



## LORETO (IBVM) SOUTH ASIA PROVINCE

*reaching out...*

**NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER  
2022**

Loreto Provincialate, 7 Middleton Row, Kolkata- 700 071, Phn no: 033-4006 1156, e mail: loretosec@gmail.com

When I was in the Novitiate in Abhilasha, Thakurpukur in August, Sr. Bernadette asked me to take classes with the novices on the Second Vatican Council Documents and Inter-Religious Dialogue – two vast topics which I had to give a week to, respectively. It was surely a feat but we enjoyed the time together. I was fired with enthusiasm and zeal while I shared with the novices. Both topics are quite connected because the Church has moved a long way in openness and dialogue to what she was before the Second Vatican Council. It's great that our novices are being opened to getting to know something about other religions. It's so important in today's world – especially in India – a certain broadness of vision and outlook is a must. I have seen how I have grown from being a traditionalist to becoming a global person – enveloping all. As I read and reflect on Ted Dunn's Graced Crossroads I would like to share with you a passage that struck me today – **'Transformation is an internal process, while change is an external event. Transformation is a life-long spiraling, maturational movement.'**



A Hasidic Tale speaks of a rabbi asking his students 'How can we determine the hour of dawn, when the night ends and the day begins?' After a few unsatisfactory answers from his students the wise teacher said, 'It is when you can look into the face of another human being and you have enough light in you to recognize your brother or your sister. Until then it is night, and darkness is still with us.'

Let us pray for that break through to continue happening for each one of us in the Province, daily.

**Sr Mary De Souza**

## What is in here?

### Mesaage from PLT

*Sr Sabrina*

### Ignatian Corner

*Sr Maxima*

### Wisdom Corner

*Sr Sunila*

### Mary Ward Corner

*Sr Shanta*

### Temporary Professed Corner

*Srs Anet, Nirmala, Madhuri, Lily and Vimala*

### My Experience

*Sr Nirmala M and Josephine*

### Updates from Education Office

*Ms Dutt*

### Updates from SA Archive Office

*Ms Nilina*

Sadam Community ..... *Sr Rina*

Trichy Community ..... *Sr Priyanka D*

Champasari Community ..... *Sr Mini Priyanka*

Panighatta Community ..... *Sr Ranjita*

Ranchi Community ..... *Sr Banisha*

Lucknow Community ..... *Sr Jiwanti*

Shillong Community ..... *Sr Soria*

Darjeeling Community ..... *Sr Binista*

Bangladesh Community ..... *Sr Edelein*

LH Community ..... *Sr Valeria*

Lolay Community ..... *Sr Mariam*

The best medicine ..... *Sr Kavitha*

**Birthdays and Feastdays**



## Message from PLT

Sr Sabrina

We rejoice with our CJ sisters who have just elected their new General Leader, Sr. Veronica Fuhrmann CJ and the new General Leadership Team Sr. Estella Clara Grignola (Vicar General), Sr. Prati-ma Pinto, Sr. Helena Kang and Sr. Anna Quinterio.

We thank God for the unanimous vote of the CJ General Congregation to the petition put forward by our IBVM General Leadership Team which was live streamed for both the Mary Ward Institutes worldwide.

In our own province, the spirit continues to nudge us forward towards “Becoming One”. We thank Sr. Josita cj from Allahabad Province who joined Trichy community on the 27th July. Our first IBVM-CJ partnership in mission. The beginnings of new ventures and partnerships in the future. We are grateful for the generosity of Sr. Shweta cj, the Provincial of Allahabad province, for responding to our request.

The “Becoming One” program hosted in Kathmandu and Nainital brought Mary Ward’s sisters together to honour their past... as both remembered the great cloud of witnesses, embrace their present... as they shared their stories and co-create the future... engaging in honest conversations about their fears and desires. Many more of these programs are in the plans.

Our communities continue to be open houses for each other as we visit, join retreats or need a transit stop in our many journeys as Mary Ward’s sisters. Our houses also support each other’s students as members living in community or as local guardians!

Both Institutes are collaborating actively on JPIC and with the Friends of Mary Ward.

We are living in graced times... graced crossroads... where we need to make important choices. As we close the celebrations of Teresa Ball’s Bicentenary year, we are aware of how this year has unfolded one of the greatest movements in the history of Mary Ward’s Institute... the process of “Becoming One”. As Teresa Ball urged her sisters forward to missionary lands it seems she is urging us forward now to “Becoming One”. Are we ready?

**Our hope is in God alone who called the Institute into being, and it is God we trust to carry it forward and keep it true. (Const. Vol II 7.1)**



## Ignatian Corner

Sr Maxima

When I read the life of St. Ignatius I was inspired by his Spiritual Exercises and I have learnt to come closer to God.

St. Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits and his spiritual insights gave birth to Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises. A lesser known fact is that the cannonball wound he received in battle is actually what led to his conversion experience. From there he turned his journey towards God and he has introduced several effective ways for us too. I am very grateful that I follow the Ignatian Spirituality. I was more moved by the Examination of Conscience and finding God in everything.

I make the Examen daily. My day is the place where I meet God from moment to moment and also where I fail to meet God from moment to moment. My day is the place where I respond, or don’t to the moment to moment calls to love and service of those around me. My day is where God is every moment exercising His loving providence over me. My day is where I allow or don’t, God to work his will for me. How can I grow in an awareness of and sensitivity to God working in my own life? The simple way is to look back on the day, not just to look back but to look back seeking to find where God has been active for me in my life today.

Finding God in All Things is at the core of Ignatian Spirituality and is rooted in our growing awareness that God can be found in every one, in every place and in everything.

I learnt through Ignatian spirituality that I have to pay special attention to gratitude in my heart towards God. He has given me so much; the air I breathe, my wonderfully created body, the life that it sustains; every aspect of my life has been created by God. The more I look around and contemplate, the more thankful I will be because of God’s gift of life and love. I experience His love through the love of others and I am also part of His love expression towards others. I am thankful to be part of everything that God has created.

When we learn to pay more attention to God we become more thankful and reverent, and through this we become more devoted to God, more deeply in love with our Creator.



## Wisdom Corner

Sr Sunila

**Growing with Grace – “Gather for yourself in your youth a great treasure of good habits” (Mary Ward)**

We have all had difficult times and challenges in our lives, and most of us feel that we learn something from those experiences. At the same time, few people become wise in the course of their lives. While most of us become or remain well-adapted, happy and satisfied, quite a few are bitter or depressed. In life, as we grow, psychological resources crucially influence how people appraise life challenges, how they deal with them, and how they integrate them into their life story as time goes on. It is important to gain Mastery of one's life in our younger days, Openness to accept and surrender and Constant Examination of self as St. Ignatius of Loyola tells us.

Our first proposition is that life experiences challenge a person's beliefs and are the main context in which growth manifests itself and is necessary for the continual development of the person. The experience in life should help individuals to manifest maturity and grace in the face of these challenging situations. Most people have a healthy attitude that helps to maintain stability and well-being in individuals. We are realistically aware of the uncertainty and unpredictability of life, while also feeling that, having learned from experience, we will somehow be able to master whatever happens. With trust in one's own ability and openness to accept and embrace uncertainty we move forward.

Optimistic people are non-judgmental. They accept goals and values that differ from their own and enjoy learning from others. They look for new experiences and adapt well to the changes in life. There are many examples like Solomon who chose the gift of courage and strength to learn from his life experience and trust in God. He chose an understanding heart, so he could make good decisions for his people. God was so pleased with Solomon's choice that He gave him every other good gift, too.

Wisdom and understanding demands ongoing learning, and this can only come from true openness to different points of view and a belief that we don't already have all the answers. Experienced people also have a sense of humility, realizing their point of view is not the only one and appreciating how much they don't know. Diversity demands asking questions and listening to expand understanding, appreciating all that is unknown.



## Mary Ward Corner

Sr Shanta

**Mary Ward, Our Inspiration**

Mary Ward was born in Yorkshire in 1585. It was the best of times for many, especially the young who grasped life and joined in exploring new lands, creativity in literature, music etc. New political philosophies were emerging, but religion was a dangerous path to tread. It was the worst of times for Catholics; persecution was at its height. Yet the Ward family remained staunchly Catholic. At fifteen she resolved to enter the most austere religious order. Then God intervened, making it clear that she was not to be a Poor Clare, nor to join any existing religious order, but was to do something that would be greatly to the Glory of God. 'I would have no more than His will.' So there were to be no ostentatious heroics in Mary's future, but just the step by step discernment of God's will. Seven like-minded young girls joined her. They practised a very austere life.

A revelation in 1611 directed Mary to follow the Ignatian way of life. Her work never stopped even in times of adversity.

In January 1645, she was buried in Osbaldwick. As daughters of Mary Ward there is a clear call to each one of us to know the Will of God. Today we have different situations like drought, poverty, political turmoil, persecutions on minority religions etc. Let us draw inspiration from Mary Ward to spread God's Kingdom here on earth. Christ is labouring with us lovingly and energetically as Mary Ward says, 'It is an honour to work for God.'





## Temporary Professed Sisters' Corner

Sr Anet

### 'Religious life and smartphone with Data'

'Religious life and smartphone with Data,' an online Workshop, was conducted for the Temporary Professed Sisters of our Province on 6th August 2022. The online seminar is the first of the Loreto Lights series - a monthly animation Program for TPs.

Sr. Michelle Mathias from the Daughters of St Paul, an Expert in Media and a professor in NISCORT, New Delhi, was chosen as the resource person to guide the TPs on using digital media effectively in mission and Life.

In an interactive mode, Sr. Michelle began the session by introducing all the TPs and connected herself well with every participant enabling an atmosphere of ease and excitement.

She emphasized how social media could be an effective tool in the hands of religious men and women in their ministry if used wisely and efficiently.

She shared several practical examples and cases where social media easily traps many religious people in online chats and unhealthy online friendships, sometimes leading them to addictions.

The TPs appreciated the session because they felt "it was enriching, informative, inspiring and certainly left a huge learning in us." The session led to questions, clarifications, and suggestions, paving the way for more such sessions in the future. With experts from various fields, Loreto Lights Series aims to illumine, inform and interact with TPs on topics that are essential for a growing religious in the digital age.

## Catechetical Course

As I look back on my experience of the NBCLC Course, I realized that I have learnt a lot about how to teach Catechism to children. Each day we had different topics, but I was touched by the topic: Preparation of Catechism lessons / Methodology. I came to know different categories of Catechism lessons for people. It was a wonderful experience to learn how to teach children in different ways so that they get inspired and motivated to know more about God, that their faith may increase day by day and that they may be rooted in faith.

Sr. Nirmala Toppo.



The Catechetical course was held at NBCLC from 20th May to 27th May, 2022. The inaugural session started with a prayer service and the lighting of the lamp. There were nine participants for the course. Fr. Sebastian began the first day of class on 'Called to be Catechists and their role in the mission of the Church' and he focused on the importance of being a Catechist in our modern world in line with the mission of the Church. On different days we had different resource persons. I found the course very meaningful and worthwhile. I learnt many things and also gave a session to all the teachers and they liked it very much.

Sr. Madhuri Lakra



I am very grateful for the opportunity I received to attend the Catechetical course at NBCLC Bangalore. It was a seven day course on different topics by different resource persons. It was very simple, interesting, dramatic and creative. I learnt many new things and how to teach or make the catechism class interesting for children and youth. The meaning of Catechism is to nurture the seed of faith and help each one to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. Catechism is not only for children but it is for all, and is ongoing. The most important thing is that we should move with the times and use technology in order to proclaim the Word of God. I am happy that whatever I learnt I was able to share with our Catholic teachers in our schools. We, as Catholic teachers are trying to give our best and we visit the families. This will help us to know the child and her family well.

Sr. Lily Grace





I felt privileged to have been given an opportunity to attend the Catechetical course 2022 in Bangalore. One of the things that I learnt is that Catechism is an ongoing process and it is meant for every Christian or Catholic person. The course touched upon a variety of topics starting from the Holy Bible to different creative ways of teaching Catechism. This course made me realize that my first priority, as a Catholic, is to proclaim the Word of God in faith.

One question which helped me to go deeper and look into my life was whether I was giving Jesus to people through my catechetical work. It was a fruitful course and I am grateful to the Institute for allowing me to be part of it.

*Sr. Anu Anet*



First of all I'm very grateful for the opportunity to go to Bangalore to attend the Catechetical course. We had different topics for the seven days. It was very useful and a new learning for me. As a Catechism teacher I was inspired to imitate Christ the teacher who taught with conviction, with encouragement and with compassion.

A catechist's vocation also is a personal response to Christ's call to holiness. Holiness means becoming the living reflection of Christ in our daily lives, in our families, among our friends, among our co-workers and members of the Christian community.

I learnt how to keep the classes very active and alive, and I gained a knowledge of the Church also. I will try to share whatever I have learnt with many others.

*Sr. Vimala Rani*



## **My Experience**

**Sr Sudha**

**My heart is filled with joy and gratitude to God.  
To Him alone be all Glory!**

The depth of my being vibrates with echoes of thanks to you, all my beloved Loreto Sisters, especially to Sr. Noelle, our General, Sr. Anita Braganza, our former Provincial, and the present Provincial, Sr. Sabrina, and the team for placing their trust in me. The sheer grace of God and your prayers helped me complete my studies. It was indeed a time of grace.

It looked like climbing the giant Mt. Everest when I began the research. However, the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley provided a conducive atmosphere to accomplish the task ahead. It was yet another blessing to live in the Convent of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary community during the years of my research. We were four in the community, and we took turns cooking and conducting common prayers. We were blessed with the Franciscan Church nearby, where I went for Mass every day. On weekends, I used to go for ministry outside to serve food to the poor and homeless.

When I recall the last five years of my academic life, I humble myself in the presence of God, who intervened in my life through many persons who contributed, strengthened, encouraged, challenged, and stood by me in times of struggle. I had an excellent guide, Sr. Mary McCann, who accompanied me till the end. She helped me resolve all the complexities that popped up on my way.

The title of my doctoral thesis was "A New Face of Loreto," Mission and Transformation in the Post-Vatican II Church. The writing process was a huge challenge for me, but I believe Mary Ward, our saintly foundress, motivated me to move ahead. Her life inspired me to face the challenges on every side, having great trust and confidence in God. She was faithful and committed to her mission despite all the difficulties. I always prayed through Mary Ward, and she helped me challenge my fears and insecurities. I am genuinely grateful to God, who accompanied me throughout this academic journey.

Dear sisters, I am thankful to all of you who supported me and motivated me through your prayers, phone calls, and messages.

Loreto Provincialate, 7 Middleton Row, Kolkata- 700 071, Phn no: 033-4006 1156, e mail: [loretosa.sec@gmail.com](mailto:loretosa.sec@gmail.com)  
September 2022



## TERTIANSHIP EXPERIENCE (the school of the heart)

**Con.5-42 With others on a similar journey, the tertian seeks to review the meaning of her life, and renew her commitment to the mission of the Institute.**

We began our Tertianship journey virtually as a group, remembering our calls to religious life. My process began by “GATHERING THE FRAGMENTS”; rediscovering the fire and energy of my vocation, discerning, reconciling, surrendering, and befriending myself, others and God and allowing myself to be led by the SPIRIT. It led to a reconnecting with my sense of preciousness and of falling in love with God again and again. It necessitated taking the courage to listen to God and rediscover and claim my belongingness to the Institute. Ultimately the process continues to grow and pave a new pathway forward in my life.

The companions on this same journey accepted me and helped me. We felt a strong sense of togetherness and trust that allowed us to share openly and confidentially our joys and sorrows, our highs and lows. We developed a strong bond among ourselves, supporting and taking care of each other, appreciating and encouraging each other, as well as, challenging and accepting one another while listening non-judgmentally. I have a great sense of gratitude and feel energized with the friendship that enables me to respond continuously to God’s persistent calling.

The image of The Potter and the Clay, reminded me constantly that I am being moulded lovingly. At the same time the opposite spirit was very much at work. It was a great challenge for me to accept my unpleasant past experiences –I realized that emotional attachments have distorted the image of God. These internal defensive structures limited my capacity for intimate relating with God and with others. The methods given to confront myself and others honestly and courageously brought healing in my relationships, with myself, with others and with God.

There is a renewed energy and spirit after learning more about Mary Ward. Her charism of justice, freedom, sincerity, felicity and rootedness in God continues to challenge me in my daily life. She had an immense courage and unflinching determination to face any obstacle or opposition. She urges me to be courteous, loving, forgiving and friendly in the community and challenges me to be a prophetic voice in society.

The Spiritual Exercises was the experience of rediscovering my preciousness. On this journey there was healing and purification of physical, emotional, psychological, mental, spiritual and intellectual understanding of self, others and God. So my pilgrimage was of reassurance of my faith that God created me just because He loves me and firmly believing that God will be there with me till the end. The fruit desired is to see God in everything and everything in God.

My Experience of being with leprosy patients was very challenging and it disturbed me to the core of my being to see, to smell, to feel, to listen and to find God in the disfigured, distorted, senseless, painful and rejected bodies of the patients. Initially I could not even come to terms with the smell, the disfiguration, the severe pain, the senseless body parts and the suffering. The “WHY?” could never be answered? Yet gradually and eventually I was able to sit with the patients and try to feed and help them. However this hard reality brought in me the acceptance, dependency on God, compassion and conversion to love them. Along the journey the silent whisper—“His Body was disfigured” gave me comfort and courage to seek Him in them. I felt challenged yet felt consoled that the love of God was being demonstrated in the most practical, healing and loving ways.

I am grateful to Sr.Sabrina and the PLT, Sr. Noelle and the GLT and all the members of the Institute for the prayerful support and encouragement and for giving me this opportunity. Let God be praised.

*Sr Nirmala Minj*





The Constitutions very clearly explain that the goal of the tertianship is to review our commitment to the mission of the Institute and to see where I am on the Institute journey: how do I maintain the bond, the connectedness with my Creator, with myself and with others.

So consequently, I began my tertianship journey with a sense of gratitude towards God for all my past experiences and His abundant blessings. As I continued journeying with my companions, I began to look beyond and see things differently, with the spirit of openness and a desire to move to new beginnings. Moreover, in the process I could feel a deeper connectedness with myself, with my Creator and with others. Each day was a new learning, a new discovery and an awareness of my imperfections and brokenness. I realized that owning my imperfections allows the light to reach within me and around me. I extremely appreciated the whole program and the topics of the tertianship. The outstanding sessions were – Art Therapy, Human Development, Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Programme, Constitutions, Religious Life Today, Ignatian Discernment, the Thirty Day's Retreat and the Apostolic Experience. Of course, journeying together with my companions and sharing was a very enriching and strengthening experience too.

From the Human Development sessions what stays with me and affirms me is the sentence - My life has a purpose... my story is important... my dreams... my voice matters... I am born to make an impact. I learnt that listening to my inner voice and my thought process is very important. I truly believe that every transition has a beginning and an end. It is a movement, a growth. Similarly, as I recall my Thirty Day's Retreat, it has definitely increased my desire for prayer, meditation, reflection and self-care. I have grown spiritually and my relationship with God has deepened.

Hence, as I recall our tertianship journey I feel deeply blessed, refreshed, reconnected and renewed. As I look forward, what will always strengthen me and remain in my heart on my life's journey is the sentence "You are my beloved; I am always with you until the end of time." I feel confident in God; that the Divine Wisdom and His guidance will be with me always. I continue to be grateful to God and I want to be a rainbow in someone's cloud, because I truly believe that the smallest act of love can take up a big space in someone's heart.

**Sr. Josephine**



## **News from Education Office**

**Ms Dutt**

**The focus in the month of July 2022 was on CAPACITY BUILDING and FAITH- FORMATION.**

An online workshop was organised for office staff of the Loreto schools in India over two days. Sister Sudha Arul conducted a motivational webinar for the entire office staff comprising Accountants and Secretaries, on the Loreto Core Values and Philosophy on 22nd July, 2022. Afterwards, Sister A. Anitha and Ms. K. Dutt made a brief presentation on the 'Code of Conduct for Loreto Office Staff'. The 3- hour webinar was attended by a total of approximately 50 office staff from the Loreto schools, the DMWSC, Rainbow and Provincialate offices.

On the following day, the Resource Person for the online workshop on the 'Role and Responsibility of Office Secretaries' was Ms. Shalini Malhotra, Executive Assistant Manager to the School Director at Pathways World School, Gurugram. There were 35 participants who had enrolled for the online workshop. Ms. Malhotra effectively combined humour, personal anecdotes and management techniques to make the session a lively one.

### **CATECHETICAL SEMINAR:**

A very enriching Seminar was held on 30th July 2022 from 3.00 to 5.00 by our very own Junior Sisters. The topics presented were-

- 1. Vimla Rani:** *Word of God in Catechesis*
- 2. Lily Grace Soreng:** *Called to be Catechists*
- 3. Nirmala Toppo:** *Preparing Catechism Lessons*
- 4. Madhuri Lakra:** *Youth Catechesis*
- 5. Anu Anet Lepcha:** *Creativity and Media*



**Through their lucid presentations the young Sisters made us aware that the mission of a Catechist is a Prophetic Mission, to proclaim the Good News, grow in Faith and draw others to Jesus.**

**The Sisters pointed out that-**

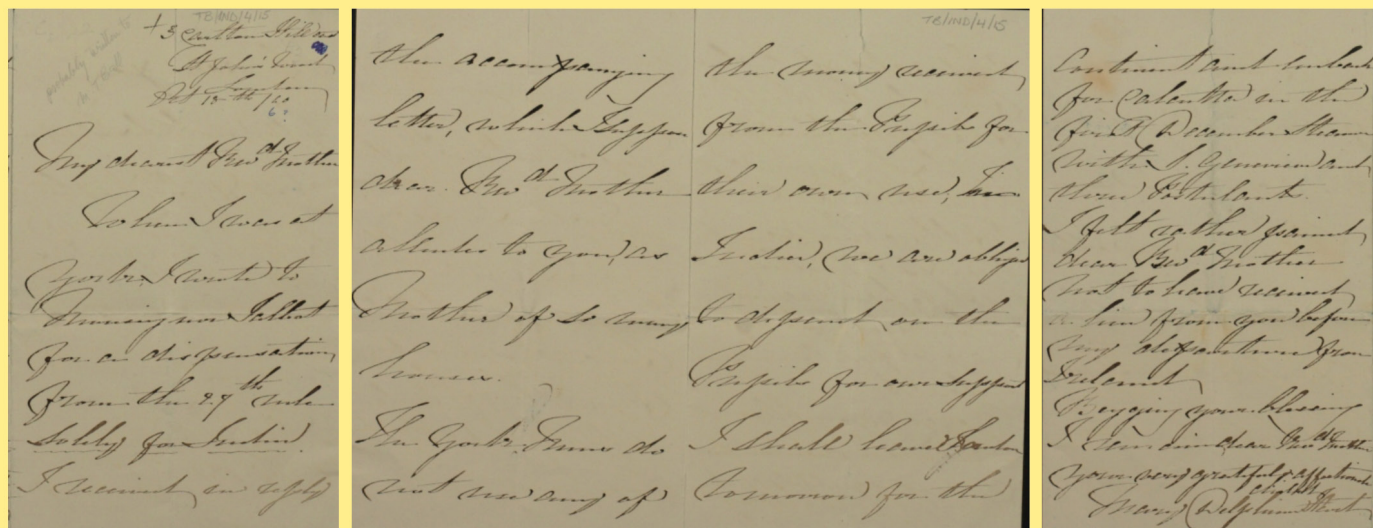
- *The Six Challenges of Modern Catechesis help us discover the different categories of students in our classroom and how to approach them as Jesus would.*
- *We are called to be Proclaimers, to be Witnesses of Jesus' way of life.*
- *Creative Catechists need to have courage to experiment*
- *We should strive to "Be Witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living. It is this witness that I expect of you". (Pope Francis)*
- *Living in a Digital World, every Christian is called to step forward in faith and courage, to play her part by using digital media wisely and well, balancing digital usage with digital 'fasting'.*
- *Jesus commissioned His disciples to be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19) and today 2000 years later, we are blessed to have been given the biggest 'net' known to humanity - the Inter Net. How attentively and skilfully we cast this 'net' into the deep waters of the digital age, is what matters for Catechists.*

**We are grateful to our Sisters who have taken us on an amazing journey in the life of a Catechist. May we have the courage to 'Step Out'!**

**Sr Phyllis was felicitated by the Association of Heads of Anglo Indian Schools, on World Anglo Indian Day, for her contribution in the Field of Education.**



As the Bicentenary year of M. Teresa Ball's arrival in Ireland draws to a close, we bring you the last instalment in this series presenting correspondence between the Indian mission and the Mother House in Ireland. On 18 October 1860 M. Delphine Hart wrote her last extant letter to Teresa Ball. Hart was about to embark on her return journey to India, and was not to know that Teresa Ball had suffered an injurious fall the previous day, preventing her from communicating with the departing missioner.



*M. Teresa Ball*

3 Carlton Hill East  
St. John's Wood  
London  
October 18th 1860

## My dearest Revd. Mother

When I was at York, I wrote to Monsignor Talbot for a dispensation from the 27th rule solely for India. I received in reply the accompanying letter, which I suppose dear Revd Mother alludes to you, as Mother of so many houses.

In York, Nuns do not use any of the money received from the Pupils for their own use; in India, we are obliged to depend on the Pupils for our support.

I shall leave London tomorrow for the continent and embark for Calcutta in the first December Steamer with S. Genevieve and three Postulants.

I felt rather pained, dear Revd Mother, not to have received a line from you before my departure from Ireland.

Begging your blessing,  
I remain, dear Revd Mother,  
Your very grateful and affectionate child,

Mary Delphine Hart.

*Top: Images of letter from Delphine Hart to Teresa Ball dated 18 October 1860*

*Right: Transcript of the letter  
Institute Archive reference TB/IND/4/15*

### Acknowledgements:

*We gratefully acknowledge the support of Aine McHugh and Sr. Kathleen Fitzgerald of the Institute Archive. This series of Archive News articles, begun in September 2021, celebrating M. Teresa Ball's Bicentenary year, has only been made possible by their proactive support.*



*And then in the month of August, 1861, Delphine Hart received a letter from M. Scholastica Somers, the Superior General designate, informing the India mission of the last days and demise of Teresa Ball. A door was closed on a correspondence of twenty years, and a new association initiated between Delphine Hart and Scholastica Somers.*

*M. Scholastica Somers entered Rathfarnham in 1840, four years after Delphine Hart, but was older to Hart by about 13 years. Keen to progress Teresa Ball's work of developing the Institute in Ireland and abroad, she continued the practice of regular correspondence with the superiors of the many Loreto missions. Below are excerpts from some of the letters received by Somers from Hart, in the ten year period from 1861 to 1871.*



*M. Scholastica Somers*

*Loretto House, Calcutta  
August 19th 1861*

*My dearest Mother Scholastica*

I have received your kind and welcome letter, which gave me the particulars of our dear Revd. Mother's happy transit to her Heavenly home. May my last end be as happy as hers!

I feel more deeply interested than ever in my dear Sisters in Ireland. I shall never, never forget their kindness and affection to a poor missionary!

*Calcutta, May 7th 1863*

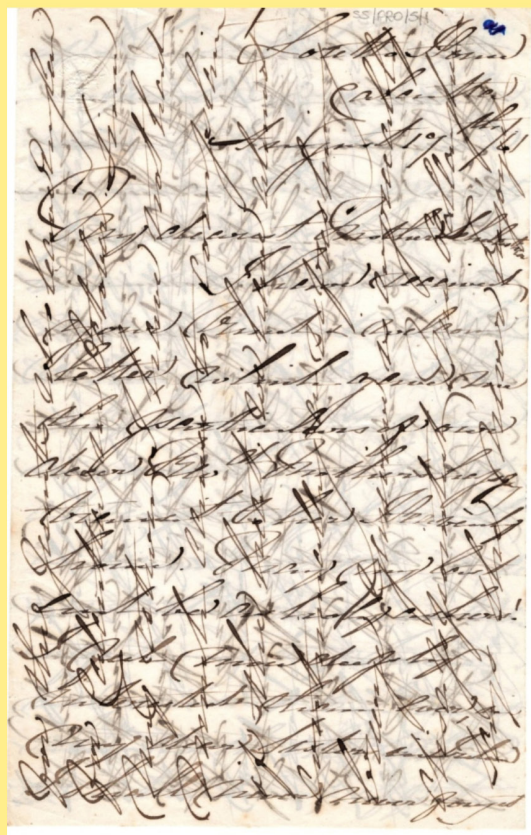
I was delighted to receive your letter by last mail. I am most anxious to get out the "Sacred Heart" as this Convent is dedicated to it. I may have an opportunity at the end of the year of sending to you for it. You will kindly let me [know] the expense incurred for [the] painting.

*San Remo, November 7th 1870*

I do not know what you must have thought of my long silence, but I have been very unsettled since I last wrote from Rome. I went then to Lodi, thinking the climate would suit my two young ladies; but I nearly lost one of them. Lodi is particularly unhealthy, very subject to fevers owing to the marshy soil.

*Bavaria, July 14th 1871*

I have received with feelings of affectionate gratitude your truly kind warmhearted letter. I am sorry I shall not be able to leave this [place] before the beginning of August, as I must wait for a remittance from India before I proceed further.... I expect a letter soon from my Archbishop to seal my fate. I have a presentiment that India is destined to be my burial place, but as I have not many more years to live, it matters little where I spend them, so that each hour is stamped by the Divine Will, the fulfilment of which alone will make me happy at death.



*Above: Image of first page of letter from Delphine Hart to Scholastica Somers dated 19 August 1861*

*For correspondence between Delphine Hart and Scholastica Somers refer Institute Archive series SS/PRO/5*





## Sadam Community

Sr Rina

### Welcome to successor and thanksgiving to predecessor:

Sadam community welcomed Srs. Agnes and Rina in the month of July. Rina joined on 3rd July and Agnes on 14th July, 2022. Agnes is incharge of the Sadam mission and Principal of the school. We thank Badarilin Majhong and Mann Veronica for their services to the Sadam Mission. A Thanksgiving Mass was offered by Fr. Justine SJ, the superior of the Namchi Jesuit community. All the members of the Darjeeling and Lolay communities were present to express their gratitude and assure them of prayers for their future endeavours.

**Praise and Worship:** The Parish Priest of Turuk Church Fr. Fedrick Dewan agreed to celebrate Mass once a week for us after a long break of the pandemic. We are blessed by his generosity and faithfulness.

**Visit:** Sr. Barbara came to stay with us for two days to add to her ideas on the upcoming jubilee. We are grateful to her.



## Trichy Community

Sr Priyanka Dungdung

On 26th July 2022, Sr. Sweta, CJ Provincial of Allahabad, and Sr. Josita CJ arrived at Trichy community. Sr. Initha went to the station to receive them. Sr. Nithya welcomed them with an aarti. We were delighted to welcome Sr. Josita CJ as a new member of our community. A special prayer service was prepared by Sr. Anitha Sahaya to welcome her.

The following day we went to visit Pondi, Our Lady's Church where we spent some time in prayer. We also visited St. Norbert's mentally disturbed people's home.

On 9th August, Sr. Priyanka Dungdung reached Trichy safely and Srs. Initha and Nithiya went to the station to receive her. She joined the Trichy community. Now our community is graced and blessed with four members.







## Champasari Community

**Sr Mini Priyanka Dungdung**

**Visitation:** On 23rd June 2022 - Sr. Sudha came to Champasari community. The junior sisters were glad to meet her as the new junior mistress. Her visit to the Champasari community was especially for the juniors. It was nice meeting her as we got to share our thoughts and feelings with her and also we received lots of encouragement from her which brought peace and happiness to us. We had a great time with her.



**Farewell:** 7th July 2022 - We had a farewell for Srs. Dipika, Preety and Priyanka. We celebrated with a Thanksgiving Mass for them. We thank and praise God for their cheerfulness and active presence during the last three years in Loreto Champasari community.



## Panighatta Community

**Sr Ranjita**

We witnessed around 200 Catholic adults taking Confirmation in Panighatta Parish on 15th of May. It was a renewing experience for us to prepare them to receive the sacrament. Three sisters were involved in taking their classes every Sunday for 2 hours. Girls and boys too were very happy and eager to learn and take the sacrament.



It was a joyful moment for Sr. Ranjita and her family on 19th of May as they offered a thanksgiving Mass in honour of her Perpetual Profession at her village in Chattisgarh along with her family, relatives and villagers. All her relatives and the villagers were very eager and happy to witness this event. It doubled her joy when Sr. Swati Lakra joined her in her celebration.

Sr. Sudha blessed us with her presence as she visited us from 28th June to 1st of July. It was a grace-filled experience while interacting with her as well as sharing our life experiences with her and remembering the days of Novitiate. We could feel the wonders of God in her life while listening to her and the God experiences she had during her lonely and challenging times when she was abroad. It was an energizing and encouraging experience to hear her.



We joined in the celebration of our parish priest on the occasion of St. John Mary Vianney in the Eucharistic Celebration, followed by a cultural programme performed by our parishioners and a delicious dinner.

These three months summarize colourful experiences of our Community events; the joy of visiting our families, creating opportunities to grow, people coming and going, celebrations of our lives and others and sadness while listening to the sad news of dear ones in our families coping with sicknesses and family problems. Yet when we look back at these events we see the loving presence of God very much.



## Ranchi Community

Sr Banisha

**Bible Vacation School:** From 29th May to 5th June, the Parish youth had organized a Bible Vacation School from K.G to Class 12 in our school hall. Many children had come to attend the classes. The last day ended with a Thanksgiving Mass which was followed by a cultural programme and lunch. The Parish youth appreciated the generosity of the sisters for giving the place.

**Prayer Service:** On 28th May the faithful of Mecon Unit had gathered together in our convent to pray the Rosary. It began with the lighting of the candles and followed by a procession to the grotto. After the rosary we had Mass which was followed by a dinner and cultural dances at the end. It was a blissful day for all of us.

**Visiting and Vocation Work:** On 19th June Ablin and Rajini went to Khunti to visit the family of Rina Kullu who is interested in joining us.

**Welcome and Arrivals:** On 17th May we welcomed Manjula to our community. On 29th June Srs. Madhu and Anupa reached the community and were welcomed by the sisters. We are very happy to welcome them as our new members. The new vehicle Toyota has arrived replacing the old TATA van.



**Orientation Programme:** On 11th July Sr. Madhu conducted an Orientation Programme for our women in Asha Kiran. It was a good programme and everyone appreciated it. The women were very happy and felt inspired and encouraged.

## GUMLA NEWS

**Farewell and Welcome:** On 21st of June the school bade farewell to Sr. Rina with a short programme. The students and all the staff were very grateful to Rina for her contribution to the school even though she was with them for a short period of time.

On 30th June Anupa arrived in Gumla. The school welcomed her and the priests in the community too, were very happy to welcome her.

**Good News:** Above all, the good news in Gumla is that the number of children have grown to 765 children from Nursery to Class 7. The new building construction is going on. Please continue to pray for the Gumla mission.



## Lucknow Community

Sr Jiwanti

Loreto Lucknow was very happy to welcome Sr. Sabrina and Sr. Beatrice on 19th July 2022 for the AGM which was held on the following day. After the busy schedule the community went to have a glance of the beautiful, huge and famous Lulu Mall where people throng daily.

Spreading the Laudato Si movement the community came together on the 26th July with enthusiasm to plant a few saplings in our campus. We take care of the plants and in return they add beauty to our surroundings. We also started our vegetable cultivation like beans, sweet potato, gourd, groundnuts, ginger, spinach etc.

St. Paul's Seminary, Lucknow had organized a session on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network by Rev. Fr. Jagdish S.J. from Delhi. It was very informative and beneficial to all of us.







## Shillong Community

Sr Soria

**Gratitude:** The hostel girls organized a special programme on 12th June for Srs. Anupa, Michalina and Rosita as a gesture of love and gratitude for their journeying with them during the past few years here in the hostel, for their availability and for accompanying them during games, gardening, morning prayer, rosary, recreation and night prayer. The girls performed very well all the items, through songs, dances and acting. After the beautiful programme we had dinner together. Greta also was welcomed during the program as she is a new member of the community.



**Goodbye:** It was the day that we will always remember - our School Secretary, Miss Biconia Myrthong who passed away in Excel hospital, Guwahati, after a few months of illness. We never thought that she would leave us so soon. She joined us here as a School Secretary on the 8th August 2003. She was a person who was always ready to help and friendly to all. Indeed we lost a good friend. Miss Biconia was the only child and her mother is old. On the 5th of August Loreto Convent School had a Mass for Miss Biconia Myrthong and her mother joined us.

**50 years of Statehood:** To commemorate 50 years of Statehood, Loreto Shillong held a two days (23rd & 24th July) Exhibition showcasing the best that Meghalaya has to offer in terms of scenic beauty, art, culture, attire, ethnic food and tourism. The students, staff and management went all out to portray the best of Meghalaya in all the classrooms from Nursery to Class XII.

**Welcome:** With sincere gratitude to God this year we have a pre-candidate in Shillong: Bipasha Murmu from Dumka Diocese. Please keep her in your prayer.

**Prayer Service:** Sr. Soria and Bipasha went to Lapalang to attend a prayer service organized by Sein Khynroo Khyllood Catholic, Jowai Diocese – Shillong Unit. It was a great joy to see the young people taking responsibility to spread the word of God and live by it. We had a good interaction with the youth and we were happy to be one with them.







## Darjeeling Community

Sr Binista

**Jubilee Celebration:** On 15th of May Loreto Darjeeling community invited the neighbouring religious communities and priests for the silver jubilee celebration of Sr. A. Anitha. Her brother Fr. Peter SJ and her cousin Mr. Anthony had come for the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration. The extended communities, Lolay and Sadam were present for the occasion too.

**Welcome and Farewell:** On the 14th June Srs. Arockia and Binista were welcomed to the Darjeeling community.

Sr Anitha received a new appointment on the PLT. The community organized a thanksgiving celebration and Fr. Leo Raj SJ offered Mass for the service rendered by her while she was in Darjeeling.

**Visitors:** While Sr. Deepa was on home holiday she visited Darjeeling along with her family members on 20th May. From 18th to 21st of June Sr. Shanta's family came to visit Darjeeling. While they were in Kalimpong unfortunately they received the sad news of the sudden death of their younger brother. They had to leave immediately for Ranchi to attend the funeral.

**Thanksgiving Mass:** On the 27th of July Sr. Agnes invited Darjeeling and Lolay communities to Sadam. She had organized a Thanksgiving Mass for Srs. Bada and Mann Veronica. Fr. Justin SJ was invited for the occasion.

**Pastoral ministry:** The assistant parish priest, Fr Amar Rai and Sr. Shanta organized a programme for those who are above 60 years old (Grandparents Day). The Sunday Mass was offered specially for them. They were felicitated after Mass. Sr. Barbara was one of those who was felicitated too.

On 30th of July Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha appointed the new Diocesan SCC coordinator, Rev. Fr. Laban Lepcha in Pushpika Pastoral Centre, Kalimpong. Sr Barbara Rudum attended the meeting as a member of the Diocesan Service Team.

On the 7th of August 2022 Darjeeling Cathedral Parish organized a one day workshop on SCC for the parish youth. They are being trained to help their local SCCs and prepare them for leadership in the Parish. Sr Barbara Rudum was one of the three resource persons for the programme.

On 14th of August Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish organized a one-day Workshop for the parish SCC Animators. The resource persons were Fr. Alex Gurung, Sr. Barbara Rudum and Ms. Prasansha Rai.

### Youth ministry:

On the 7th August the Parish Youth organized a visit to MC sisters, Home for the Aged. Fr Amar Rai, Sr. Shanta, the parish Youth Animator and the Novice, Teresa Rai accompanied the group. They had a happy time with the sisters and the inmates. They visited the Capuchin Fathers who were just welcomed to the Darjeeling-Sik-





## Updates from Bangladesh

Sr Edelin K

### Community Matters:

14th June - was a day to wish Dipika and Michalina, our two sisters from Bangladesh as they renewed their vows and committed themselves to serve the Lord through this IBVM mission.

From 17th – 25th June, Srs. Sabrina and Anitha Sahaya came to Bangladesh on an official visit of the three communities involved with the education, pastoral, social, spiritual and youth ministries in Bangladesh. It was a fruitful visit as they met the bishops and priests of Paderibpur, Barisal and Dhaka Dioceses. They even took the opportunity to meet the Nuncio. Their vision to spread the mission was vibrant as they went out of their way to even visit Bakhakura and Mymensing to look for new possibilities. But they gave quality time to listening to the sisters.

Sr. Mary and Monisha arrived in Dhaka and stayed on till the 28th and left for India on the 29th. It was a memorable moment for Monisha leaving Bangladesh and 'going abroad' for the first time to have an experience of formation in Abhilasha assisted by Sr. Mary as her candidate mistress.

**Vocation work:** (July 7th - 14th) Sr. Aruna took the initiative to organize visits to all the parishes of Tumilia, Motbari, Rangamatia, Bhadun and Badhun for vocation work. They visited the houses of the girls of the area and got a positive response from the parish priests, family members and the girls themselves as they showed interest and support in our vocation ministry.

Michalina returned from her home visit to Dhaka community waiting for her visa to India. She has been a blessing to the community in every way as she gives herself joyfully in serving the mission in Dhaka.

A. Nirmala's visit to Bangladesh (18th -21st July) was to guide and encourage the mission. Her personal interaction in the mission areas gave new insight to the sisters to think beyond boundaries and work towards making the social mission vibrant and active.

On 23rd July, was a memorable event in the community as we celebrated Mary Ward Day with Mass and A. Nirmala welcomed the first set of members who willingly joined the Friends of Mary Ward under the guidance of Sr. Archana.

We entered August with the feel of celebration of life. Sr. Maloti was accompanied by Srs. Yvonne and Regina to the Dhaka community. The community was filled with joy to have most of the members together in Dhaka. On 4th August – Blessings poured out from all over the Institute wishing a happy and memorable birthday to Sr. Maloti. The community was privileged to have her here to celebrate her special day and tried their best to make it really special by offering Mass followed by her favorite dishes. We owe our gratitude to her for serving this mission for years and the day ended with a special prayer service.

### Social Ministry:

Maria Sick Shelter is the social forum for health ministry in which Sr. Regina is an active member, taking care of it. She has been organizing Health Camps on the outskirts of Barisal Diocese, in the villages, also visiting the sick people in the hospital. She is a healing presence of the Institute in Bangladesh through her dedicated service in this healing ministry which showers blessing on our mission here.







## LH Community Sr Valeria

**Installation day** - On 10th of July Loreto House community had the installation program of Sr. Geraldine. The Provincialate and Elliot Road communities joined us. We had a prayer service and the installation program, which ended with a dance.

**Welcoming of new members** - In the month of June Srs. Antoinette Rodrigues and Valeria Mundu joined the community. In August, Genevieve, the novice joined us for her community experience.

**Visitors** - We often get visitors in Loreto House and they bring lots of joy and happiness. Sr. Deepa came for her home holiday and she stayed in Loreto House for three months. Her presence brought new energy to the community with news of Peru and her experiences. Sr. Nirmala Minj also stayed with us for one month.

**Farewell** - We gave a farewell to Priyanka Dundung on 6th of August. We had Mass and a prayer service for her. It was an emotional moment as she had been with us for 3 years. Every one prayed for her that she will have the gift of tongues so that she may enjoy her new mission as she has been transferred to Trichy!

**Celebrations** - On 11th August the community went to the Rainbow children to celebrate Raksha Bandhan. It was a joyful moment when children tied rakhis to the Loreto sisters and their brothers.

On 15th August the community celebrated Independence day and the Assumption of our Lady with the Rainbow children and college girls.



# Hearty Congratulations



**The CJ General Congregation  
elected their General Leadership  
team:**

**Sr. Veronica Fuhrmann,  
Sr. Estella Clara Grignola,  
Sr. Pratima Pinto,  
Sr. Helena Kang and  
Sr. Anna Quinterio**



# The best medicine



**A Couple was having dinner at a fancy restaurant. As the food was served,**

**Husband said: "The food looks delicious, let's eat"**

**Wife: Honey... you say a prayer before eating at home.**

**Husband: That's at home sweetheart... Here the chef knows how to cook.**

**Student: Teacher would you punish me for something I didn't do.**

**Teacher: No.**

**Student: I didn't do my homework.**



**Santa: Hi ! What are you doing?**

**Banta: Recording this baby's voice.**

**Santa: Why?**

**Banta: When he grows up, I shall ask him what he meant by this.**



**A Parent goes to the doctor with his 5 year old son.**

**Person: Doctor, my son has swallowed a key, so we have come to you.**

**Doctor: When did he swallow the key?**

**Parent: 10 days back.**

**Doctor: And you are coming to me now, after 10 days. Why?**

**Parent: We had a duplicate key, but today it is lost.**



# BIRTHDAYS & FEASTDAYS

## September Birthdays

Sr. Anu Anet Lepcha	9th Sept
Sr. Shanta Xalxo	10th Sept
Sr. Ponnamma Nadaackal	11th Sept
Sr. Barbara Rudum	13th Sept
Sr. Mary DeSouza	15th Sept
Sr. Beatrice Stuart	18th Sept
Sr. Anita Lakra	22nd Sept
Sr. Prabina A. Rudum	22nd Sept
Sr. Tina Farias	23rd Sept
Sr. Linda Mrong	23rd Sept
Sr. Tressia Aricatt	27th Sept
Sr. Anupa Toppo	30th Sept

## September Feastdays

Sr. Lynette Daniel-Palmer	14th Sept
Sr. Maeve Hughes	24th Sept
Sr. Mercia D'Souza	24th Sept

## October Birthdays

## October Feastdays

Sr. Tressia T. Aricatt	1st Oct
Sr. Angela Rodrigues	2nd Oct

Sr. Madhabi Brahma	1st Oct
Sr. Anima Kujur	1st Oct
Sr. Sudha M	1st Oct
Sr. Jeba T	2nd Oct
Sr. V. Punitha	6th Oct
Sr. Vimala Jenifer	6th Oct
Sr. Angela Rodrigues	8th Oct
Sr. Arockia Mary Dass	10th Oct
Sr. Cecily Wong	14th Oct
Sr. Regina Thami	14th Oct
Sr. Soria Nongtdu	16th Oct
Sr. Subhashini Lakra	16th Oct
Sr. Lourdes Noronha	21st Oct
Sr. Isilda Sangriang	66th Oct
Sr. Sabrina Edwards	27th Oct
Sr. Aruna Kujur	27th Oct
Sr. Madhuri Lakra	27th Oct

## November Birthdays

Sr. Sushila Kerketta	4th Nov
Sr. Flora Anthony	5th Nov
Sr. Ablin Tirkey	5th Nov
Sr. Mary Consuelo Murphy	7th Nov
Sr. Lily Grace Soreng	8th Nov
Sr. Sushila Tirkey	12th Nov
Sr. Ranjeeta Kerketta	12th Nov
Sr. A. Nirmala	22nd Nov
Sr. Rosita Tirkey	28th Nov
Sr. Christopher D'Souza	30th Nov
Sr. Amia Tete	30th Nov

## November Feastdays

Sr. Cecily Wong	22nd Nov
-----------------	----------