



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

Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MARCH 2017

50 GLORIOUS YEARS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE



In Celebrating the Joys of Today, the golden Memories of Yesterday and the Hopes of Tomorrow had filled the whole atmosphere in Shraddha Vihar in awe and wonder. We were privileged to partake in the glorious, Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of our Sr. Champa, Sr. Jagrani, Sr. Kanta, Sr. Karuna, Sr. Kulkanti, Sr. Purnima, Sr. Sarojini, Sr. Sheela, Sr. Sunanda, Sr. Sudha, Sr. Jaya, Sr. Kalyani, Sr. Latika, Sr. Lata, Sr. Priti, Sr. Shyama, Sr. Snehalata & Sr. Sumitra. The atmosphere was filled with jubilation, praise and thanksgiving. Our Jubilarians were led in procession with a musical band playing, along with 50 little girls holding their hands leading them towards the altar.

It was their deep faith that enabled them to live their lives in a variety of roles, which they fulfilled with love, dedication and responsibility. Most Rev. Felix Machado, Archbishop of Vasai diocese was the celebrant on this golden occasion. We had this felicitation for the Jubilarians to remember the services they rendered to the poor and needy. It was a wonderful moment to rejoice and celebrate together with their near and dear ones who came from far and wide. It was a day of thanking God the Almighty for accompanying them in their marvelous ways, all through these 50 years and keeping them safe, healthy and productive in His vineyard. God has done wonderfully well through them in the mission. Hearty congratulation to the Golden Jubilarians and we wish them good health and God's blessing to continue to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ in the years to come.

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Sparks Team - Andheri

We can make a difference



Everyone has a story to tell, a lesson to teach and learn and wisdom to share. We can make a difference because we can contribute. We went out to the slums and

made a difference by being and living differently. Some times in the process of learning we encounter success and hurdles. When a young one is born it starts learning - for example a bird learns to fly to achieve the goal of going out into vast world. But once it starts flying the bird enjoys greater happiness. We four novices Margret, Mini, Clara and Licy went from our protected home to a crowded and populated area to experience the life of the people in slums of Vakola, Santa Cruz - Mumbai.

There, our first step of every dawn was to stand in the presence of the Lord to face the daily struggles of life. As we visited the families in the slums we learnt that each person has their own life stories. Yet they invited us to their homes with a smile and shared their joys and sorrows. We shared a small house and cooked our own food. Water supply comes once a day and that too for few hours. With all these we realized how people cope the daily struggles of life.

We are grateful to Sr. Stella & Councilors who gave us this golden opportunity to reach out to the powerless and the voiceless. Sr. Maryann and Sisters motivated us and gave us an opportunity to help the children in the Kinder Garten and women through Self Help Groups. The exposure program has been an amazing time of grace for all of us.

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Clara, Mini, Margaret, Vela Licy (Novices Vehloli – India)

Our journey just began



We had an enriched time with families during 17 days of our exposure program in the slum of Dharavi. We experienced that little acts of kindness bring much joy and happiness. The greatest gifts we have received through people and Sisters are the gifts of love, joy, kindness, encouragement and forgiveness. We had a strong desire in our hearts to help people with the support of our Sisters who are working among the people, empowering them and lighting their lives. Our stay with the families will always remain in our hearts.

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Shobha, Gloria, Bijeshwari and Anjuni (Novices Vehloli – India)



SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY - GENERALATE,

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Shared Platinum Joy with children



It was a moment of great joy to witness the excitement of the children who were at Sandhya Deep on 28th January 2017 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Society of the Helpers of Mary in our community. The celebration began with the 'Saying' of our Foundress, Mother Anna Huberta. The children were excited to come together from the surrounding villages. Most of the time these children are left out without much care and lack love and attention as their parents are occupied in the fields, at the construction site and factories to earn for their daily bread.

Everything was planned meticulously for the day. Eighty-five children came to Sandhya Deep directly from the School. All of them were welcomed and preceded in a procession with lighted lamps, carrying the Icon of our Mother to the Hall. Sr. Tejna spoke about Mother Anna Huberta and her love for the Children. She narrated Mother's voyage from Germany to India, her vision to start a Congregation to reach out to the unreachable. She loved children, women and the poor in the villages and slums. Sr. Tejna Patel explained about our various activities those held in our centres. We served meal for all these children. Besides children there were women, grandparents and Staff of Sandhya Deep. They were gifted with school stationery and sweets. Hats off to the Sisters of Sandhya Deep Community who prepared the program and the meal. It was a day of joy and happiness. These Children went home with love, joy and good memories. May our Mother Foundress bless each of us to be a tiny spark at our Mission.

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Sr. Anegha Kokkat SHM, Sandhya Deep - Vadtal

Jubilee celebration showers life-giving memories

It was a time to rejoice and to look back with gratitude to the Lord for the 25 fruitful years of humanitarian service in the mission at Madanpur. The Community of Asha Kiran celebrated the Silver Jubilee with gusto and great joy on 18th Feb. 2017. Rt. Rev. Gerald Almeida, the Bishop of Jabalpur Diocese celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Priests and the Religious from the Bichhiya Denary joined us on this joyful day. We were extremely glad to have our Superior General Rev. Sr. Stella Devassy and Provincial Sr. Daisy Mulakkal, Sisters from different Communities and our Parishioners participated to celebrate the past. Children from Ghughri and Madanpur along with the parishioners organized a colourful program depicting the Tribal Culture. Sr. Daisy the Provincial released the Evaluation Report of the Centre.



On this significant occasion Sr. Stella Devassy in her keynote address congratulated and appreciated the Sisters for their dedicated services rendered in Madanpur mission and wished that it be ever illumined and guided by Jesus who always brings rays of hope for all in the years to come. Bishop Gerald Almeida called upon the families to intercede for vocation and encouraged young people to respond to serve God. He highly appreciated the dedicated services rendered by the Sisters in this remote place empowering and reaching out to the powerless and the voiceless. He was deeply moved by seeing the medical services rendered to the patients. The Pioneer Sisters of Madanpur and the special Guests were honoured with a shawl and flower bouquet. A fellowship meal was served to everyone. It was a memorable and elevating event for us.

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Sr. Malti Cherussery shm, Asha Kiran - Madanpur

A ray of hope in helpless time

God is master of our life and our life is designed according to His plan, when human being cooperates, God can work miracles in each one's life. He puts the broken pieces together and makes it into a beautiful masterpiece. This is the real life story of a widow from a village in Vengurla. Bastin Fernandes is a widow having two children a son and a daughter; she lost her husband at young age. She was completely broken and without any means of survival. The Sisters visited her and seeing her desperate situation gave her material and moral help and convinced her to join the Self Help Group (SHGs). She started going for daily wages and educated her children. Now she is a regular member of SHGs. In 2016 August she took the government loan of 90,000/- to start a poultry farm. With her determination and hard work she managed to pay back the loan. In the month of May she settled her daughter in marriage. She is grateful to God for the wonders he worked through the SHM Sisters. Today she is a guiding star for the other members, encouraging others to bring hope in the hopeless situation.

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Sr. Sulochana Mendes, Matruchaya, Vengurla

Responsible Citizen

Sr. Mathilda Fernandes SHM, actively motivated members of the Ashadeep Community Centre of St. Blaise Parish. Together with AGNI she organized an Election session on 2nd Feb, 2017. Spokesperson Ms. Glenda Almeida highlighted why Mumbaikars should vote in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Election on 21st Feb. 2017. Around 80 women who gathered in the St. Blaise Church Hall were empowered to take a firm step forward and vote for better functioning of the BMC to provide adequate services and to have an empowered and accountable government. We are grateful to Sr. Mathilda for all her contribution in empowering the people and taking a step forward.

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Ms. Monica Dias,
St. Blaise Church, Amboli - Andheri

Live In Experience Program

Every second brings a fresh beginning, every hour holds on a new promise and everyday is what we choose to make out of it. During this LIVE IN EXPERIENCE program, we had an opportunity to visit Hansen's disease patients in a colony at Kanyakumari. It was a touching and moving moment. This colony at Kanyakumari consists of around 50 families of such patients and cared by the Sisters of Stella Maries. Some of the patients are disfigured while others are crippled. On 17th December 2016 at Catholic Religious of India (CRI) level, a group of 17 Sisters, Priests, Brother from various Congregations and from 6 vicariates participated in this gathering.



Here we witnessed the realities of life, of people who were living in utter poverty, sickness and rejection from the society. When the Tsunami hit them in 2004 they ran to the forest to save themselves. They had lost everything they had possessed. Later on they returned to their native place with nothing and had to re-start all

Faith Heals

After my training as General nurse this was my first experience, serving the patients in Shradha Vihar Hospital. I was glad to serve these patients who came with different ailments. Our tender touch, gentle smile, loving approach and concern while treating them brings a great consolation, healing and comforts to every patient who enter our Hospital. On the occasion of this Platinum Jubilee of the Foundation of the Society of the Helpers of Mary, Shradha Vihar Hospital along with the Mother House Community initiated free cataract surgery for 20 patients. We appreciate all the Sisters of Mother House who contributed their personal allowances and also collected contributions from their own families to conduct these cataract operations. The patients have received their sight and thanked God for giving them such wonderful Sisters, Doctors and Staff.



I admire the generosity of Sr. Leena Nazareth, the in-charge of this hospital and the team who were kind and compassionate towards the poor patients. For me it was a time of learning, sharing and self-giving. I thank God for calling me to be a Helper of Mary to reach out to the poor in love and service.

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Sr. Vilsa Maravi shm,
Shradha Vihar Hospital - Andheri

again to regain their normal life. We were touched by the services rendered by the Sisters who were like guiding stars bringing light in the darkened lives of the people. Our experiences in the mission further motivated us to become another Mary to reach out to suffering humanity.

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Srs. Darshana Madappilly & Leema Mary,
Anna Home - Nagacode

A day with Senior Citizens

The 18th of February was an important day for us as we had experienced the blessings and appreciation from fifty-five Senior Citizens of our Parish and neighbourhood who gathered at our Home. It was a blessing to be surrounded by them. We welcomed them with an Aarati and Bhajan.

The program began with the SHM Congregation Anthem followed with a short introduction on our Mother Anna Huberta. One of the elderly from the parish appreciated the work of the Sisters at Sandhya Deep for the past years.



We conducted games and distributed prizes. It was a moment of grace to have them in our midst. Most of them live alone and feel neglected as their children are shifted to secure better jobs. We had a fellowship meal together and they left joyfully promising to pray for the Congregation.

Sr. Tejna Patel, Sandhya Deep - Vadtal

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Reaching out and Transforming Lives



Mukhta Jivan Community had taken the initiative on 19th Feb. 2017 to reach out to the Tribal Community. Ms. Jyoti the resident of our neighbouring village 'Warli Pada' (Tribal hamlet) who was the recipient of the 1st prize in the running-race and high-jump at the local school as well as the inter-school level competition in Thane district, was honoured by the Sisters and appreciated her for outstanding skills in sports. This was done in the presence of the entire village community as they were invited to Mukhta Jivan to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Congregation. It was a joyful evening and privileged moment to host the function for the special people living on the edges of the society. Children and adults were given gifts and refreshments. Sr. Maria Fernandes delivered the message on Platinum Jubilee of our Congregation. The photo of our three pioneers Sr. Imelda, Sr. Zita and Sr. Monica was displayed to show the origin of our Congregation. Sr. Seema expressed that through this program the Community is taking initiative to reach out to the children, youth and adults of this hamlet. It was inspiring to see how all the participants were moved and expressed their gratitude for initiating this program.

On 24th Feb, 2017 a colourful party was organized for the construction workers of Mukhta Jivan in honour of the Platinum Jubilee. Gifts and snacks were given to them as a token of love and appreciation.

Sr. Seema Pidiyath shm, Mukhta Jivan - Vehloli

Society of the Helpers of Mary

Cordially invites you to join the
Grand Finale of the Platinum Jubilee Year on
Sunday, 23rd April 2017

4.30 p.m. Holy Mass Celebrated by
Rt. Rev. Bishop Alwyn D' Silva,
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay

