



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

Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2019

A DECADE OF SERVICE

Mighty oaks grow from small Acorns. Helpers of Mary, Anna Maria our first community in Kenya at Nakuru was a baby ten years ago (2008) and now grown, standing tall and giving shade and beauty to hundreds of children and women who have entered the portal of this home. Congratulations to Sr. Ujwala, one of the pioneers together with Srs. Asha and Benigna for the courageous yes with which they began serving the people here and still continue to do.



I remember Archbishop Peter Kairo of Nakuru through the mediation of late Fr. George Grima from Malta MMJN who offered this mission for the Marys and Sr. Leela and Council approved to serve at this place. I personally visited this place along with Sr. Alphonsa, then the Regional Superior, in February 2008 and a new mission was born for the Marys in Kenya.

Many times, I have visited Nakuru and whenever I saw the Marys here caring for the little ones, I always remembered Mother Anna Huberta our founder who had a passionate love for little children. I can say with joy and gratitude to God that all the Marys who have rendered their service here have left an indelible footprint of God's love on the children and the people around.

From Nakuru, God blessed us to branch out to Kitengela and the preceding year - 2017 to Tanzania. I owe my great thanks to the vision and hard work of the Sisters here in Africa and the leadership team at various levels. I am amazed by the love, care and support that the Marys have received from the Diocese of Nakuru and from the people both government and the Church. Thank you for walking with us. May God bless us to continue what we are doing with great commitment and plenty of love to the years that are ahead of us. As our journey continues, may God bless us, Mother Anna intercede for us and Mother Mary protect us.

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Sr. Stella Devassy SHM
Superior General



SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY - GENERALATE,

Shraddha Vihar, Veera Desai Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400 058 Tel. 91-22-26766845 E-mail : sparksgeneralate@gmail.com

Anne Catherine Convent, Ambapani

The Helpers of Mary began their mission at Ambapani, Odisha on December 19, 2012 with the objectives of serving the people through Medical, Educational and Pastoral care. Srs. Manisha (S) Swati Kujur and Punam Ekka formed the first Community (Samarpan) and they stayed for 6 years in a rented home offered by Mr. Jerome Kujur the parishioner of Ambapani parish. Parish Priest Vijay Kerketta.

The Psalmist says, 'The Lord will build a house for us; and He will watch over our city'. Indeed the Lord has built a house for us through the vision of our Superior General, Sr. Stella and her Council with the generous support of our friends of Andheri Kinder und Leprahilfe Duermen e.V.

The work of the new Convent was started on the plot of land that was gifted by MSFS Fathers. Mr. Ewald and Mrs. Gerlinde Amshoff, whose close association with Mother Priscilla from Duermen gave birth to Andheri Kinder und Leprahilfe Duermen e.V – an organization that supported the Congregation over the years and now under the Leadership of Mr. Bernd and Monika Schmitz benevolently gifted this home for the Marys.

The community was renamed in honour of Bl. Anne Catherine Emmerich - a mystic, Marian visionary, ecstatic and had visible stigmatist. On October 03, 2004, Anne Catherine Emmerich was beatified by Pope John Paul II.



The New Convent Building was inaugurated on November 28, 2018 by Sr. Stella Devassy – Superior General, Sr. Daisy – Provincial, unveiled the Plaque and Blessed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Kishore Kumar Kujur, the Bishop of Rourkela, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration. After Mass there was a short felicitation program and a delicious meal was served for all. Around 800 villagers participated in this joy. We thank Sr. Stella and all the Sisters of the Congregation for the continual support and prayers offered for the fruitfulness of our mission.

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Sr. Padmini Puthenvelyil SHM, Ambapani, Odisha



Healing Touch of God

While serving the sick people during the past 20 years, I have realized that when we take one step towards God, He takes two steps to help us. Yes, often I have witnessed this powerful healing touch of God to the patients who come to our clinic. Our clinic caters to the needs of the poor patients including snake bite patients. Some of them are bitten by poisonous snakes or other venomous creatures like centipedes, scorpion, spider, wasp, etc.

Due to ignorance and superstitious beliefs some of the patients go to Ojha (Witch craft) for treatment and they either die or come in serious condition to our clinic. Mr. Vinod a snakebite victim came in an unconscious state. I was hesitating to treat him. His relatives forcefully brought him to our place as they had faith in our care and service towards the people and patients. I took quick action and the Sisters rushed to help me. While treating I prayed

earnestly to God and after a while the patient regained consciousness. It gave me and his family a great relief. We try to bring awareness among the people that snakebite patients need immediate medical attention instead of going to the witchdoctor. However, as they hear more frequently about lives being saved in our centre, their trust in modern medicine is getting stronger. This itself is our biggest achievement. Mariam Seva Ashram – Jignara is a well known mission for treating snakebites patients and is a huge relief for all poor villagers. Healing touch of God has helped me cure even the most hopeless cases. Many recovered patients from nearby villages return to the clinic to pray and thank Jesus for the miracles taking place in their lives.

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Sr. Severine D' Souza SHM, Jignara

New spring in the lives of women

Women are the home makers in our society. They are like an anchor, which is very essential for a ship to be stable, secured and grounded. In the same way women are great anchors in the society to build and to beautify. They enable families to stand still and face life with courage and hope when mighty and strong crisis invades the families. The Sisters of St. Mary's Convent at Tanzania began Our Women Empowerment Program with great enthusiasm. We have formed 6 Self-Help groups in Kikwe and in each group there are 10 members. With the help of the Catholic women's group we moved to another three villages and formed another 6 groups, each consisting of 15 members.

It is encouraging to see them so Vibrant, Energetic, and Transparent in their dealings. They meet once a week to plan, discuss and to deal with transaction of money and take a loans according to their needs. We have formulated certain rules for the better functioning of these groups and each member follows it diligently. The outstanding values about these groups are that they do their savings like other groups but each member contributes certain amount for other good causes like, education of the poor Children, for medical aid and food assistance for the poor Women and Children. At present we have 160 members who are the anchors of Kikwe society.

The Sisters of the Helpers of Mary expanded their work to the country of Tanzania on November 18, 2017. The Sisters have Medical, Social and Pastoral responsibility in the Kikwe region. We have completed one year of our presence in Tanzania and we raise our hearts in gratitude to the Lord for His marvelous love, protection and for His generosity that we received through his many wonderful people. We faced challenges that are making us strong in our faith and we believe that God is walking with us. We continue to seek to live in the spirit of Mother Anna Huberta and it is this spirit that keeps us United and Dynamic in the service of the poor. We thank each one of you for your prayerful support.

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Srs. Abhaya, Dominica and Emilia Kikwe, Tanzania



A Ray of Hope



New Year, new start, and a new chapter in life are waiting for us to be written. New Year brought a New Ray of Hope to Mr. Sarvesh and Mrs. Rani Devi who re-started their life with their family. Sarvesh and Rani Devi were in the district jail of Varanasi from October 2018. During our weekly visit to the Jail, we came across Rani Devi who was looking very sad, she had lost hope in life and was worried about her children. Rani opened up to us about her painful story of family dispute.

In the year 2007 a family dispute arose and criminal cases were filed against them under section 323 - voluntarily causing hurt, 324 - voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapon and 504 - intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, they were convicted and Jailed by the court of law.

Sr. Meena Carvalho took the initiative of meeting the elder son and inquired about the case however he did not know much about the case. All he wanted was that his parents be released. Sr. Meena assured him of her help and got bail in December. Tears were rolling down the eyes of Mr. Sarvesh and Rani Devi when they were released from Jail. They thanked Sr. Meena for being a guardian to their children and being a ray of hope in their lives.

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Sisters in Premal Jyoti, Varanasi



To All, the year 2019 may Serve as a Sunshine Leap of God's Truth in your Life and Inspire You to Live your Faith Each and Every Day.

BEING IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT WITH THE YOUNG AND THE OLD

On 17th December 2018, we celebrated EKTA DAY where 130 children of all religions gathered at Arunoday. Fr. Nilesh Parmar through a Power Point Presentation explained the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The children were given Christmas gifts. Sr. Surekha thanked all those present on this occasion. January 02, 2019 was a joyous day for the Senior Citizens at Sandhya Deep the Home for Senior Citizens in Mirzapur in the Ahmedabad Diocese. The celebration began with the Eucharistic Celebration by Rev. Fr. Nilesh and Fr. Sudhir. We were happy to have the presence of our Sisters of the Helpers of Mary - Sr. Anegha and her community from Vadtal. Some of our parishioners also took part in this program.

Games were conducted by Sr. Tejna and Fr. Sudhir and it was really a pleasure to see the smile on the faces of our Senior Citizens especially, Aunty Joyce Manuel Aged 92 years who took an active part in the games. Fr. Sudhir who works in East Africa and who was here on a holiday shared his experience of working for the nomadic tribes of East Africa. Listening to him made all of us realize the safe life we have here and the blessings of the Almighty. The food was sponsored by a well-wisher Ms. Tanvir Saiyed who served the Senior Citizens and all those present. We are grateful to

Mr. Deryk Manuel, Mrs. Martha Manuel, Mr. Allan and Mrs. Rose for sponsoring essential commodities required for the home. Their support made the home looked resplendent.



Our special thanks to Mrs. Juliet Fern, Children-Lynnleigh, Duvwaylon, Deightonlon and Tristanlye Fern for placing their trust in us and handing over the property for the destitute, needy and helpless Senior Citizens. 2018 will always remain as a cherished and memorial year for us. We pray that 2019 brings Peace, Joy and Happiness to those who have been constantly supporting us in our endeavour to make this home a happy and blissful dwelling for all those who are in need.

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Sr. Arpita SHM, Home for Senior Citizens, Ahmedabad.

CONDOLENCE



Our heartfelt sympathy to
Sr. Sunita who lost her sister
Sr. Jyotika who lost her sister
Sr. Veronica Tuscano who lost her brother
Sr. Pritibala who lost her sister



May their souls rest in peace