



NEWS • SPIRIT OF DIVINE LOVE PROVINCE INDIA SOUTH

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Be Born in us Incarnate Love



FROM THE PROVINCIAL...

Christmas! A Season of Joy and Blessings!



We are all set to celebrate the birthday of our Lord, ***“Prince of Peace”***. In the midst of all turmoil and chaos in different corners of our world, we once again hear the Christmas bells loud and clear, reminding us how fragile peace truly is. Pope Francis says, ***“True peace is not a balancing of opposing forces, it is not absence of divisions and conflicts, rather true peace calls for daily commitment”***. We often feel we are helpless; we can’t do much for worldwide peace. However, each of us can try our best to do as Jill Jackson suggests in one of his songs ***“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me”***. Let us witness through our being and daily commitment to our mission, that we are true followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

God sought out the lowest place so that it is possible for even the smallest among us to find Him. That is what we celebrate at Christmas: God among us, God with us - weak, powerless, dependent on the care and help of other people, without weapons, without security, trusting in the goodness of others.

In our Christmas celebrations, may we experience our loving God, living with us and within us! May the Infant Jesus bless us greatly, our weakness and our vulnerability, as we rejoice in His glorious birth. May Christ be the Star that will light and guide our path ahead, enabling us to be a blessing for others as we enter into the New Year 2018!

Wishing you a meaningful Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year 2018!

Sr. Lissy Thelekadan
Provincial Leader, INS



Editorial

Reflecting the Incarnation



It's said Life is not so much about HAVING in abundance but GIVING from what one has. God manifests this Joy of GIVING to the Humanity by gifting Jesus his only son. He empties his WHOLE to fill our emptiness. Emmanuel - God with us - comes to be with us to give us His fullness. His Coming Down is a gift from the total GIVING of God to Humankind. We are unable to comprehend its depth.

There is no doubt that INCARNATION happens when my attitude towards my HAVING, such as, my responsibilities, daily duties, community activities and societal needs, secures clarity. I believe that INCARNATION is a silent hidden work of redemptive transformation from within as in the case of leaven in the dough. Sr. Rani Maria's family forgave the killer and the ordinary people struggled to

understand the truth. Because it is something unnatural to happen.... truly it is a clear evidence of the INCARNATION, a notable coming down, a greater Giving that flowed from a generous HUMAN HEART... an unfolding of INCARNATION well reflected in our times.

May this Christmas teach us to look into ourselves with gratitude and grow in the attitude of giving what we have. Let us LIVE this INCARNATION in our day today life and make Emmanuel Known.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2018. Thank you for your generous contribution that has made Vani very enriching and inspiring. Do enjoy every content as you flip through these pages.

Sr. Cynthia D'Souza SSps
Deepalaya

LET ME BE!

As I wandered in the green, a thought flashed across my mind. What is mental stamina?

I considered many facts, and summarized it in a nutshell. They are mentally strong; who can face the strongest challenges of life without losing courage, who have a high adaptability, who joyfully serve others without counting the cost, who can love without conditions, who respect life and welcome it with all its hues; who are open to the views of all and who welcome them into their lives without bias of me and mine.

Then who are the mentally poor?

The shocking news in the Newspaper, the violence around, the injustice which disturbs us gave me an answer to this; that the mentally poor are not the mentally challenged.; But those who fail to accept others, who underestimate and devalue life, those who try to impose their values and choices on others and unable to appreciate the good in them. Mentally poor are those who curb the freedom of others and who become inhuman to the point of destruction of life itself.

These thoughts overwhelmed me! At the eve of Christmas, it made me feel that in a broken world of ours, like the **'Infant Babe'** who was a message of hope, of



salvation and bliss, let me too bring a message of love into the lives of others. Let me be like the **'Flower'** that blooms to bring joy to the other. Let me be like the **'Sun'**, which shines on everyone. Let me be like the **'Bird'** that sings to the melody of creation and lightens the heart of the weary.

Yes! Let me be a **'Lamp'** that burns to brighten the lives of others!

**Sr. Joyce Loretta SSsS
Vijayawada**



God Moments!

October is the Month dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Recollecting the mysteries of Christ's and Our Lady's life, we repeat Hail Mary. Indeed, the mysteries of the Holy Rosary are the mysteries of our own lives as well.

A simple rosary was all it took to entirely dissolve my confined wall and let the trapped emotions escape. As I chanted the first "Hail Mary full of grace..." the familiar sight of my old experiences blinded my vision, and I recognized the first layer of my wall – the memories. Memories seemed to be the most harmless defense, because they could make me laugh or cry depending on the circumstance. Certainly, most of them were happy moments!

As the rosary approached its first "Glory Be to the Father..." I approached the second layer of my wall - the unapproachable. In the sight of our community or Ministry, the so called "Un approachability" becomes the



keystone significantly or unwittingly. We tend to build a wall of language, culture, talent... individually/group, wherein not all are welcome. A wall within a wall! This 'unapproachability' is tearing apart the spirit of our mission and community living !

I paused for a moment, silence aroused me. By any chance, were you a victim or victimizer of un approachability of late? Have we ever evaluated ourselves as individuals/ community and Institution?

This God moment calls us to be inclusive, squeeze intra/inter-cultural living meaningfully and create space for each other. To realize this goal, everyone should have the desire to learn and unlearn, produce and reproduce and above all to be productive and proactive, knowing the rule of thumb - 'All are Unique'.

Let us therefore create;

- ★ Point of contact - connect with all language, culture, custom and above all people.



- ★ Sense of belonging - create belongingness to people and group by acceptance / respect etc.
- ★ Appropriateness - being aware of their will power and include them.
- ★ Mindfulness - be mindful of unhelpful comments, language at table, striking on one's opinion etc.
- ★ Open hearted attitude - allow them to be themselves and be mindful of judging.
- ★ Be flexible in our approach.

Rosary was an indispensable part of the life of all the saints. For Pope Francis, Rosary is - a Spiritual Medicine and for Pope Leo XIII, Rosary is - the remedy for all evils and the root of all the blessings. And let's remember the advice of Our Lady to Mechtilde - "No one can please me more than by reciting Rosary".

It is Rosary that binds us together and breaks the shackles of division, making us effective and choice-fully communicative in our commitment and ministry. Let us share the good moments of 'being together' and make them 'God Moments'. A Rosary a day- Are we ready???



Sr. Lalitha Rosali SSps
Philippines

I Am Special Child

Come days when I am fine,
And serene nights I can sleep;
Come troubled days when I whine,
Lost in a plight quite deep!

Yet friends around me gather,
Thru' sunny and stormy weather;
A home of love and acceptance here,
No looks of pity or of fear!

Out there the stares wear me out
When to visits I am about;
A stigma clipped to the name I bear
Though special, to many a scare!

I love the things you love,
With a heart like yours to feel;
I plead for more patience,
Though I lack common sense!

Limitations I do admit,
And maybe I am not so fit
Yet scorn me not for I hurt,
My state this, since my birth!

Resign I to a life of dependency?
Or enter a world of fantasy?
Ne, amidst this hard reality,
Life beckons to some possibility!

Teachable, trainable I am,
Are skills to explore, a spam?
Do I give up before I begin?
Ne, victory OURS-when I do win!

Specials arrived -playing their part
Specials left - making a start!
Over ran struggles-as they sailed,
Leaving footprints in their trail!

Sr. Molly Rego SSps, Pamboor

Tertiate 2017- A Sacred Journey

We began the SSps English International Tertiate course with a solemn Eucharistic celebration on the 15th of June 2017 together with the sisters of the Style community. We, the sisters Rekha John, Mary Beck, Jane, Sheela and Elsy Mathew were fortunate to participate in the Tertiate program from India South. The meaningful liturgy was a gradual entry into the dynamics of the program. The inaugural address and the introduction by Srs. Margret Hansen and Gracy, the graceful procession dance, the symbolic offering, highlighted and unfolded the theme and the focus: ***Towards wholeness in the Spirit of the Founding Generation.*** We were so blessed to have participants from seven nationalities, working in 22 provinces. The diversity of cultures, experiences and the differences of age, personality

added depth and meaning to our journey as a group.

The entire program is geared towards deepening one's experience in the founding generation, one's life and mission. Each day we were invited and challenged to enter into this process of experiencing one's communion with God, others, self and the whole creation. We treasure this golden opportunity to cherish the memories of the Holy Ground, walking in the footsteps of our founding generations, savouring the spirit of the Trinitarian mission Spirituality, reconnecting oneself with their sacred stories, breathing in their faith moments and God encounters, sharing our journeys of life and mission. Ineed these are experiences of healing and transformation. We encounter daily moments of grace to journey inward to touch the reality of our human



existence, our vocation as SSpS and our greater call for widening the circle of Communion within the congregation, with the marginalised and the creation. Gratitude, thanksgiving and a sense of belongingness and wellbeing are the uppermost sentiments that stir within us as we journey together.

Moments of Surprises, opportunities for self discovery and self awareness, moments of healing and transformation, experiences of challenges and confrontations, moments of fear and denials are the gifts that we are blessed with. The eight days of guided retreat on the founding generation was a graced and blessed experience, to be in touch with our roots. Visiting their home places were another sacred journey of being connected.

We ever remain grateful to our congregation, to Sr. Lissy and team and to all the sisters of our province for this blessed opportunity given to us. May the God of our Journeys continue to reveal to us the compassionate and feminine face of God as we move on with life and mission in our everyday realities. Our prayer for each of us is that May the Holy

the Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people.

**Sr. Elsy Mathew SSpS
CHS**



Beautiful moment with Jesus

10th of April 2017 is an unforgettable day in my life. It was the 1st day of Konkani Mission in our parish. Being a public holiday I decided to attend the 7.00 pm Mass followed by the retreat. As the Holy Eucharist concluded the Priest enlightened us with a talk on family. He touched upon different aspects of God's creation of Man and Woman and his love that's bestowed upon the family. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament followed as soon as the talk concluded and all the families were prayed upon. In this moment of prayer all I could see was the sacred heart of Jesus holding my hand and telling me "Do not worry my child I will take care of everything". I experienced a moment where I couldn't see anyone around me except me and Jesus holding my hand. Tears rolled down my cheeks as I began to go deeper and experience the Lord's touch and presence in my life and with me throughout that very moment.

This is one of the most beautiful moment in my life that can never be forgotten.

**Jacintha Mathias
HSMA, Mumbai**

A Flash Back on My Life's Journey

- Sr. Marion Chemmanoor SSpS

Born to my loving and devout catholic parents as their 7 th child (the youngest) on the 10th of September 1934, I had 4 brothers and two sisters. My third brother became a diocesan priest and my elder sister, a FCC sister. I was brought up in a traditional Syrian Catholic family, in Perakam, near Chavakkad, a place in South Malabar. Hence I belonged to Madras Province until the new division of the States which took place in 1956 and from then onwards that area belongs to Trichur District in Kerala State. So I was born and brought up in Madras Province. My parish church was St. Thomas Church, Parlay-one of the 7 churches founded by St. Thomas, the apostle himself. As it was a little too far, our family used to attend Holy Mass in the FCC Convent chapel at Mammiyoor, as it was closer to our home, except on Sundays and Feast days. I received the sacraments - Baptism, confirmation and first Holy Communion in the church at Palayur, my parish then.

I had my Primary and Middle school education in an Aided Elementary School near by and then I was admitted in Little Flower Girls High School, run by FCC sisters, at Mammiyoor, near Guruvayoor. After completing my high school there in March 1951, I joined St. Mary's

College at Trichur taking English, Hindi, Maths, Physics and Chemistry as my subjects. After completing successfully the Intermediate Examination in 1953, I taught for one year in the same school at Mammiyoor where I studied earlier, as my family wanted me to wait for a year at least before making any decision for my future life, by praying and reflecting about it. We come into a personal relationship with the Lord when we make life's greatest decision - the turning point. "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12)..

The miracle of my call

"Seek and you shall find" says Jesus

Many keep on asking me the question even now: "How did I go to Indore and



join this particular Congregation?" It is a question that I ask myself too. Well, God has His plan for each one of us. To begin with, I had not told anyone about my plan to join a Convent, let alone to join a Missionary Congregation like ours. As I used to read certain Catholic magazines available then, such as Preshitha Keralam, Maryvijayam etc. I was inspired to be a Religious Missionary. When I found in those magazines some addresses of missionary Congregations, I wrote to each one of them enquiring about their activities and requirements for joining them. All of them replied positively welcoming me. The one which appealed to me the most, was the one from Indore. So I wrote to them again and they sent me a form to be filled up with all the details. I filled them up and requested my father to sign it, but my father refused to sign because he objected to my going to a place so far away from home. After a long discussion with my priest brother (not yet a priest then, but studying in the seminary) and my uncle who was an advocate and some others, who kept asking me several questions as in a tribunal, for which I was not ready to give any answer. They asked me to wait for a year at least to discern about it to which I agreed as I did not want to disobey my parents and elders. I had not met any of our sisters from Indore either. By the end of that academic year I received a letter from

one Mr. John Maliekal informing me about his going to Indore taking some girls from Trichur, who wanted to join the convents there. I took him to be a priest, but later on I came to know that he was an ex-Brother who had been in the North. I wrote to him as I felt called to a Mission Congregation and that too with the name Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit. So I can say boldly that it was the Holy Spirit who took me to Indore. By the end of that academic year, within a week, everything was ready for my departure from home as everything fell in line. I got admission from Indore by a telegram. The Holy Spirit gave me so much courage and strength even to leave my loving parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends and go with someone whom I did not even know. Three or four girls travelled along with me under the direction of Mr. John Maliekal . We went first to Mhow Convent near Indore (Franciscan Sisters of Mary of the Angels) to drop one or two girls who had applied there, while three of us were brought to St. Raphael's School at Indore which was also our Regional House then. Thus finally on June 29 th, 1954, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we began our Aspirancy. Sr. Ann Lappe (an American) who was then the Regional Superior and Principal of the School and some other sisters welcomed us and made us feel comfortable and at home. We were given a white uniform like

some others who had already joined, but were studying for P.U.C or Intermediate Examination. Thus altogether we must have been around twelve in number.

We were entrusted to Sr. Hildegard from the Austrian Province (came to India from China) as our Directress. We were addressed not by our baptismal names, but by father's name or family name. So I was called Sr. Chemmanoor. As an aspirant, I was asked to help out Sr. Bosco, a German sister who was in charge of two classes-special B and 1st class. So I got a taste of teaching small children too and it was enjoyable. I had an added advantage of knowing both English and Hindi. From our group, four of us were admitted to Postulancy which lasted for 6 months after which we were admitted to 2 years of Novitiate on the 6th of January 1956. As we entered the Novitiate, we received the official dark blue habit of the Congregation with white veil and also a new name and with that a new Patron Saint. Thus I began to be called Sr. Marion from then onwards. After 2 years, two of us, Sr. Emilian and I were allowed to make our First Profession on the 6th of January 1958 by pronouncing three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, for one year in honour of the nine choirs of Holy Angels and especially of the Archangel Gabriel and it was renewed every year for three years. At our first profession, we also got, a dark blue veil, a mantle of

the same colour and a cross with a red ribbon. Thus we two became the first ones from India who were accepted into our Congregation. I had never dreamt of belonging to the first batch. God indeed is a God of surprises! After the first three years, we renewed our vows for three years together in honour of the Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, at the end of which the vows were made for ever in honour of the Holy Spirit, when we received a silver ring with the inscription *"Ave Sponsae Caelestis"* inside the ring, meaning 'Hail, Heavenly Spouse!' and with a symbol of the Holy Spirit upon it.

The Apostle Paul describes our transformation in the Holy Spirit in this way: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

**Sr. Marion Chemmanoor SSps
Anugraha**



Formative Intercultural Community- SIFC'12

SIFC'12 stands for 12th SSsP International Formators Course specially designed for SSsP formators in different stages of formation. Sr. Eleonora SSsP (General Councilor) on the Opening day of our programme said, "This very moment I would like to thank especially the Rosary Province here in the Philippines for your generosity shown in accepting to host this Formators Course. It is worth to mention that among 11 courses we have had until now all except one took place here in the Philippines. And again we bow in gratitude before you for giving Sr. Leonisa as the coordinator and the same gratitude goes to the Province of Indonesia-Java for Sr. Emmanuela as the co-coordinator."

The theme we chose as the heart of this Formation programme is "We Journey together towards Personal Transformation through Communion with God, Self, Others and Creation". Formation Ministry is companioning towards communion. There is a saying that "the beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people." Ours is a multi-generational and multicultural-community, with members who are multi-talented with multi-mission field experiences especially in overseas missions. Including the coordinators, we are 7 nationalities Philippines (1),



Indonesia (6), Poland (1), Romania (1) East Timore (1) Ireland (1) India (2) belonging to ten provinces and two regions. The age of the members spans from early- thirties to mid-fifties. "In the differences of culture, nationality, personality and age, we experience the richness of his gifts in each of us". (Const. 304)

Reflecting on the 13th General Chapter directions, we realized that in order to own up the lights and shadows of our inter-cultural and inter-generational living and to befriend and appreciate the beauty of diversity, we need to transform ourselves through communion with God, self, others and creation. It is in fact a very significant process for us as formators to appreciate the uniqueness of each person and culture and thus to strengthen the common culture

that binds us as SSpS. One of the best practices that we choose to appreciate this uniqueness is by celebrating Cultural days. I would, rather all of us call this day as Family Feast, because, everyone gets involved in the preparation and celebration and also it strengthens the bonding between the community members. It is truly an appropriate platform where we learn to respect the values and cultures of other people, thus be prepared to participate effectively in the life and mission of our International Congregation. "Every interaction is an opportunity to learn, only if we are interested in improving rather than proving" (Unknown).

We were privileged as a group to have four of our General Councillors as resource persons to enrich us on various topics. Sr. Eleonora was at the opening ceremony and also gave us input on Formation in early years of our Congregation, Sr. Mary John on Theology of Religious Life and JPIC, Sr. Maria Christina on the Spirituality of our Founding Generation and Sr. Miriam (SIFC'12 General Coordinator) on the Stages of Formation. Sr. Maria Theresia (CL) will join us for the Preparation of the Stages of formation and the Closing ceremony on 4th March, 2018.

Our usual weekly programme starts with individual growth session in a centre near the provincial house. Mondays

and Tuesdays are also dedicated for reflection/integration. We live approximately 15 kilometers away from the provincial house. So going for growth session is really exciting as we go by public transport, Jeepiny and tricycle. Wednesday to Friday we have input sessions in AJSC (Retreat Centre, BF Homes, Quezon City). This is the place where we have our programme. On Saturdays we go to another centre for sessions where formators from various congregations also take part. It is really a great opportunity to know and interact with other formators and discuss various topics and issues related to formation. Sundays, we spend in praying, cooking, visiting the elderly, small outings or shopping etc. We are fortunate to have daily Eucharist in our parish with the people. At times we also go to nearby parishes for Eucharistic Celebration. From time to time we have exposure programmes (urban ministry). Just after Christmas we will be going for an immersion programme for ten days with Indigenous people in the mountains. These are indeed the gracious opportunities to know the life of the people here.

One of the beautiful experiences we had of the Filipino Culture and tradition was during the Holy Week. On Easter Sunday every year, at 4.00 AM, there is a Traditional ceremony of the meeting between the Risen Lord and His Mother.

The women come in procession to the church with the statue of Mother Mary, whose face is covered with a black veil and the men come with the statue of the Risen Lord. There is a decorated high platform outside the church where young girls and boys are dressed up as angels. One of the angels removes the veil of Mary and she sees her Risen Son in dazzling white. So, it commemorates traditional belief that Jesus appeared first to His Mother before appearing to anybody else.

Eating together as a family is always a part of the Filipino Culture, and one of the most popular practices is the **'Boodle Fight'**. Though the name proposes fight, it is not fighting over food, but eating together with friends and family where food of all sorts is served on the plantain leaves that are put together on a long table and all the family members eat together. We had the experience of being part of **'Boodle Fight'** in one of our communities.

"There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written". (Jn.21.25) Yes, if I have to write down all my experiences of the past 9 months here in the Philippines I would have to use all the pages of our newsletter.....

Sr. Anisha SSps, Philippines

I AM THERE WITH YOU

As I Awake I think of You,
My only desire is to help You
With every breath that I take,
I pray for You, yearning someone to
be with You.

When I sit in the church I see the
angels

Playing and enjoying with You
As I move out from the Holy place,
Good Spirit leads me to You

Some are happy who love YOU but
some are not.

For they do not know YOU
Love Life and keep smiling
Be gentle with YOU and go on
trusting

When you struggle to stand up and
walk

Remember Jesus too went through
pain.

If You have the courage to hear Him
talk.

You'll hear "I AM THERE WITH YOU".

**Sr. Premy Sagiya SSps
Velvarthy**

My Mission Experience

“Whoever loves possesses life”.

Yes, my life experience in Velvarthy mission was very wonderful and memorable one. I enjoyed a lot the company of my sisters, teachers and the company of little ones in the school. Being in the school for three months I have learned the value and responsibility of a teacher. Their dedication and hard work has inspired me to give myself for the mission. A teacher takes the place of a mother for the child. I have experienced them as loving, caring, supporting, helping, understanding and thoughtful.

This mission station has challenged me to learn the language as I found difficult to communicate with people initially. Jeevithasha Counseling Centre and Pavithratma School gave me ample of opportunity to give myself to God and His people. Working with them I have come to admire their hard work and whole hearted commitment to the task entrusted.

During the camps conducted for infected and affected with HIV/AIDS in different centers I had the chance to meet and talk to people and know their struggles. It is painful to have all the family members including children infected with HIV/AIDS. Recently one of our animators and I visited a family of a mother who is infected with HIV/AIDS for 16 years. Her husband had died five years ago and her son is studying in class 9th who is also infected with HIV/AIDS. They struggle even to meet their basic amenities like food and shelter.

When I saw them I felt pity and compassion. Silently I thanked God for our sisters who help them to live a life of dignity. I strongly believe that God is there even in sorrows and difficulties.

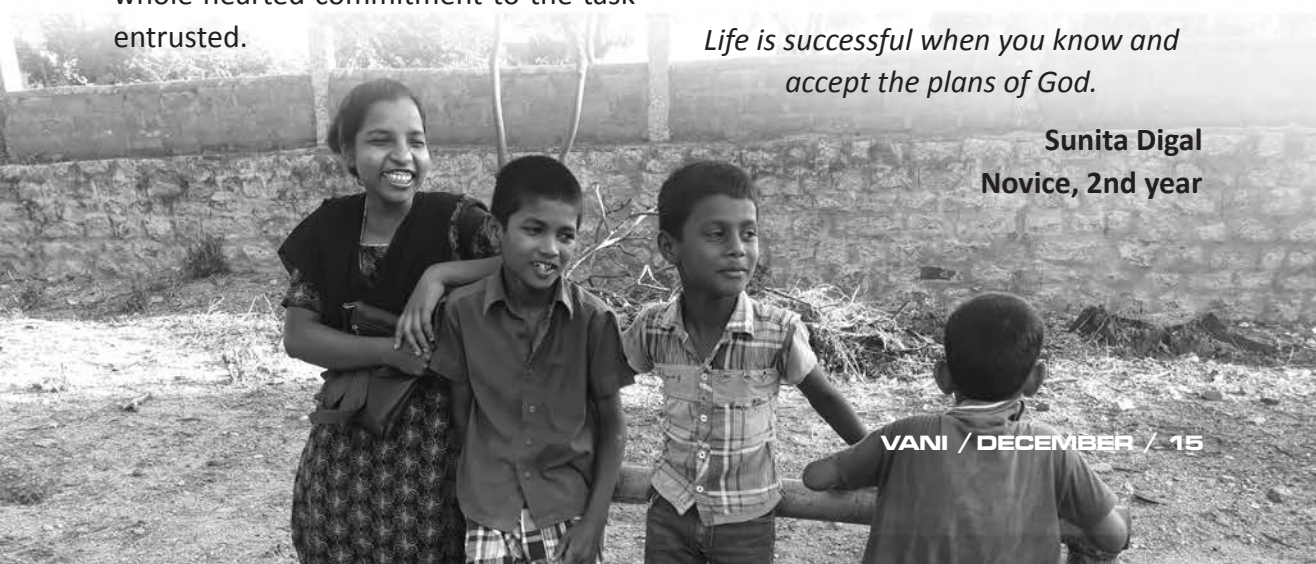
It is said-

Life is beautiful when you face the challenges of life every day.

Life is beautiful when you are with God.

Life is successful when you know and accept the plans of God.

Sunita Digal
Novice, 2nd year



FAMILY FEAST –A TIME TO BE TOGETHER



PAVITRATMA CONVENT, VALIGONDA

On 3rd of September 2017, Sisters and candidates of Pavithratma Convent celebrated the family feast with the royal family- King - Sr. Albina, Queen - Magdaline, Prince - Fr. Sunil (parish priest) and Kunjalatha the princesses for the day. The liturgy group made the Eucharistic Celebration very creative. At the beginning of the mass we had the prayer at the founder's icon and the Indian lamp was lit by our superior Sr. Pucharua Minz. After that we all went in to chapel in procession holding the lit candles in our hands.

Soon after the mass the catering Group was on their feet to welcome each and everyone to the banquet of Telangana delicacies with their symphony of kitchen musical instruments. The entertainment group kept the community engaged with various activities such as singing, dancing, sports, fancy dress and other competitions. The group with their vigilance eyes made every member of the community to be involved and with their task force made each one to participate, so that everyone felt bonded to the Arnoldus family.

*By Femina & Emelda Kiro
(Candidates)*

ANUGRAHA, MUMBAI

Family feast unites us and rejuvenates our spirits filling us with renewed life.



On October 1st 2017 we celebrated our family feast with joy. We began this

special day at 6. a.m. with a prayer lead by the Liturgy Group. Sr. Faustina SSps lead us with a dance to the chapel. Games and various competitions were conducted by the entertainment group, kept us active and happy. The catering group too was very creative and provided us with tasty food making us physically strong and fit for the day.

Sr. Rashmi P SSps
Mumbai

HOLY SPIRIT CONVENT, EKAMBA



One song many notes

On 1st October 2017 we the Deepalaya and Holy Spirit Convent, Ekamba celebrated Family Feast together at

Ekamba. It was a long awaited time to be together in prayer and reflection, fun and laughter. We began our day with the morning prayer with the theme- ***One Song Many Notes***. During the day we had lot of games to keep us hale and hearty. The creative cultural programme did increase the joy of the day adding colour and music. The day ended by a short reflection on the music notes with which each one had to sing her own note and surrender it for a total harmony.

Sr. Cynthia D'souza SSps
Deepalaya



VIVAT – JPIC Seminar at Pune:

A two days Seminar of 'VIVAT - JPIC' was held at Ishvani Kendra, Pune on 16th and 17th of September 2017. The theme of the Seminar was Sustainable Development Goals and Children's Parliament. The 51 participants comprised of religious men and women from Social and Education ministry from all over India representing four member of VIVAT International present in India Congregations namely, Congregation of the Holy Spirit (CSSp), Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC), Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), Religious of the Assumption (RA), besides SVDs and SSps.

The topic, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which came into effect in January 2016, are a new, universal set of economic, social and environmental goals and targets that United Nations (UN) member states are expected to achieve by 2030. The SDGs build and expand on the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by focusing on critical dimensions of sustainable development in both developing and developed countries, including human rights obligations, good governance, social justice, equity within countries, sustainability (particularly environmental sustainability), vulnerability and the

exclusion of marginal populations and the poorest of the poor. The topic on Children's Parliament dealt with Inclusive Neighbourhood Parliaments of Children: which ensures child participation, to impart practical citizenship training, to initiate children into governance involvements, to get children emerge as effective leaders and strong personalities, to ensure constructive peer pressure, to provide scope for sustained value clarification process, to ensure inclusion of the excluded, to develop talents and capacities, to be an all-round awareness-increasing process, etc. The multi-tier federation of such neighbourhood parliaments of children offers scope for children to gradually being initiated to enjoy shouldering bigger and wider responsibilities. The Children's Parliament emphasizes the importance of seeing children as possible change-makers who have capability, interest and a legal right to be heard and influence in the society.

Five sisters from India South Province namely; Sr. Suchita Soreng, Sr. Shila MJ, Sr. Mary Thomas, Sr. Rose Thomas and Sr. Reena D'Souza, participated in the seminar.

Sr. Reena D'Souza SSps
JPIC Co-ordinator

AN EXPERIENCE AT THE COTTON FIELD AT VALIGONDA

Fill your life with Experience not things... Have stories to share... not stuff to show...

It was a new and beautiful experience for each one of us as we ventured into the cotton field along with Sr. Pulcharia and Sr. Sarita on 22nd of October 2017. For some us it was the first experience of seeing, feeling and sensing how cotton grows in the field and is being made use for the various purposes. Soon after the Sunday Mass we went to the cotton field which was about 2 Kilo meters away. We carried along with us water bottles and towels to cover our heads from the scorching sun. As we reached the field, the owner of the field gave us sacks with instructions for plucking the cotton. We really had an enjoyable day at the same

time we learned to value the hard work. It was an enthralled experience of being seated under the tree for lunch. At the end of the day we collected all the cotton and to our surprise we had collected 129 kg of cotton. We were overjoyed, when we were paid the wage of Rs. 1500/-. It was an enriching experience of a cooli worker. We thank our sisters in the community for having given us a day of work experience.

Leave the road... Take the trail....

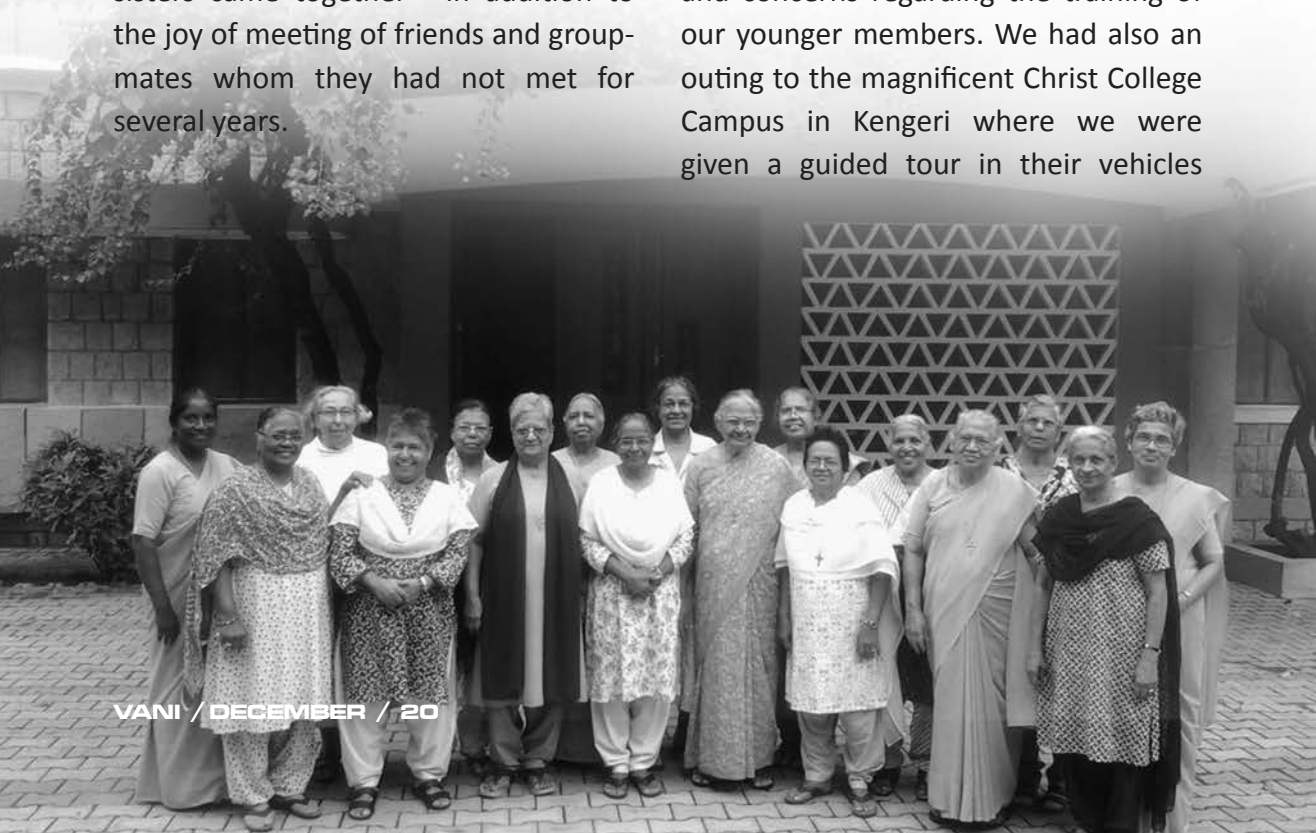
**By Rajni Dung Dung & Kareena Ekka
(Candidates)**



Renewal Program

17 of the senior-most group of SSsP Sisters in the Indian Provinces gathered at CHS which had been the home of many of the sisters during the early stages of their formation. Sr. Agnes, the Formation Coordinator, had arranged for a Renewal Program for this group from September 26-29, 2017. (A proof of the presupposition that change of attitudes and renewal can take place even at this age!) Though the most senior Sisters had been in Indore for the early part of their training, at some time or the other, most had a chance to be in India South Provincial House for some occasion or other. So it is no wonder that there was a feeling of at-homeness when these sisters came together - in addition to the joy of meeting of friends and group-mates whom they had not met for several years.

Although it was planned that we would have a resource person on two days for short inputs, as it turned out, this person got sick and we were left on our own. Sr. Agnes, as resourceful as she usually is, had more than enough of programs planned for these days for us. We had enough time for sharing with each other about our earlier days, present-day involvements and also future plans. We had chances to reflect on our own lives, and to see ourselves and the roles we have played in the context of our life and work in our Congregation and in the Church. In addition, we had opportunities to affirm one another as well as to verbalize our expectations and concerns regarding the training of our younger members. We had also an outing to the magnificent Christ College Campus in Kengeri where we were given a guided tour in their vehicles





through the whole area, after which we enjoyed the sumptuous meal that was brought along from the community. One afternoon, some of our participants also managed to visit the Adoration Sisters in Carmelaram which was also very much appreciated by those who visited as well as those who were visited.

An important event which took place during this time was the celebration of Sr. Marion's diamond jubilee. The liturgy was well planned, the singing was beautiful and the chapel was well-decorated. A few relatives of Sr. Marion from Bangalore also came to take part in the celebration. The culmination of the day was a delicious meal, prepared

under the leadership of Sr. Elsy Mathew, the master chef and which was enjoyed by all.

Our time together had been really enriching and refreshing. Three members of the group were not present and were missed by all of us. We thank Sr. Agnes, our formation coordinator, and all who had a role in making this time a truly enjoyable one. We are especially grateful to the Provincial Leadership Team who had been planning for weeks and preparing for this event.

Sr. Sheela Joseph SSps
CHS, Bangalore

VISITATION

WOMEN OF FAITH – IN COMMUNION, FOR COMMUNION

ICON - Visitation: Meeting of Mary & Elizabeth

Divine Love Province India South was indeed blessed to have completed fruitful general visitation by Sr. Maria Christina and Sr. Margaret Hanssen. This graceful time began on 1st October and ended on 21st November 2017. Indeed it was a time of discerning and praying together renewing the COMMUNION with ONESELF, GOD, OTHERS and CREATION. Here below some communities have briefed their programmes and activities held during the VISITATION.

Pavitratma Convent-Valigonda

On 8th October 2017, Sr. Maria Christina arrived at Pavitratma Convent, Valigonda. We welcomed her with a beautiful dance, Chandan, and Garland. There



after we implored the Holy Spirit through Veni Creator. On 9th October Sr. Maria Christina visited the Parish Priest and the parishners. Same day she also spent time with the Shanti Nilayam children. The next day Sr. Maria Christina had a

conference with the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Pavithratma School, Valigonda. She also met the Candidates and shared some facts about our founding generations and gave general status of our congregation. Candidates had also organised a musical evening. We also had the joy of Celebrating the Birthday of Sr. Maria Christina along with Sr. Molly on 13th October. We along with the Volverthy community had meaningful prayer in the morning. After the breakfast Sr. Maria Christina blessed all of us and bade farewell. Truly her spirit of joy, enthusiasm, love for the mission and encouragement boosted us to grow in our commitment to the Lord and His people.

Alishma Xess & Jebasheela
(Candidates)

IN KUCHIPUDI...

‘GOD WILL CROWN YOUR YEARS WITH HIS GOODNESS AND YOUR PATHS DRIP WITH ABUNDANCE ‘

Indeed it is a joyful coincidence that the celebrations of two significant events of school - it is a silver Jubilee year of the school and visit of our General Councilor Sr. Margaret Hanssen to our Holy Spirit family. With great Joy we welcomed her to our community and school. It was our

joy to welcome our Sr. Margaret with traditional kuchipudi dance and shawl. The staff and students displayed the



culture and tradition of Andrapradesh through a cultural programme. In her encounter Sr. Maria Christina appreciated the selfless service of the staff and management and wished the students a bright future.

**Sr. Adrin SSps
Kuchipudi**

IN DEEPALAYA

We welcomed Sr. Maria Christina SSps with the arathi and garland on 27.10.2017. We began the visitation with the traditional Veni Creator. In her five days she met the Karnataka Domestic Workers Union, Gulbarga, Staff and Management of St. Mary School, Kotnoor, Sevasangama Social Service Center, and visited the slums. She also spent time with the children and staff at DON BOSCO. Through her being she taught us to be energetic for CHRIST. We together journeyed back to the province and the congregation and reflected



upon the blessings and the challenges we face at present. She encouraged us to continue the vision and the purpose for which the community started, with a renewed vigour while adding our personal contribution. While contemplating the visitation she made us realize the importance of COMMUNION with God, oneself, others and creation as prophetic women disciples of Jesus today.

**Sr. Cynthia D'Souza SSps
Kaluburagi**

AT PAVITRATMA NIKETHAN

on 28th October Saturday Sr. Margaret Hanssen SSps arrived from Kuchipudi Community accompanied by Sr. Suchita Jojo, the Community Leader, and the members Srs. Joyce, Adrin and Bertila at 11.45am. It was a joyous occasion for us to welcome her to our community with arathi, chandan, kumkum, rose water, garland, bouquet, mishrichini, and a welcome song. After invoking the blessings of the Holy Spirit we had the refreshment followed by lunch together



with Kuchipudi Community. The three days of visitation was very enriching. We had fruitful days together by sharing, introspecting, evaluating our VMG and community life here. Sr. Margaret also had the opportunity to meet the Bishop and Parish Priest and Jesuit's College where our sisters are studying. We too put up short cultural program in the evening on 30th. We concluded the visitation with the Eucharistic Celebration on 31st October.

Sr. Ajita Kullu SSPS, Vijayawada

PERNAL

On 7th of October 2017, we welcomed Sr. Margaret in traditional way by washing her hands and performing the arathi. With her three days stay at Pernal she made us to introspect, reflect and share the blessings and challenges we face as Individuals, the Community, the Province and the Congregation at large. She spent quality time with students and sisters encouraging them to grow stronger in Communion with the total commitment to Jesus. we ended our visitation on 10th October.

Sr. Thelma SSPS, Pernal



IN ANUGRAHA - MUMBAI

Sr. Margaret and Sr. Maria Christina reached to our Community on 18th October at 7pm. Both the Communities



welcomed them warmly with Arathi and flower bouquet. Our visitation was from 19th to 23rd October. During those days we were briefed about the Congregation's present status and were asked to reflect upon the blessings and Challenges we face today. In their visit they spend their time visiting SVD's and Holy Spirit Hospital. They encouraged and appreciated the Holy Spirit Mission Association for their commitment and association with SSPS down the years.

**Sr. Rashmi P SSPS
Anugraha**



Jeevan Jyothi Camp - Shirva

Jeevan Jyothi Camp for 10th standard children was held on October 11th to 14th at St. Mary Church Hall Shirva. There were 120 children from 11 parishes. We began our camp with a prayer service with four symbols, water symbolizing purity Light to enlighten, chain to stay united, and Bible the importance of word of God in our life. The symbols were brought in procession by the children. The camp was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Fr. Stany Tauro, the Vicar of Shirva Deanery. The theme of the camp was ***"Word of God a Lamp for My Life"***.

There were various topics dealt, the importance of Eucharist, Sacraments, Vocation, Word of God, Carrier guidance, etc organized by Fr. Canute Norohna the camp In charge. The resource persons

were called from different parishes of Udupi Diocese. The talks were very enriching and inspiring. There were also group activities for the Children. Opportunities were given to them to unfold their talents and abilities. The camp was very lively. It was also an opportunity for me to take part as animator and gain some knowledge and experience through this camp. We were altogether five sisters as animators from different Congregations. It was a full day camp. The Last day was concluded through a prayer service, thanking God for the blessings he bestowed on us during those four days.

Sr. Thelma SSps
Pernal



AKSHARATMA V-BEEP

(Village-Based Education Enrichment Program)

Aksharatma V-BEEP is a pilot venture at Periyapatna, Mysore Dist, of our legal body "Society of the Servants of the Holy Spirit" which was established in 1974 and based in Bangalore. The members in their creative fidelity to their commitment continue to challenge themselves to become proactive agents of change in society over the years since its inception in 1889. In communion we venture out to reach out the needy, widening our circle embracing the humanity. As a result **AKSHARATMA** is shaped up today.

Aksharatma envisions 1500 well-groomed, competent children in 27

local government schools of 22 villages around here. This will be carried out systematically by a selected group of 35 local youth - 5 Mentors for weekly assistance and 30 Asst. Mentors for daily assistance in the selected schools. These youth would also be well-groomed to excellence to contribute to society in the course of time. On professional front, we have signed an MOU partnering with '***Dream A Dream***' an NGO based in Bangalore to avail their Teacher Development Programs (TDP) for our Mentors and Asst. Mentors.

After almost nine months of efforts the project has taken off. 9 months is a ripe

time for birthing as well. With the official approval from the Governing body of the Society came in, Sr. Sabena, the Admin. & Superior, Sr. Anthony Mary, the Program Co-ordinator and I, being the steering team, did all preliminary planning earnestly to start off in the new academic year. And 8th Sept, 2017, was noted to be the day for official launching, as this day marks the birthday of Mother Mary and the day dedicated to Girl Child. Thus **“AKSHARATMA”** was born. **Gender equity** is one of the important thrusts of Aksharatma. Besides, Mother holds great significance in everyone's lives. Our first sustainer is our mother, our first teacher is our mother, the one helped our first step to school is our mother; she is there unfailingly in all moments of our lives. We trust her maternal presence as **AKSHARATMA** makes her first step out to remove ignorance and to illumine minds through sharing knowledge, and thus help build communion and fraternity through widening our circles of contacts, helping to vanish the grip of darkness from our hearts and from our society.

We, the Core Team, began to share our dream with all stakeholders of this program, starting with BEO. Having convinced of the importance of quality education, as a learned and honorable person, BEO kindly consented and gave us an opportunity to share our dream with all respected HMs on 25th May,

2017 before this academic year began. Thereafter we visited each school, and finalized the children eligible for this program. For better co-ordination, the schools are divided into 5 clusters. About 5 to 6 schools in a cluster. The program focuses on every child's proficiency in Basic English, Basic Maths along with life skills needed for the integral growth of the child. Integrating well health and Education, the Healthcare team of St. Mary's Hospital will provide regular health check up, and health & hygiene inputs for children and their parents.

Aksharatma will be an integral part of the school within the permitted school hours with the co-operation extended to it. We commit 7 years support to the children from Std IV to VIII of 27 Govt. Schools from 22 isolated villages. (First three years are fully supported by Italian Bishop's Conference. Thanks to CEI. May God bless Italian people whose sacrifices have contributed to the fund).

AKSHARATMA as the name suggests envisages to enlighten the soul ultimately. **‘BEEP’** along with the name ‘Aksharatma’ also stands for We Beep. We beep to the same pulse of the universe journeying together towards universal enlightenment of the soul. Against the present scenario of disintegrated society, Aksharatma will awaken the children to realize their status in relation to the universe as a single life, comprising of

substance and one soul, to a borderless existence. Helping the children discover inner strength in loving, forgiving, responding in gentleness, being respectful to those disagree, being compassionate to those offending, to handle hurt without retaliating, and to form themselves anew for a better society. Let us then hold on that original beep set by our God within our hearts and in the universe. Let our children experience harmony within and around them as they put forward their first step along with Aksharatma as depicted by its logo, towards communion, widening our circle. And thus, Akshara Atma, in letter and Spirit, will live to its commitment.

The fulfillment of the basic needs of the poor is of the highest priority here. Personal decisions, policies of the public and private bodies, and power relationships must all be evaluated by their effects on those who lack the minimum necessities of nutrition, housing, education and health care. The human dignity of all is realized when people gain the power to work together to improve their lives, strengthen their families, and contribute to society. On this vision **Aksharatma** will thrive.

Each child will get awakened to her or his true identity as a Child of God and rise up to their great potentials breaking through all barriers of their present situations. Being first generation

literates, they are the brave warriors of a bright future. On our part, commitment to quality education is necessary if the poor are to take their rightful place in the economic structures of our society. All our intervention in this regard will promote human dignity and foster solidarity and communion.

Aksharatma envisions also social and economic justice by forming these children to become competent for equal opportunities in society. Even if they may not reach up to the world standards, we are sure they shall rise up one day in their confidence on their face, with a smile on their lips and vested in much love in their hearts to face this challenging world much better than their previous generation. That day **Aksharatma** will proudly yet humbly pack up, moving on to the next shores looking for other dropouts, those sidelined and marginalized and to find many more smiles on its way.

May the darkness of sin and the night of ignorance and unbelief vanish before the light of knowledge and truth through the Spirit of God who guides and illumines us through.

Excerpts from 'the sharing of a dream'
by Sr. Sheetal SSsP

Program Director, AKSHARATMA
V-BEEP on its Inauguration Day
8th Sept, 2017

Holy Spirit Missionary Association Mumbai

Holy Spirit Missionary Association was formed in 1897 with the leadership of Sr. Hermanelde SSps. Over the 28 years the association has been proclaiming the triune God through prayers and other activities. The mission of the association is to spread the devotion to Holy Spirit.

The group is Re-formed under the leadership of Sr. Jaya, Sr. Pushpa and Sr. Nathalia, in December 2015 with an initial membership of 12. At present we are a family of 17 dedicated members along with three Holy Spirit Sisters who are committed to the cause of HSMA. We have our meetings monthly and our members take active part in the proceedings and decisions.

Following is a short summary of our activities for the past year, starting December 2015.

December 2015:

We celebrated Christmas with the less privileged in our outreach centers. We had Christmas program along with cultural dance and games. After that lunch was served. Also they were given a take away gift. (Food kit)

May 01, 2016: (Year of Mercy)

Visit to Mount Mary Basilica, Bandra, Mumbai - Our group consisted of 12 HSMA members and 9 Holy Spirit sisters. It is always a special feeling to visit and spend time at the Basilica, and our visit was enriching.



20 August 2016

Outreach Program - As part of this ongoing initiative by the Holy Spirit Administration, a visit was arranged to the Jeevan Jyoti Care Centre - Home for the Aged - in Karjat, a Mumbai Suburb. 4 HSMA members joined the team for this trip where groceries, clothing given by generous donors were provided to the Centre, apart from interacting and spending some quality time with the inmates.

23 October 2016

Mission Sunday was celebrated, followed by a talk by Sr. Theresa who was visiting us from Bidar, Karnataka. The decision to undertake the Bidar Mission Project was made on this day and a team of 3 members from HSMA has just returned from the first visit to Bidar. The project is taking shape and the inputs from the members of the visiting team shall be discussed in our upcoming meetings.

04 December 2016

Advent Recollection for HSMA members was held at Anugraha. Sr. Bernadette from North East India was the main speaker. She familiarized us with the life and work of Holy Spirit Sisters in the North-Eastern part of India.

09 to 11 December 2016

As part of Golden Jubilee Celebration of Holy Spirit Hospital, exhibition was

held for three days. It was a grand commemoration of 50 years of Holy Spirit Hospital. The event was complete with an exhibition of the evolution of the hospital from its simple beginning to its transformation of the magnificent multi-specialty hospital as it stands today. HSMA members actively assisted the Holy Spirit Hospital team in the entire event which was well attended and appreciated.

29 December 2016

In continuation of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Holy Spirit Hospital, sisters arranged food distribution trip to the street dwellers in Jogeshwari, Andheri and Goregaon, suburbs of Mumbai. The trip included two of the HSMA members also.

26 January 2017

The HSMA, in collaboration with the Holy Spirit Community Health Department organized a get-together to the differently able from the nearby areas. The theme was "My Ability is Stronger than My Disability". The event was a big success with games, gifts and refreshments to the attendees who actively participated despite the challenges they face.

19 February 2017

Yet another initiative of the Holy Spirit Community Health Department, was a trip to Thalasseri, in interior Maharashtra.

It was a medical camp to cater to the wellbeing of local inhabitants. Two of our HSMA members were part of the team.

07 May 2017

Women's Day Celebration - The day was celebrated at the Holy Spirit Hospital and women from the nearby slums were invited to the program. Two of the HSMA members attended and assisted in the arrangements.

02 April 2017

Lenten Recollection – The annual Lenten Recollection for the HSMA members was held at Anugraha. Fr. Ittoop gave a talk followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

28 May 2017

Farewell to Sr. Pushpa, one of the founder member of the HSMA, Mumbai - Sr. Pushpa was transferred to Pune, Maharashtra and we had a farewell get-together for her, complete with a memento and a pot-luck dinner organized by the HSMA members.

16 July 2017

HSMA decided to offer Holy Mass on 3rd Monday of each month for the members of Holy Spirit Missionary Association all over the world, both living and deceased.

13 August 2017

Outdoor Spiritual Meeting - An outdoor spiritual meeting, first of its kind for us, was organized in Khopoli, a Mumbai suburb. Our member, Ms. Jasmine Bankapur offered to let us use her house for this purpose. We began day with a session of getting to know each other, the struggles in life and the pleasant moments in life. All felt for each other and ensured prayers for one another. After that we had small prayer session followed by games/ quiz. All felt that this was an enriching time and expressed to have the same sort every year.

8 September 2017

In view of September 8th being celebrated as day of the Girl Child, HSMA decided to grant two Scholarships of Rs. 1000 each to needy and deserving girl students of St. Arnold's School, Andheri East, Mumbai. The modalities are being worked out and will be finalized soon.

These are some of the activities and initiatives of HSMA Mumbai. We hope to undertake more such tasks in the years to come as our team grows in strength with more dedicated members joining us and assisting in our mission, ably guided by the Holy Spirit Sisters.

HSMA , Mumbai

A DAY OUT...

Kripalaya

The most awaited day came for all the sisters and students of Kripalaya as community as we went to Mysore for the picnic. We left on the 17th of October and stayed with our sisters at Periyapattana. Next day we went around sight-seeing and enjoying every bit of the passing moments. A grand lunch at Vidya Nikethan hosted by SVD's nourished our hungry stomachs. Later we visited a SVD parish at Rajivnagar where the Parish Priest Fr. Richard Almeida welcomed us and offered us mouthwatering Ice-Cream and fruity juice. After relaxing a while we proceeded to St. Philomena's Church and Brindavan garden. After spending some time there we returned

back to Periyapatna Community. Next day morning we travelled back to Pernal.

Sr. Thelma SSps, Pernal

Ekamba and Deepalaya

On 2nd of October we the members of Deepalaya community along with Ekamba Community went for picnic to BIDAR FORT. On the way we visited many parishes like Santhpur, Ujjini, Sacred Heart Parish, Bidar and shared our joy. Then we proceeded towards the Gurudwar and spent our time admiring the calmness and experiencing peaceful atmosphere. It was heart touching to see the crowd flocking to the temple



with a greater serenity. Then we went to a open garden where we had some games and singing competitions. Every one sang their melody making the day a memorable one. After a grand Lunch we rushed to the BIDAR FORT and enjoyed appreciating every bit of the fort. The day out was indeed energizing one.

**Sr. Cynthia D'Souza SSpS, Deepalaya
Anugraha**



It was on 23rd of September we took some time to be ourselves as we went out for an outing to Lonavala. We began our day at 6 a.m and reached at 8.30 am. We spent some time admiring the waterfall silently thanking God for gift of the beauty around. Then we had the Holy Mass followed by a fellowship meal. It was wonderful to see the Rosary garden. We spent some time playing and sharing our joys. Entertainment group kept us tuned to the mood of the day through songs. In the evening after the tea we returned home renewed.

**Sr. Alka Kiran Tete SSpS
Anugraha**

Missioning through the villages...

It was 16th October, we the HSMA members set out to Ekamba, a beautiful village of North Karnataka. We were excited as the train stopped at Gulbarga, for we knew we had to travel only 2 hours more to reach Ekamba. Sr. Cynthia welcomed us joyfully as she came to fetch us from the railway station. We went to Deepalaya and shared some



moments of joy with a tasty coffee. At 9 o'clock we started again to Bidar where Sr. Sangeetha and Fr. Harry were waiting to take us to our Mission land Ekamba. Soon after our lunch we visited a village. The greetings '**Jai Christ**' from every one did surprise us. There were women, children, men gathered for Bhajan and prayer. We joined them and started clapping hands in tune with the hymns. Later a family invited us for supper and served us rotti and egg curry which we

relished. During our stay in the village we spent our time with children and women conscientizing them about the importance of hygiene. We spoke to them in Marathi about life and how we need to nurture it. When we saw the open pipes without taps we made them realize the importance of clean water and asked them to close and assured financial support from the association.

We visited many villages and homes and found them very human in their approach. They are simple, humble and possess a BIG heart filled with love. When we went to Ujjini, we came across some children who were very spontaneous and friendly. Though language was the barrier we could still speak.

We visited the place where the school is being built. While walking on the trail we realized the struggle of the people and appreciated the village way of life. We talked to ourselves the hospitality with which they welcome us to their homes offering us the best. Truly more than the Diwali sweets and custard apples, we wondered at the hearts that are Joyful to GIVE. On 20th we returned back to Gulbarga after a delicious meal at Santhapur. Evening we were at Deepalaya again recapturing the moments and reliving the joyfilled experience. After the supper we packed back to Mumbai.

Theresa Nadar, HSMA, Mumbai

C.R.I Zonal Meeting

The Zonal level CRI (Conference of Religious India) meeting was held on 1st December at 2.30 pm in Don Bosco Convent Belman. Fr. Mark D'souza the CRI President was the resource person. He spoke about the mission, goals, functions of CRI and about the migrant ministry in the Diocese of Udupi. We were divided into groups and were asked to discuss the following questions.

What are the challenges we face to come together as CRI?

How far have we achieved the mission and goals in our CRI zones?

What is our opinion about migrant ministry and how can we work together?

After the discussion we presented the report to the plenum. Many of the participants came up with the opinion that we need to keep up the relationship with the different Communities, Congregations in order to find and share resource in an effective way. At the diocese level CRI has planned to work for Migrant ministry after it has been suggested by the Bishop. Fr. Mark recommended that we involve ourselves in working for the Migrants in our parishes. We decided to collect the data of the existing Migrants in our parishes and submit them by 17th December to the Vice President of CRI. We were asked to dialogue with them and include them in our parish activities. The meeting ended at 4.30pm. I felt blessed as I got an opportunity to interact with many.

**Sr. Thelma SSPS
Pernal**

From Novices.... Mission Experience

“Let our gratitude not be just words but our deeds” We thank God and also our sisters here for giving us the best mission experiences in different places in Bangalore. We feel specially privileged to have such experiences and like to share some of them.

Snehadham

On Wednesdays we go to Snehadham, a center which cares for HIV/AIDS affected and infected people at Carmelaram. Many of the patients here are abandoned, rejected and are lonely. Listening to their stories, we feel part of them. By our presence, we offer a listening heart and extend our helping hands to them. They make us realize the meaning of our life.

Nuru and Sangeeta
Novices 1st year

Dream India Network

We are fortunate to be the part of DIN family. We go to Nayandahalli slum to be with the people there. When we began our ministry Fr. Edward had told us ***“The slum depends on us for its development”***. Keeping these words in mind we began our work. We spend our time with teachers and children of the government school. Initially they would not listen to us, run away from the class

room and shout and yell. In spite of our little knowledge about the language we learned to communicate with love, care and understanding. It is six months now, slowly children are showing interest towards learning. DIN would like to make this school as Model school, and we are working at it. The people here are living in the 1 room kitchen provided by the government. But their life has not changed for the better. Health and hygiene is a great concern. We visit the families, spend time with them get to know their problems, and discuss with DIN what could be done in difficult situations. There are 34 foster homes run by DIN in collaboration with many Religious in Bangalore. We appreciate the cooperation and support of many a like-minded people to carry out this noble work.

Maya, Sneha and Sujatha
1st year novices

Ministry with the Migrants:

Ministry with the migrants is like gathering the scattered sheep. We the Novices are very happy to become part of our brothers and sisters who are away from their homes, their familiar surroundings. We began this ministry as we began our Novitiate, six months back. In the beginning we visited the few



families staying at Kalenagrahara village and then we introduced ourselves to some boys and girls who are working in the garment factories staying in almost 7-8 hostels. They are from Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand etc. We were surprised to know that we are surrounded by so many young migrants who are working in order to support their families back at home.

It was a great struggle to find them and meet them. We went through disappointment when we found that their response was poor. After regular visits we now feel things are moving. We have Mass every second Sunday of the month for which around 75 people gather. We not only think about their spiritual needs, but also help them to empower themselves by making



them aware about labor laws and their benefits. On Dec 3rd we had Christmas celebration with them and around 200 girls and boys to participated in it. Their life inspires and challenges us. We thank Sr. Ida for providing us these opportunities to become part of people's life.

Maya, Sneha and Sujatha
1st year novices



ANGELS IN BLACK GOWN

The National Lawyers Forum inaugurated the National Lawyers Conference of Priests and Religions India – 2017 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Gol Dakhana on 22nd of November 2017. The event was graced by Hon. Justice Mr. K.G. Balakrishnan, the former Chief Justice of India, Most. Rev. Albert D'Souza, Arch-Bishop of Agra, Hon. Mr. Talwanth Singh, the District and Session Judge, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi, Mr. Robin Hibu, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Rastrapati Bhavan and Sr. Julie George SSpS, the National Convener, Director of Streevani, Pune.

The program started with the traditional lighting of the lamp and welcoming the

dignitaries. Sr. Julie George the convenor of the Forum, opened the inaugural ceremony by introducing the Forum, its origin, history, objectives, achievements, the vision, and all that entails in bringing the forum to this stage.

The Chief Guest, Hon. Justice Mr. K.G. Balakrishnan appreciated the religious for their interest in judiciary and affirmed that it is a wonderful effort to make justice accessible to all. He added that every religion has the opportunity to reach out to many people.

Most. Rev. Albert D'Souza, Bishop of Agra, said that the primitive understanding of the Church has been

a service provider which is gradually changing into a prophetic role to speak for justice. He added saying much can be achieved by lawyers in restoration of justice, establishing peace and bringing right social order.

Hon'ble Judge Shri. Talwanth Singh informed that being a lawyer is a noble profession which has no retirement. He mentioned that law is equal for all but doesn't reach all. This can be achieved by lawyers Forum. He told the lawyers present to keep their knowledge updated and try to help all specially the poor by keeping the motto alive "Service to All".

Mr. Robin Hibu, livened the atmosphere by reminiscing about his childhood days and how a Priest helped him. He called the Priests and Nuns in the Law profession as ***"Angels in Black Gown"*** and told them to grow their connections with NGOs and other associations, so that the marginalized can be reached. He also added with these points: Remain connected, have a vibrant directory to reach out to more people especially the vulnerable, have a legal cell at every parish so that all can approach, focus on youth, and disseminate the knowledge to all. He ended his address by saying that ***'be a rebel than a follower'***.

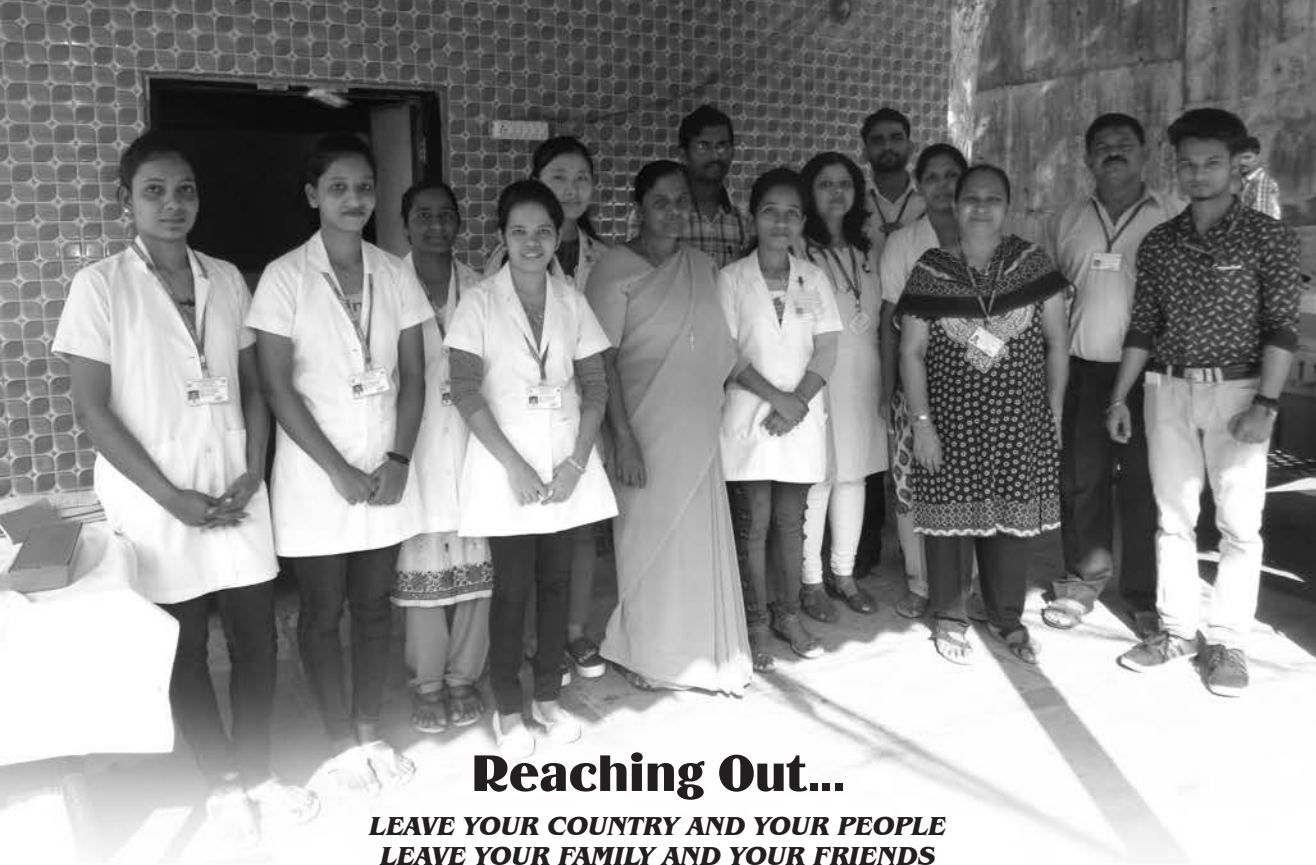
I was personally touched by the analysis made by Justice Kurien Joseph, where we were called to look at the exemplary

person St. Joseph who was JUST in everything he did, because he went beyond the letter of law which was legally wrong and did what is morally right towards Mary. We as catholic Priests and Nuns as lawyers need to do the same in this present society and show to the world that we are prophets with compassion as passion.

The sharing of lived realities by various priests and sisters as lawyers made us aware that we need to do a lot for the society we live in and work with, to empower and conscientize the people who lack legal knowledge. The three and half days well planned program brought home to us many realities of the world specially in the context of Indian society. We realized that we need to go a long way to get justice combined with compassion and mercy.

Along with the three and half day's program on various legal issues, we too had beautiful opportunity to visit the Parliament, Supreme Court and Rasthrapathi Bhavan. As we concluded the program we gathered into groups as units at state level to plan better and function effectively for the better and brighter future of the convention and the civil society as a whole.

**Sr. Vasantha Prathipati SSps
Pattancheru**



Reaching Out...

***LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR PEOPLE
LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FRIENDS
TRAVEL TO THE LAND I WILL SHOW YOU
GOD WILL BLESS THE ONES HE SENDS...***

Yes!! This was the call for me from God when I was just 16. My heart throbbed with joy as I dreamt of becoming part of the suffering lot. With many a hurdles and objections from my relatives and family members I left my home land to Bangalore trying to figure out where my destiny is, dreaming always about the land **ANDHRA PRADESH**. My wish cherished and fulfilled as I landed in the land of cities in the year 1984. Having been part of this land I had many opportunities to be a nurse, teacher, youth personnel, and being part of women's struggles in their homes and in the society through Sangas, to ease

out the pain and suffering of HIV-AIDS through Jeevithasha Counselling Center.

Then the call came to me to move from the soil of Andhra Pradesh to the Metropolitan city, the city of Mumbai. My heart did ache as I had to leave the familiar shores, people and the culture. Confused and with lot of anxieties of the unknown places, people and the culture I landed in Andheri on 5th June 2018. Not knowing the language was my uppermost worry as how to communicate and relate to people.

But God is great!! He did intervene at the right time and right place and send

angels to walk along in my search. Every day was a miracle in my life. The persons around me (Community Health Team) the sisters and the people around the place became friendly and started to step into my office with their generous offer and support. It is indeed wonder as how God leads us with so many hands, minds and hearts joined together for a common cause.

In the initial stage I felt I was nowhere as I found myself confused on where to begin. People just walked into the office and offered to help us with time and materials. That's where our journey began as team. We could carry out the following activities for the poor and the needy people of Andheri through various programmes.

Out Reach Programme is one of the major part of Holy Spirit Hospital from its initiation reaching out to the needy, poor and the marginalized people of various slums in Andheri and its surrounding areas. Holy Spirit Hospital though grown as Multi Specialty Hospital has not forgotten the initial road that had paved the path keeping the poor at the heart of the hospital. Through the Community Health Department Hospital reaches out through five regular clinics, medical camps, and mobile clinics at various intervals to the slums. Besides C.H.D also focuses integrating women, children and youth through various programs.

Senior Citizen Day: On 18th August 150 senior citizen arrived at 9 am to Delight Hall - Holy Spirit Hospital in spite of pouring rain. They enjoyed their time with each other and gained knowledge on how to live after 60's and to grow gracefully and accept their life.

International Girl Child Day: 120 young girls from 6 different slums reached Holy Spirit Hospital premises on 28th October. Various competitions on drawing, singing, Role Play and dance were conducted three days prior to the celebration. Dr. Susan spoke on sex education and Dr. Neelam spoke on the theme - The Power of adolescent girls - Vision for 2030. The winners of the competition were given prizes. The girls are formed into groups and follow up programmes are designed in their own slums.

World Diabetic Day: 40 Diabetic persons participated in the programme. Holy Spirit College of Nursing students depicted a role play on Diabetic Mellitus. Dr. Jennifer and the team of Dieticians and Physiotherapists spoke to them on the symptoms and ways to control it through exercise and diet. Dr. Sugashini Patil spoke on the D.M., its symptoms and how it affects the other organs etc. Three groups are formed in two slums and they are closely followed up through monthly gathering for further follow up and their steady growth in controlling D.M.

Childrens' Day Programme: 140 children had their celebration on 18th November in the Creche premises. They enjoyed their day through songs, dances, games and entertainment. Prizes were distributed and had their delicious meals. Mrs. Malene spoke on the importance of day.

Charitable Hospital on Door step of poor Patient: Suswasthya Abhiyan : Two Mobile ambulances were on the pavements on 4th November 2018 with Doctors, Nurses and the other personnel for a free medical camp called by the Charity Commissioner. Around 320 poor and the suffering people had their medical checkup and treatment.

Nutritional Assessment camp at Mangaon: In Collaboration with Sarva Seva Deep, SVD mission at Managaon, Raighad District camp was arranged to detect Malnourished children from 2 to 5 yrs of age group. From among 750 Tribal children 150 children are Severely Affected Mal Nourished Child (SAM) were detected. The follow up program of closely monitoring with Nutritional diet will be taken care by the organization. Thanks to the team of Pediatric Department of doctors, Nurses and Community Health Department personnel of Holy Spirit Hospital for joining your hands to organize the camp.

**Sr. Jessie Mary SSps
Community Health In-Charge
Holy Spirit Hospital.**

TRACING BACK THE FOOTPRINTS

As the saying goes, *'Togetherness is Happiness'*, was truly experienced by 21 of us SSps belonging to batches of 1978 - 1980 in the Provincial House at Indore during our Renewal Course from December 6th to 10th. After a long waiting and eagerly looking forward to, the day had come for our meeting on 5th. Various sounds of surprise, the facial expressions and the body language of each one revealed the experience of the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth. We sensed out a silent but vibrant magnificat within us and in the air throughout the renewal course.

We became surprisingly aware that we have left back more than 40 years since we started our journey preparing for our religious life. The first session itself on 6th of December provided us with an opportunity to trace back the footprints we had left behind us as we journeyed ahead answering God's call. Our companions enabled us recall those sacred, joyful and challenging moments which paved our way to our goal by their generous and judicious sharing about us. It was nostalgic to reminisce that cut out path which was filled with flowers, thorns and thistles. It was great to realize that nothing was a waste. Happy or sad moments have shaped us into

strong pillars in the vineyard of the Lord. It also made us aware that we started our religious – missionary journey with many but we missed some of them on the way though they have played significant role in our life. It filled us with immense gratitude to have experienced God's hand leading us at every moment of our life.

Apart from sharing about our good old days and our achievements on our journey, the input sessions and outings in the evenings to familiar and unfamiliar places were welcome items. Fr. Xavier SVD, the Provincial of Central Province oriented us towards our communities being formative communities by the topic ***'Paradigm Shift in Formation'***. The ABCD of Paradigm Shift proposed by him gave us an insight into our role in empowering our younger sisters in religious-missionary life. The prayer service conducted by Sr. Agnes in the evening of that day evoked in us a great sense of thankfulness which was expressed by everyone spontaneously through verbal prayer and hymns. It was a great tribute to our Formators.

The visits to our sisters in St. Raphael and the SVD' Houses took us back to those significant days of our youth of rich experiences. Our visit to our sisters at Bicholi and St. Francis Hospital was an experience of great warmth and hospitality of our sisters. Though we missed our communities very much

on the day of the foundation of our Congregation, the well prepared morning prayer and Eucharistic Celebration put us into proper context. The report presented by sisters of our 4 provinces gave us an insight into how mission work is carried out in each province. It was very encouraging to note that currently all the 4 provinces are at the threshold of the mandate of Pope Francis to move to the peripheries.

We not only looked at the glorious past but also oriented ourselves by the enriching session on Mission in Future conducted by Fr. Thomas SVD, the rector of Bhopal Seminary. The Spiritual Ailments presented by Pope Francis to the curia were an eye opener to reflect on ourselves. The pilgrimage to Udainagar as a climax of the program was a very touching experience .

It was a rich experience of looking back at the many years we have spent as SSpS. By the concerted efforts of Sr. Agnes, our National Coordinator and The Sisters, Novices and Candidates in the Provincial House in Indore in making our stay homely made us exclaim 'Lord, let us make 21 booths here' but before the Lord could scold us we returned to our places as it was planned. No doubt it was a great experience , a big boost to enthuse ourselves with greater vigor for our mission.

**Sr. Theresa Rebello SSpS,
Ekamba**

It's Eventide

Here in a tranquil setting
Moments captured, memories stored,
Of old sights dear to heart,
Pondering whither gone!

Seen birds flying in the skies
Young cry 'wait for me'
All racing towards the setting sun
To sweet home at day's end!

The happy man homeward bounds
Fortune bestowed much today;
His cart empty of its wares,
His kin blessed, to many a day!

Yonder an elderly tramp
Opens his messy treasure;
And oblivious of his bleeding toe
Sends thanks to God above!

A boy continues to play
Heedless of mother's repeated cries;
Friends pleading not to go,
Urging him for that one last game !

Old folks 'neath the banyan tree
Wind up sharing wisdom & truth
Worthy men of grit and grace,
Pillars found in every age!

The sound of Allah rends the air,
As peals of temple bells ring in unison,
Angelic bells too calleth to pray,
God smiles down upon creation!!

Simple our ways, soul fun those days!
No fear of terror or of abuse!
No prejudiced right! No colored wrong!
Morality unconfused!

Did human heart ever stray
To a human-less land
Of hate and crime,
Waiting to strike at darkest hour?

Souls hearken! Time beckons!
Let's beat our breasts, crying
"Father forgive us
for we know not, what we do."

**Sr. Molly Rego SSpS
Pamboor**



A Babe is born in Bethlehem,
Being Born in Me today
Sleeping in peace on the hay
Wakes me up to say I am here

Star that lead me was sure way
To tread the WAY
Manger I entered was the place
That put my search at bay

I have travelled far and wide
Baffled through swirling wind
Felt the scorching heat and drenching rain
As I persevered through the plain

I entered the cave bent
Climbed the mountains slow
Though I feared dumb darkness and Valley steep
My heart longed you the WAY deep

Meeting the Magi, affirmed my courage
Gave me clarity of the way
Herds of sheep with joyful shepherds
Foretold the peace filled day

Now as I see your glowing face
In the arms of your mom.sway
I feel I need the grace
To gaze at you my WAY

O sweet babe Most beloved
Let thy radiant face shine
As I proclaim the way I perceived
In every effort I made TO BE THINE

Finding Jesus The Way....



**Sr. Cynthia Dsouza SSps
Deepalaya**

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