



**Mother Anna Huberta Roggendorf**  
Founder of the Society of Helpers of Mary

# Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 2018

## Called to love, sent to Serve



The celebration of the Final Vows is a moving experience not only for the professed six sisters but also for their family, friends and the whole community. On April 5, 2018 the Sisters of the Helpers of Mary had the great joy of celebrating the Final Vows of Srs. Amala Tekam, Vidhya Londe, Shyna Fernandes, Veronica Barretto, Rita Lopes and Vilsa Maravi. It commenced with the celebration of the Eucharist; the main celebrant was the Rev. Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay. The theme of the ceremony was 'Called To Love, Sent To Serve'. It was a meaningful witnessing, filled with trust in the joy of Consecrated Life.

**Congratulations to our Finally Professed Sisters!**

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Sparks Team

## Expanding the Service

Podoconosis was a neglected disease in Ethiopia and Nekemte Vicariate especially in the Konchi mission until the arrival of the Helpers of Mary in the year 2002. The sisters' arrival in this place has made a great difference in the lives of these people especially through this program. The Sisters took keen interest in helping these patients to heal their broken lives and to heal their wounds through different rehabilitation programs.

This year we had a great opportunity to expand our service to a new district as there were requests from hundreds of patients, the co-operation of the Bethany Priest of Siree of Nekemte Vicariate and with the collaboration of the local government we have started our program. It's heart breaking to know that hundreds of people had died because they did not get care and treatment. Now we have 438 registered cases that come to receive treatment every month. Those Patients who live close by

## Joy of Sharing

March 27, 2018 on the occasions of the 76th Birthday of our Congregation and May 6, 2018 the birthday of Sr.Stella Devassy Superior General, we had the joy of distributing food grains to 1000 families on the street of Andheri, Juhu, Jogeshwari, the slums of Malwani and Vakola. We visited the slums, streets and saw people living in such pathetic condition without even the basic fundamental requirements. They were excited and joyful to receive this basic food, household items and clothes. One of the women on the street told us that whenever we provide them with essential food items, their children have enough to eat. We also had the joy of distributing 500 school bags, stationeries, and clothes to the children in the slums of Malwani, Vakola and Andheri.

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**Sr. Regina Joseph** shm, Andheri



come every week to wash their feet and receive the ointment for application. It is pathetic to see people with so much infectious wounds living in this area. Today we are so grateful to our Superior Generals and the sisters who took this great initiative to begin the mission in Ethiopia as we are able to help thousands of people in our district and other districts reaching 60 kms areas. These Patients are so grateful for our service that they are praising and thanking God for the Marys in their midst.



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**Sr. Jacinta Carvalho** shm, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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## God Loves a Cheerful Giver



What more do we need in our life other than to see people smile always by our presence. Snehagiri, Karajgaon is situated amidst the Adivasi (Tribal) people. For guidance and help they come to us knowing in their mind that the Sisters are 'their own' and we are available to them for any part of the twenty-four hour day. I remember the words of Mother Anna Huberta when we give, we receive, we are the beneficiaries not them. Once I asked a little child who is an orphan "How do you become happy? The child replied "If I make others happy, I too become happy." So also us, our experience while we reach out to so many people, through our Pastoral, Social, Medical and Educational Ministries.

This year we have helped 30 widows to get them Government Scheme of the widow pension (Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana) their joy knew no bounds as they receive every month Rs.600/- each. We continue to carry on this good work of giving support to the widows and senior citizens.

We also have helped 20 Self Help Group women to get the Government Scheme for poultry. We were invited as an NGO by Pashu Saverdhan Department, Dahanu. The officer had explained to us about the Chicken scheme and it was handed over by the Snehagiri sisters to 20 women (10 each) costing Rs. 75,000/- The women were very happy to receive this scheme because it was a long process and a struggle to get this Government scheme.

On March 23, 2018 we distributed chicken (100 each) to 45 women of the Self Help Group of five villages; These will be given to 100 women. We are grateful to Fondazione Asha who has sponsored this project, which will support the Adivasi women for their survival. The women are extremely happy and they take care of the chicken in their own poultry. We feel the joy and inner satisfaction to see the poor smiling not only by giving things but by our presence that makes a difference.

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**Sr. Veronica & Sisters, Snehagiri, Karajgaon**

## Super Summer Camp

**"Life without fun it's a tragedy,  
Life without summer it's a Mega-tragedy."**

Yes summer season brings a lot of joy, excitement, adventure and fascinating fun in the lives of the children. So to make it more interesting the Asha Kiran Community centre had organized a summer camp for the children of Vakola, especially for children who could not enjoy their summer holidays due to poverty, lack of space and lack of facilities to have fun. This was a remarkable and unforgettable moment for these little children. This program was organized under the guidance of Sr. Patricia along with the staff and resource person.



As soon as the announcement of the super summer camp was made, many children enrolled themselves to Participate in this camp. There also were children from other areas who participated in this camp along with the Balwadi (nursery) children. The summer camp was conducted from 23rd to 27th April 2018 and the children enjoyed themselves and had great fun. We had wonderful activities like Yoga, Games, Dances, Sing Songs, making Best out of waste. We had debate on advantages and disadvantages of using Mobile. Every day, we had a variety of innovative programs for the participants. On the last day we had an exhibition of all creative things prepared by the children, followed with prize distribution to the winners.

The five days summer camp was really an exciting moment for all the children and they learnt new things. They were very happy to share their feelings and memorable experience with all. Mother Anna Huberta said, "You must be a tiny spark among others with your little spark you must light others and set them on fire". It was a time for the Sisters of Vakola to light the minds and hearts of our little children.

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**Sr. Velalicy shm, PremSeva, Vakola**

## Blessing and Inauguration of St. Anne's Provincialate

The blessing and inauguration of the newly built St. Anne's Provincialate at Waliv, Vasai took place on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018. All the Sisters were geared up to start afresh in the new building. It began with a prayer and Sr. Sulochana gave a short history of the birth of the Province. The unveiling of the plaque was done by the General Councillors Sr. Indumati and Sr. Seema. Sr. Stella Devassy, the Superior General cut the ribbon followed by the lighting of the lamp. Most Rev. Archbishop Dr. Felix Machado, the Bishop of Vasai Diocese officiated at the liturgy and blessed the house. During the cultural program all those who were labored to bring up this building was felicitated. Sr. Stella delivered an inspiring message and she congratulated the Sisters for this remarkable achievement for the Province and thanked all those who toiled hard to bring up St. Anne's Provincialate.

Sr. Asha, Provincial Superior thanked everyone very specially to Sr. Stella, our Superior General for her painstaking efforts for the last two years to bring up the Provincialate building. At the end all were served a sumptuous meal. May this new building – St. Anne's Provincialate be a home of grace and peace to all who enter and reside in it.



## Care leads to transformation

Making last days of dying as painless as possible is what home based palliative care attempt to achieve. Since St. Anna Convent started home based palliative care I was able to care a few patients who were referred to us. Though their span of life was too short they were able to have a dignified death without pain. The story of Mr. Jayesh (name changed) is an exceptional one. He was diagnosed with cancer of Larynx in the month of January 2018. Tracheostomy was done at RCC Trivandrum and was advised for palliative radiation and symptomatic treatment. He was survived by his wife and son. Management of a retired military man was very tough. His inflexibility and lack of faith in God interrupted the care he supposed to receive.



On 13th February Sisters from St. Monica brought him to our OPD. He was presented with physical and emotional issues which is common in the Palliative care patients. Breathlessness, loss of appetite, insomnia associated with bowel and bladder dysfunctions was more significant. Appropriate medical and nursing interventions were carried out. The effect of the palliative care was unexpected. We were in total surprise when Srs. Rohini, Elsa, Volunteer Jemimalar and I visited him. Today he is totally a changed person. He has not only regained his physical health but spiritual growth in abundance. He believes in God, became more human with his approach with wife, and the severities of his symptoms are almost nix.

I thank God for this ministry and the contentment as a caregiver. Do continue to pray for this mission as we have to explore more so that the ones who need our care may not go unnoticed and uncared.

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Sr. Naveena Antony shm, St. Anna convent, Nagacode



## Called to be Marys

It was a joy filled day as our four Novices made their first religious profession on the 31st May 2018 at Shraddha Vihar, Andheri. Sr. Stella Devassy, the Superior General received the vows of the newly professed Srs. Blessia Coutinho, Jackline Harnodkar, Rohini Chakranarayan and Monica Lobo. The Sisters from different communities, family members, friends and well-wishers were present for this happy occasion. We wish them all the best for their ministry and pray that in all their undertakings they may find joy and fulfillment.

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Sparks Team



## Celebration of 3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Chapter & New Leadership

It was indeed a time of grace wherein the Sisters reflected upon various aspects of our community, mission and prayer life. Chapter members spent time in prayer, discussion, and discernment around the theme on 'Being Marys Always'.

The policies arrived at the Chapter will enable to build spiritual strength in the members of the Provinces, recapture the spirit of being Marys always and bring the compassionate face of Jesus within the community and to the people whom the Sisters serve. The new Provincial teams will execute the mandates given to them by the Chapter for the term of three years to bring about the renewal required in the Provinces.

During the Chapter at **Snehadeep-Varanasi** from 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 the following leadership were elected:

**Provincial Superior:** Sr. Daisy Mulakkal

**Councillors:**

Sr Veena Chandra

Sr Meena Carvalho

Sr Lavina D'Souza



During the Chapter at **St. Anne's Provinciate, Waliv-Vasai** from 20<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 the following leadership were elected:

**Provincial Superior:** Sr. Amrita Jose

**Councillors:**

Sr Varsha Marti

Sr. Barbara Pallippatt

Sr. Annie Fernandes



During the Chapter at **St. Francis Xavier, Rivona-Goa** from 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 the following leadership were elected:

**Provincial Superior:** Sr. Philomena Fernandes

**Councillors:**

Sr. Rohini Dcosta

Sr. Rani Dasappa

Sr. Sneha Kuruthukulangara



## Condolences

Srs. Shanta & Suma Kurian lost their brother – May his soul rest in peace.