



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

Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

APRIL 2017

Two fold Blessings



The 75th Birthday of the Society of the Helpers of Mary was joyously celebrated on 27th March 2017 at Andheri. On this delightful day, we were fortunate to have His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias to celebrate the thanksgiving Eucharist, as He will not be able to join us on the Platinum Jubilee Closing Year ceremony on the 23rd April. On this significant day our new Generalate was Blessed at the hands of His Eminence which will be inaugurated on 23rd April at 9.00 am by Dr. Fr. Ernst Pulsfort.

In the year 1942 Mother Anna Huberta Roggendorf sowed a tiny seed in Mumbai. Since then it has been 75 magnificent years for the Marys in the service of Church and People. During the yester years, the boundless faith and generosity of our Pioneer Sisters and those that followed later saw the Congregation grow and spread its wings in India, Ethiopia, Kenya and Italy.

We fondly remember and thank all our friends and benefactors; both in India and abroad, whose generous support enriches us while we exercise our ministries. On this occasion we had a cultural evening, felicitated His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias and gave away the Mother Anna Huberta and Ms. Mary Dabre awards to the toppers from our Children's Homes. His Eminence highly appreciated the simplicity, commitment and services of the Helpers of Mary to the Universal Church, especially in the Archdiocese of Bombay. In appreciation he gifted a Cheque for the Reconstruction of the Bal Bhavan.

We thank God for making the Helpers of Mary worthy to reach out to the powerless and the voiceless especially women and children. We hope and pray that the Lord who travelled with us for the last seven decades will continue to accompany us in the years to come.

Medical Camp

Snehagiri Karajgaon, conducted a General Medical Camp for the tribal people. A team of doctors from Vadoli Dayanand Hospital was in attendance at this camp. About 140 patients with children, adults and senior citizens were the beneficiaries. Special cases were referred to other hospitals for the further investigation and treatment.



We are very grateful to the Dumebai Salu Memorial Trust Vasai, who sponsored the medicines and the Doctors and Staff for their selfless service.

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Sr. Sarika Cheruvathoor shm, Snehagiri - Karajgaon

Healing Ministry

On a sunny morning, Mrs. Pampa a twenty-nine year old woman having two children stepped in Premankur Nature Cure Centre. She was a patient of Kidney failure. She heard about our centre and came with a hope in her heart to be cured. With this heavy heart, she narrated her painful story, saying she is the only breadwinner and her family depends entirely upon her. With tears in her eyes she told me that she doesn't want to go for Dialysis, as she cannot afford the treatment and medication for the illness. I assured her of doing my best and I knew that God would do the rest. I began the nature cure treatment; she was very co-operative during the treatment. Miraculously, within 3 weeks her blood urea came down from 73 to 19. And her blood pressure and creatinine came down. She returned home with great relief and with a grateful heart.



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Sr. Rose V. V. shm, Premankur - Jalpaiguri



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BE BOLD FOR CHANGE



The International Women's Day was celebrated across the world on 8th March 2017. Every year the Women's Day celebrates a specific theme, and this year the theme was 'Be Bold for Change'. As women across the world celebrated Women's Day, the Suraksha Community also celebrated this day.

The Women's Day event was held on 9th March 2017 at Infant Jesus Church, Jogeshwari East. Women from all the communities, Mahila Mandals (Women's Groups), Bachatgats (Saving Schemes), young and old, made their presence felt at this celebration. The Helpers of Mary – Suraksha Community along with the women organized this event, which was a huge success both in terms of participation and also with the talent and skills on display.

The event began with a prayer song, a welcome song to welcome the women and the Chief Guests, Miss Upasana, a social worker for Zaffiro and Mr. John Gonsalves, a Writer and Educationalist from Vasai. It was a beautiful and colorful event with a number of dances. A group also presented a powerful Street Play based on the theme 'Demonetization' that displayed the problems of the common people caused with sudden

decision on demonetization. It was a play that touched the hearts of the women. Miss Upasana spoke about the strength of women and encouraged them to recognize their own achievements within and outside their families. Mr. John addressed the women to contribute equally to the community what they have received. He appealed to the gathering that we all must be selfless like the religious Sisters who go beyond and dedicate themselves in the services of others. At the closure, the Sisters presented certificates upon completion of courses in Tailoring, Cooking and Beautician skills organized in collaboration with the Brihammumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The women were extremely happy with their achievements obtained by regular classes and hard work. Sr. Anita Athade thanked all those who helped in organizing this event. The event ended with a prayerful thanksgiving dance followed by refreshments. It was an evening where all came together to appreciate their womanhood and realized their capacity to 'Be Bold for Change.'

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Sr. Anita Athade SHM, Jogeshwari

Art of Cooking

On 6th February 2017, Ashadeep Mahila Vikas Sanstha – Latur organized a Cooking Class for thirty young girls from Grihini and from the Nadhi-Hattarga village. To cook



is a necessity but to cook intelligently is an art hence we planned this class for the young girls to enjoy the art of cooking. Sessions were conducted in three batches in which the importance of cleanliness was explained. The girls were taught to prepare varieties of dishes. They were instructed how to market their products and develop customer friendly dealings. These sessions enabled them to understand the requirements of infinite patience and deep understanding and love for this subject. The girls expressed their gratitude to the Sisters for organizing this class, which will help them to earn their daily living and improve the social-economic status of the family. The girls were happy with the class and assured us that they would impart the same knowledge to the other girls.

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Sr. Jyotsna Rodrigues, SHM, Latur

Facilitating better services



It was indeed a great joy for the Sisters of the Shraddha Vihar Hospital to have the renovated hospital blessing on 20th March 2017 by Fr. Franklyn Mathias, the Parish Priest of St. Blaise. Superior General Sr. Stella, General Councilors and the Shraddha Vihar Community were present for the blessing.

Now we will be able to give better care and comfort to the patients. We are grateful to Sr. Stella and her team for their generous support in serving the suffering humanity and meeting the needs of the hospital. With a grateful heart we thank each and everyone and ask God's blessings for them.

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**Sr. Prema Miranda SHM,
Shraddha Vihar Hospital - Andheri**

Woman Is The Architect Of The Society

A Woman is the heart and architect of our Society. Sandhya Deep, Vadatal celebrated International Women's Day to mark this day. Our women often go to work in other's field to harvest potatoes. Though they have struggles in their families, they took half day off and came in colorful clothing with great smile to stage a short program. Sr. Tejna in her opening speech stressed the power of women as an architect in the society. They staged beautiful program. Mrs. Pannaben the Social Worker read the report of the Self Help Group(SHG) and mentioned names of beneficiaries of Bank loan facilities. Leaders from two group spoke on the privilege to be in the group to motivate others towards availing these Bank facilities and being members of the SHG.



The Chief Guest Ms. Kirtiben J. Patel, the Co-coordinator of 'Children's Legal Aid' spoke on the responsibilities of a Mother in her home. She said that 'a woman is a beautiful creation of God and she is complete in every sense.' She emphasized that mothers are the architect of their family, village and society at large. Sr. Anegha in her vote of thanks expressed her sincere appreciation to the women for attending in large numbers and Fr. Martinho for his encouraging presence. There were around 300 women gathered for the great event. Soft drinks and snacks were served.

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Sr. Anegha Kokkat, shm, Sandhya Deep, Vadatal

Yoga and Meditation classes

Mr. Sunil Kumar Roy - Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) of the Police department of Madarihat, requested us to train the Civil Volunteers Forces in yoga and meditation. Sr. Rose and I volunteered and for 20 days trained these personnels in yoga and meditation. It was a very successful program. They reported that it was very helpful and will continue in this practice to maintain their good health

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Sr. Neelam Mahala shm, Premankur -Jalpaiguri



Celebration of God's Providence

On the occasion of the Platinum jubilee, we had Rev. Fr. Martinho celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the Parish. Rev. Fr. Martinho enlightened the faithful on trusting in God's providence this was the hallmark of our Foundress Mother Anna Huberta.



At the invitation of the late Lordship Bishop Charley Gomes of the Ahmedabad Diocese. Sandhya Deep, Mission was started on 26th July 1985 in order to reach out to the poor and the voiceless. The Jubilee Year enabled us to reach out to more needy children, senior citizens and women. The Priests and Parishioners honored the Sisters of Sandhya Deep with flowers, shawl and cutting of the cake. About 250 people attended this celebration. On this joyful day we shared cake with everyone. Let the assurance of Jesus in the Gospel help us to have a firm trust in His Providential Care.

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Sr. Tejna Patel, shm, Sandhya Deep, Vadatal

Reaching God's people in the Prison



"I was in Prison and you visited me" Mathew 25:36. This Gospel quote inspired our Community to begin the Prison Ministry in the Platinum Jubilee Year. Anand Vihar community visited the

Sub-Jail and remand home at Ahmednagar. On our first visit, the Jail Superintendent, Mr. Sawant, welcomed and introduced us to the 304 prisoners. He spoke about the works of the Helpers of Mary and our purpose of visiting the inmates of the prison. I was given the opportunity to speak to the inmates personally and I could see the tears rolling in their eyes while they listened to me. They were open and eager to share their pain of being unwanted and rejected by their families. In such situation we want to instill hope for the hopeless and helpless victims and help them to secure hope in their Creator who has created them in his own image and likeness. We conveyed the message that God hates the sin but loves and forgives the sinner. I am grateful to Mr. Atul, the Social Worker who helped us get in contact with the Prison authorities. I am thankful to the Almighty for making me an instrument to serve Him in the prison.

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Sr. Shweta Dabre shm, Anand Vihar -Tilaknagar

DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Joy, happiness and love finds new address everyday and so it was this time at Deepanjali. On the 4th of March, at Deepanjali thirty-four girls were promoted to senior section and among them seven were rank holders in the school. They are Anisha Rani Kujur - Class I, Apurva Hansda -Class IV, Anantbela Bhuiya - Class VII, Shreya Gidh - Class VIII, Martha Goretie, Class - VIII, Nisha Kumari Yadhav - Class VI and Roshini Kumari - Class IX. It was a joyful moment for us as these children come from the interior villages of Jharkhand. In our residential home we care, develop and facilitate quality education. They are sent to Don Bosco School at Ranchi. Sr. Shanta and Sr. Ignacia gives a lot of time in coaching the girls and guiding them in their studies.



On the 11th March we shared our joy of the Platinum Jubilee of our Congregation with the senior widowed women of our area. They were forty in numbers. Sr. Lavina welcomed the guests and Sr. Shanta briefed them on our Congregation, Charism, Motto, and ministries and on her vocation, which inspired the women. Children staged a cultural program and two women spoke about their impression on the life and works of the Sisters at Deepanjali. They said that "the Sisters are a blessing in their midst". To them we are like their daughters, friends and guide. As a token of love, a small gift was presented to the participants. Life is full of joy, love, sharing that unfolds the package of hope.

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Sr. Lavina D'Souza SHM, Deepanjali - Ranchi

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

On the great event of our Platinum Jubilee, it's fitting to re-call the special words of Mother Anna Huberta. "There are no bad children, there are only unloved children". The shoemaker's children, school drop-outs, rag-pickers and poor children of the locality, these are the Bold and Beautiful Rose Buds of Nirmalalaya - Agra, who are blooming slowly and steadily. Its amazing, what these buds can accomplish, if we appreciate them. We feel great and encouraged to see how these children go to their school regularly, come home and work on shoe making for two hours, then in the evening they eagerly come running to our supplementary classes.



They learn with a lot of interest and today they are able to read and write. Appreciation, encouragement, patience and sacrifice have brought about these changes even in the slow learners. They just love to come to our support classes and the number of children has increased from 35 to 80. Games are held occasionally and monthly children's meets are organized. Above all a Hand Shake that's the highlight which radiates a joy and smile on every face.

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Sr. Marina Soares shm, Nirmalalaya - Agra

Wishing you a Joyous Easter
May the Risen Lord Bless you with
Peace and Love.

