



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

Igniting **Sparks**

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 2017

Celebration of 25 Years of Loving Service



The Silver Jubilee of Anugraha Convent, Gundibala was celebrated on July 4, 2017, with immense gratitude to God Almighty and all who helped in the past 25 years. Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop of Karwar Most Rev. Dr. Derek Fernandes along with 14 Priests of the Diocese at the Remedies Church, Gundibala. In a spirit of thanksgiving, our Superior General, Rev. Sr. Stella Devassy, Provincial Superior, Sr. Rohini D'Costa, Provincial Councillors, Parishioners, Religious Sisters and SHM Sisters from various communities participated in the celebration. Coming together was the solidarity with the Sisters of the Helpers of Mary which in reality is the strength and wealth of the South Province.

During the homily the Bishop emphasized on the services rendered by the Helpers of Mary to the poor and living witnessing their life among the people of God. He congratulated the Sisters for their dedication and commitment to the mission. After the Eucharist, snacks were served followed by a cultural program and felicitation. It began with the Anthem of the Helpers of Mary. Sr. Suman welcomed the dignitaries and the children of Anugraha stole the hearts of all by their beautifully choreographed dance performance. All the dignitaries were invited on the dais and were felicitated with shawls and bouquets, acknowledging their great support to the mission. Fr. Stanley D'Souza spoke of his experience of working together with the Sisters and appreciated the pioneer sisters for their simplicity and humble lifestyle while living among the poor in ordinary houses and served them joyfully.

A short report of Anugraha was presented by Sr. Sharlet. Superior General, Rev. Sr. Stella spoke on how the mission has contributed to the development of the poor and remembered Mother Huberta, the founder whose 44th Death Anniversary we celebrated on this day. She thanked the sisters who served at Anugraha, appreciated friends especially Dr. Gabriele Venezky and members of LIFT for their continuous support.

Bishop Derek Fernandes spoke that everyone likes to work in urban area, where facilities are available but few accept to work in rural areas. The Helpers of Mary live their Charism where no one dares to go. He mentioned that the parishioners of Gundibala are fortunate to have the presence of the sisters in their parish for the last 25 years. He thanked the sisters for their kind support and their involvement in the parish activities. The program was concluded by paying homage to the founder Mother Anna Huberta through a dance, Ma Tuje Pranam. Sr. Philomena thanked all those who supported towards the success of this Jubilee event. Every one enjoyed the Uttar Kannada festal meal and bid Adieu.

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Sr. Philomena Fernandes, Anugraha, Gundibala

Appreciation



We appreciate Sr. Mathilda Fernandes SHM for her wonderful work of mercy in our parish. Along with the Postulants of the Helpers of Mary, she celebrated with us Parents day and also visited our Senior Citizens. Thank you very much for sending Sr. Mathilda Fernandes and team to our Parish. We are also really grateful to the Helpers of Mary for all your marvellous work.

Andrea Sequeira,
St. Blaise parish, Amboli,
Andheri West.



SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY - GENERALATE,

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Thank you Lord for your Bountiful Blessings

July 06, 2017 was a memorable day for the Sisters and Children of Maria Seva Sadan family. It was a day of joy and thanksgiving for the Sisters as the construction of the house was completed successfully. We were privileged to have Most Rev. Archbishop Fillipe Neri Ferrao to bless the house and our Superior General, Sr. Stella Devassy to inaugurate in the presence of the Provincial Superior Sr. Asha, Sisters from our various communities and other Congregation, Priests, Parishioners, Friends, Well Wishers and our Loving Children.



Great people are ordinary people with an extraordinary amount of wisdom, knowledge, commitment and determination such is our experience with our Superior General, Sr. Stella. With grateful heart we render our thanks to Sr. Stella who has been a driving force to accomplish this long awaited dream of having the Sisters' residence. We appreciate her for her keen interest, innovative ideas, constant visits and guidance that made a difference and it is a miracle that the construction work was completed within six months. Our sincere thanks to Sr. Amrita who visited the sites constantly and given the necessary guidance. Many hands make work lighter like many drops make ocean. We also thank Sr. Asha, our Provincial Superior and Sr. Smita for their support in preparing for the inaugural ceremony.

We had a solemn Eucharistic celebration followed by blessing of the newly built chapel and the house. The children staged a beautiful cultural program and made the evening colourful. This newly built home is a Platinum remembrance of SHM and Sr. Stella dedicated this home to the friendship of **St. Brigitta Vapi-Dappada**. We are indeed grateful to God for our generous friends who support us always. We thank God for everyone who came to make this day a beautiful and memorable one.

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Sr. Sarita & Sisters, Maria Seva Sadan, Dapada

RAKSHA BANDHAN CELEBRATION IN JAIL



Celebrations bring family together and build relationship. On 12th of August 2017 we, the Sisters of Anand Vihar celebrated Raksha Bandhan with inmates at Sub - Jail in Ahmednagar. The Jail Superintendent Mr. N.G. Sawant gave a warm welcome to the Sisters along with core committee members of Anand Vihar. We celebrated Raksha Bandhan to increase friendly relationship between brothers and sisters. In Indian tradition it is a day when brothers and sisters pray for each other's well being and wish for each other's happiness and goodwill. Through our celebration we worked to give them the assurance of family atmosphere.



The function started with songs, followed by a skit which brought joy to the inmate. The members of our women's group and the Sisters tied Rakhi to 300 inmates and distributed sweets to all.

The purpose of celebrating this feast in Jail was to make them feel that they are a part of our society. It was our effort to help and motivate them to look at life positively. As we were tying these Rakhis to them, the inmates expressed that like everyone else they too miss their families hence when we have people like you who understand us and give us your love and happiness, it makes our day bright and help us to change ourselves and to say no to crime.

We are very grateful to the Jail superintendent Mr.N.G.Sawant for permitting us to celebrate this Raksha Bandhan with the inmates.

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Sr. Shweta Dabre, Anand Vihar, Tilaknagar

Working with one heart and one spirit



This was the first time, the Our Lady of Sea, Madh Island, Mumbai - youth of the parish organized Women's Throw ball Tournament. Our girls of Prem Sadan – Madh Island were excited to participate in this competition. It was held in the Parish, competing with different parish zones. The bigger girls of the home who did not play at all, got trained within a week and participated in this tournament. During the day they went to school and late evenings would practice as this was a new game to them. The sisters kept encouraging them and boosted them. In this tournament it was the Prem Sadan girls who were the youngest in age. They did well up to the semi-final. To our girls it was a moment of joy as they participated with outside women and took a daring step to come forward. They worked hard as a group and developed the spirit of unity, self-confidence and learnt about their abilities to achieve. It was a joyful moment for the girls that they managed to learn and play before an audience. Many people came to cheer them and guide them as they were the youngest team and this was a first time experience in their life. We are proud of our girls who worked hard with one heart and one spirit during the women's Throw ball Tournament.

Sr. Joanita D' Costa, Prem Sadan, Madh Island

Tree Plantation



Tree plantation ceremony is celebrated every year in the first week of July. The main objective is to inculcate among the general public, the need to grow trees and preserve them. The children and sisters of Balwatika Dadra Mission were extremely happy to have this occasion and create awareness among the children on the importance of planting trees and make the environment eco friendly. We welcomed District Governor of Silvassa, the Honourable Chief Guest Mr. Sanjeev Kesarvani, Guests of honour Mr. Ramsinghbhai Desai, Mrs. Vidhi Rana and members of Lions Club of Silvassa. On this occasion our children put up a wonderful cultural program that added joy in the hearts of participants. The guest of honour in their speech encouraged our home and children. After the program we planted 100 trees.

Sr. Suman Pavartikaran, Balwatika, Dadra

RESULT OF 10TH AND 12TH CLASS 2016-17 OF SHM CHILDREN'S HOME

S.NO.	CENTRE	10th		12th		PERCENTAGE
		APPEARED	PASSED	APPEARED	PASSED	
1.	Anand Vihar, Tilaknagar	02	01	-	-	50%
2.	Anand Niwas, Shevgaon	08	08	-	-	100%
3.	Anugraha, Gundibala	11	08	-	-	72%
4.	Asha Sadan, Waliv	03	03	-	-	100%
5.	Bal Bhavan, Andheri	08	08	02	02	100%
6.	Balwatika, Dadra	21	18	09	09	90%
7.	Ma-Niketan, Thane	15	13	15	04	56%
8.	Maria Sadan, Dapada	04	03	-	-	75%
9.	Maria Sadan, Nirmal	01	01	-	-	100%
10.	Mukhta Jivan, Vehloli	-	-	06	04	66%
11.	Naya Jivan, Assangaon	07	05	04	04	81%
12.	Nitya Seva, Rivona	03	03	-	-	100%
13.	Prem Ashram Dumrikhas	01	01	-	-	100%
14.	Prem Sadan, Madh Island	05	05	02	02	100%
15.	Premankur Madharihat	03	03	-	-	100%
16.	Premanjali, Mysore	-	-	09	06	66%
17.	Shanti Dhama, Gundoli	03	01	-	-	33%
18.	Sneha Deep, Varanasi	-	-	09	09	100%
19.	Snehagiri, Gangangaon	-	-	10	10	100%
20.	Snehalaya, Jaferganj	01	01	-	-	100%
21.	Vimlalaya, Ghugri	12	10	-	-	83%
22.	Sandhya Deep Vadtal	01	01	-	-	100%
	Total	109	93	66	50	81%

We highly appreciate all our students who has performed well in their exams and we wish them good luck in their future studies

Eulogy to



As we gather here for the funeral -the final good bye to Sr. Shaila, it is our way of saying thanks to her for having shared her life with us in the Congregation, in our community, and in her family. A funeral is also the last act of love when the family share for its lost one. This is true in the case of Sr. Shaila as we have a large number of her family members gathered here. Of course I am worried for her mother who is with us. For the Helpers of Mary, we have one more member added to the Heavenly Community. Sr. Shaila was just 61 and as we know, death sweeps young and old its path. For Sr. Shaila, her suffering has ended; she has exchanged her life of pain for a life of happiness with God. She was very much part of our lives in Mother House. Now all we have is her memories, that flood back like the sunshine, the virtues and smiling face of the person we remember, as you might have seen these slides that's been gently flashed before you.

Sr. Shaila was born on 12th June 1956 at Uttan Pali to her beloved parents Magdalene Bhandari and late Peter Bhandari. She was the 3rd child among the 7 siblings - 3 brothers and 3 sisters. At the age of 23, she joined the Helpers of Mary and made the First Profession on 1st October 1979. Her commitment to the Lord was stamped during her Final Profession on 2nd Feb 1987.

Heartfelt Condolence

Sr. Jyoti Dhabi
Sr. Sneha Kuruthukulangara
lost their mother
May their souls rest in peace...



Sr. Shaila was a woman of prayer and deep faith. She was deeply devoted to Blessed Mother Mary. She had a pleasant smile always on her face, had no complaints and accepted gladly all that God brought on her way. As a dedicated sister, she served at Bhuigaon, Assangaon, Thane, Nirmal, Rivona, Bhadohi and Andheri Slum School. For the last 5 years she lived in Shraddha Vihar. Although she had health issues, she was always regular in teaching the children in slum school and family visitation. She was interested in the poor people in the slums. She didn't openly talk about her faith but rather, she lived it.

As I recollect the past days, she had home holidays in the month of May. Since her return, she was not too well. Prior to that, she had intermittent stays in the hospital both in Shraddha Vihar and Holy Spirit. On 25th July, she was admitted to Holy Spirit Hospital in the ICU as she had severe kidney problems due to her prolonged diabetes. On 29th she had her first dialysis which her body did not accept. On Sunday 30th she spoke last saying she did not want to eat. Later that evening she lost her speech and on 3rd August 2017, at 7.30 pm, she gently surrendered her beautiful soul into the hands of her Master and Lord whom she loved and served all the days of her life.

In her passing away, we have lost a member of our family, a community member from Shraddha Vihar - Mother House, loving companion to her batchmates, a sister to so many, a caring aunt and a friend. It was really providential that many sisters and her family members could visit her in the hospital. For a Christian who has suffered long, and who has died in peace and with dignity, has already lived the Gospel. For those of us who are left here on earth, today it's God's way of telling us, how passing is the world we live, and how short - the time we have here on earth

Our Lord on the Sermon on the Mount said Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted. This is our consolation; we know that there cannot be an end to all the goodness, concern, compassion, kindness and love of people when they die. These follow them all the days of their life and in to the Lord's own house. The cup of cold water given in the name of God has its reward. I am sure that for Sr. Shaila, the gates of Heaven are left open that she need not have to knock on the door. Goodbye Sr. Shaila, remember us when you are with the Lord.

(Speech given by Superior General, Sr. Stella Devassy, during the Funeral service of Sr. Shaila Bhandari on 4th Aug. 2017)