



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

Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 2018

SUN RISING YEARS, SUN SHINING LIFE

On June 29, 2018 the feast of St. Peter and Paul our sick and elderly sisters made a solemn entry into the newly renovated house 'Little Paradise' at Shradha Vihar, Andheri and on June 30, 2018 to Shanti Niketan, Waliv. A short gathering was organized on this occasion, which began with prayer, followed by the words of appreciation, after that the sisters were felicitated with garland. Sr. Stella Devassy our Superior General appreciated and acknowledged their amazing contributions for the growth of the Congregation over the years. They have worked for so many years in different missions, have faced various hardships specially in the initial years of the Congregation. The missionary spirit that they carried with much love and enthusiasm enabled them to be part of any culture and people to live and to give Jesus. The passionate Spirit of Mother Anna Huberta moved them to reach out to many needy people. She thanked them for the beautiful and exemplary life that they lived and are living as Helpers of Mary. These Sisters will spend the evenings of their life, gracefully, comfortably and peacefully, and now they have plenty of time for prayer, specially for the Congregation, friends and needs of the world. During the Holy Eucharist we prayed for them and thanked the Lord for the gift of our senior Sisters.



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Sr. Nancy Silva shm, Generalate, Andheri

Lost and Found – A miracle in Mumbai



My name is Ruben and I was an exchange student in Pune. In the last two weeks of my stay in India I was living in Andheri with the Helpers of the Mary and was watching and learning of their beautiful work with the children and poor in the slums! One day I went out to the Post office to send some postcards. Unfortunately, when I got off the rickshaw I realized that I was missing something. My iPhone had slipped out of my pocket and fell in the Rickshaw. I immediately asked some local people to help and call on my phone number, so the driver or a passenger would answer the phone, but nobody was answering the phone. We tried to track the phone, but it was gone. Everybody told me "This is Mumbai, you won't get it back, better that you buy a new one." I felt bad as all my friends' contacts and all my photo memories were in that phone. When I got back to Andheri I told Sr. Regina about the loss of my iPhone. She too told me that there was no chance of getting it back, however we called persistently. Finally, a woman picked up the phone and told us that her mother had found the mobile in the Rickshaw but could not handle or answer it. However, she and her mother were in Andheri and honestly and sincerely gave back the lost phone. It was a miracle for me to get back my mobile. Mumbai is an amazing city and even more amazingly with beautiful and friendly people.

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Ruben Raul, Germany



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A JOYFUL JOURNEY WITH AN UNDERPRIVILEGED MASS

Slow, steady and prolonged success brings abundance of joy. This year our prime focus was on the Mushaar community. We are passionately working and visiting them time in and out, this gesture of us has won a special place in their hearts and they have learned to trust and confide in us. We assure our constant support and encourage them never to give up. We are grateful to God for blessing us with resources and capacities, which has the ability to make a difference in the lives of these poor, and less privileged people in our society. Our passion for our mission with the Mushaar people plunges us to challenge and take risks to fight for their good cause that is to get their land in their name. The Mushaar people are inhabitants of that land for the past 100 years, due to their poverty and ignorance they remained uncivilized. Private Companies and Builders in the name of developmental want to grab this land. With our constant strive we could reach 70% of possibilities of getting this land in their names. We are still continuing to work with them.

It was also for the first time on June 18, 2018, when Sr. Preeti Bhagaji accompanied two little girls out of the boundaries of Rajpura Mushaar Basti to study in the class of 3rd and 4th. The Mushaars have taken this challenging step to send their daughters to regular schools, is one sign of growth. All these years they were studying in the non-formal school but now they attend regular school and stay in our residential school at Dumri. We can find in them a movement of change.

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Sr. Amulia shm, Snehadeep, Varanasi



DISCOVERING ONESELF

Ignorance towards my true self is something I lived with for a long time. It means finding my purpose in life, introspecting deep into my childhood and revealing the experiences that shaped me to be good or bad. The journey of my life however is not always an easy road; it has been a mixed one with all the ups and downs. Deep within myself I have realized that this journey of mine is impossible without the guiding hand of God. The period of my stay at Ryshivana, the renewal centre has given me a lot of insight

DELIGHTED WITH JOY

I am, Telma Costa residing at Nitya Seva Niketan, Rivona, Goa completed 10th standard from Our Lady of Fatima High School. I was very much delighted and overjoyed with the SSC results in 2018. I stood first in the school with 86% marks. My eyes were filled with tears of joy when I saw my results. I have no words to thank the Sisters of the Helpers of Mary for the wonderful opportunity they gave me to live and study in Children's Home in Rivona. I specially thank Sr. Prerana Dias for all the encouragements and support I received. Fr. Anthony Melwin, Principal of the School and Fr. Archie, who were my guide and inspiration.



I came to the Children's Home, Rivona in the year 2016. In the beginning it was hard for me to adjust with the many numbers of children here. Then I realised that when every turn in life goes against us, then we have to hold on to anything that offers a ray of hope. I put my whole heart into my studies. I was very much focused and engrossed in my studies. I also started participating in competitions and took part in extracurricular activities and received trophy's in the school. I Even participated in the science **Olympiads** and badminton. My school teachers inspired me and I was able to gain my self-confidence and trust to move ahead. Sr. Prerana also guided me to participate in these programs and activities, which gave me lot of positive boost. I owe my special thanks to the Sisters of the Helpers of Mary. The success that I've had in my school is due to their support and backing. I appreciate you so much and value everything that I have learned in Rivona. Dear Sisters thank you for being my role models.

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Ms. Telma Costa, Nitya Seva Niketan, Rivona

into myself. Every session has helped me to improve spiritually, emotionally and psychologically. Above all, the time spent in reflection and prayer has brought me to a realization that God loves me as if I am the only one in his creation. I thank God for the spiritual accompaniment given by the professors and my companions who were instrumental in making my life beautiful for God and others. I am grateful to Sr. Stella and the council for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



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Sr. Yogini Renjar shm, Andheri

WOMEN'S GROUP

In the year 2016, with the help of Sisters the Women's group was formed at Nagacode Parish. Since then this group has regular meetings, every Sunday in which the women are asked to share their personal experiences and are given tips on how to handle difficult situations in life. These meetings are concluded by praying for all those women who have faced violence in any form. The group decided to celebrate women's day by arranging a seminar. Sr. Naveena arranged the session on 'health related issues mainly Cancer faced by women. A women's health is an important topic that has been neglected in the past. Their health issues deserve much attention like men since health care matter impact women differently than men. Cancer falls in as the second leading cause of death among women. Accordingly Resource persons were arranged from the Diocesan Nursing College.



The Day was celebrated with great fervor and zeal. The program began with a welcome address followed by a brief introduction of the Resource persons. The sessions was focused on the health concerns of women, like prevention, treatment and the warning signs of Cancer, diagnosis process and treatment. Everyone was encouraged to give more importance to homemade food and the use of natural resources. Srs. Sadhana and Leema too were present for the program. The group thanked Fr. Sudharsan, Parish Priest for his constant support and Sr. Naveena for motivating the group. Such occasions gave women an opportunity to celebrate the valour and inner strength of themselves. We are reminded once again about our mission "to reach out to the powerless and the voiceless, especially women and children and empowering them".

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Sr. Naveena Antony shm, Nagacode

GOD'S MARVELOUS WORKS

Since 27 years, The Helpers of Mary are rendering their service in the Mandvi mission for the upliftment of tribal community through education, empowering women, and income generation projects. Being a political and communal sensitive area the Sisters faced many challenges, difficulties and even risked their life during the course of many years. One of the continuous problems that the sisters faced was the issue of the land. Eventually, with a lot of phone calls, door knocking, paperwork, prayers and perseverance, the issue was resolved by registering the land in May 2016. After registering the land, the sisters were struggling to get the 7/12 since last two years. There are a number of documents required to buy property and to ensure if the asset is legally free of any claims or litigations. One such documents requirement in Maharashtra is the 7/12 extract.

June 06, 2018 was a remarkable day for us in Divya Jyoti, Mandvi. After a long wait the officers arrived to survey the land. Sr. Amrita Jose, newly elected Provincial of St. Anne's Province and Sr. Reshmi Almeida, the General Councilor were present during the survey. Mr. Shedmake, the Talati and his associates measured the land. After a long legal procedure, hard work and prayers we obtained the 7/12 extract and transferred the plot in the name of the Society. We thank God for the marvelous work he has done. Now we have our own land and we will continue to serve the people with much enthusiasm and commitment. Our faith in God is what sustained us and enabled us to go through challenging times and today we realize that God had a greater purpose in our struggles. We are truly grateful to Sr. Stella Devassy, our Superior General and all the Sisters for their prayerful support.

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Sr. Suchita Viegas shm, Mandvi



RESULTS OF 10TH & 12TH CLASS FROM OUR HOMES

S.NO.	CENTRE	10th		12th		PERCENTAGE
		APPEARED	PASSED	APPEARED	PASSED	
1.	Anand Vihar, Tilaknagar	05	01	-	-	20%
2.	Anand Niwas, Shevgaon	09	09	-	-	100%
3.	Anugraha, Gundibala	07	05	-	-	72%
4.	Asha Sadan, Waliv	10	10	01	01	100%
5.	Bal Bhavan, Andheri	07	07	05	05	100%
6.	Balwatika, Dadra	15	14	04	04	95%
7.	Ma-Niketan, Thane	22	20	09	09	94%
8.	Maria Sadan, Dapada	15	15	-	-	100%
9.	Maria Sadan, Nirmal	04	04	-	-	100%
10.	Mukhta Jivan, Vehloli	08	07	05	05	92%
11.	Naya Jivan, Assangaon	31	21	12	10	72%
12.	Nitya Seva, Rivona	10	09	-	-	90%
13.	Prem Sadan, Madh Island	03	03	01	01	100%
14.	Premankur Madharihat	01	01	-	-	100%
15.	Premanjali, Mysore	-	-	11	11	100%
16.	Shanti Dhama, Gundoli	07	05	-	-	71%
17.	Snehagiri, Gangangaon	-	-	09	09	100%
18.	Snehalaya, Jaferganj	02	02	01	01	100%
19.	Sandhya Deep Vadtal	01	01	-	-	100%
	Total	157	124	58	56	83%

We Congratulate all our students who has done well in their exams and we wish them good luck in their future studies.

GIVING HOPE WHERE THERE'S DESPAIR



“Life laughs at you, when you are unhappy, Life smiles at you, when you are happy, Life salutes you when you make others happy.” It was a great opportunity for me to visit Mangal Jadhav who is a bedridden patient for nearly three years. Mangal is 37 years old. Soon after her Masters in Commerce, she lost her mother and then suddenly within 15 days she lost her father. After her parents death she lost hope. Her brothers did not support her and started to torture her mentally. They wanted her to work, but she was unable to get a job according to her qualification. She went through a lot of tension and turmoil and this affected her health. She got paralyzed and lost her memory. Now for the last 3 years she is completely bedridden, but her faith in God

has kept her alive. She believes that “**Jesus will never fail me**” he will heal me completely. Two of her brothers are in good job, one in fact is a doctor, but they never pay her a visit. The brother with whom she is staying is very poor. She is just thrown outside the house where she is not comfortable and safe. We the sisters of Anand Vihar tried to take her to doctor for treatment but the Doctor has given up hope about her recovery as she is affected almost 75%. Sr. Shweta took her to civil hospital at Nagar to obtain

a Handicap certificate. Now she has the disable certificate and receives Rs. 3000 per month for her maintenance. Mangal is very grateful to the sisters of Anand Vihar. She always tells us that our constant visit gives her hope in life. Whenever we go to her we find tears of joy and gratefulness on her face.

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Sr. Margaret Diggakar shm, Anand Vihar, Tilaknagar



Condolences

Sr. Lalita Aloor lost her sister
Sr. Carmina D'Costa lost her father
Sr. Punita Thanipilly lost her mother
May their souls rest in peace