet to join us!



Travels - Sr. Cyril: *Sr. Cyril was present for the opening of the Mary Ward celebrations in Toronto, Canada, before she proceeded to Winnipeg to give talks to a wide range of people there. She returns to Toronto to participate in the continuation of the Mary Ward Celebrations till mid June. She hopes to be in Ireland for her grand-niece's wedding on 21st June & the Mary Ward seminar in Dublin on 22nd June. She returns to India on 23rd June.*



Medical Bulletin:

- *Sr. Bridget took a bad turn from end December, and had to suffer much discomfort and pain from the illness and treatment given to her. She has since recovered marvelously over the last week, and is in much better form now.*

However, she still needs our earnest prayers.

- *Sr. Celine's priest brother, Agnelo, has come out of the major operation with hope and some measure of renewed health. He was given the good news that the biopsy is clear. Sr. Celine is grateful for the prayers offered.*
- *Sr. Lourdes would like prayers for her sister, Edilda, in Goa, who is not keeping in good health.*



Some Guidelines for internet security: *These have been given by a computer specialist to the Generalate team:*

- *Create a standard signature for yourself.*
- *Be careful about e-cards, YouTube, Facebook, etc.*
- *Forwarding pictorial data leaves the system more vulnerable.*
- *Sending e-mails to long lists of people at one time heightens vulnerability.*

These are tips we could consider in order to avoid -email hacking.

With fond love and prayers,

Antoinette Rodrigues