



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

Igniting Sparks

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 2016

Walking in the Light

Each year the festival of light offers a variety of events and workshops around the theme of light. On this occasion the Proclamation Commission organized a two days workshop at St. Pius College, Goregaon. It was indeed a great insight for us to participate and experience this sense of solidarity.

There were 384 participants. All the inputs and sharing of testimonies were mind blowing and it has enriched our lives. The visually challenged people expressed their strong opinion saying, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me" was inspiring. They encounter God in their day to day living. It reminded us that God is the center of our lives and without Him life is incomplete. Each one is called upon to promote life and love. Walking in the light eradicates darkness and this was proved at the sharing sessions. The Lord has given us the light to shine in this world; all we need to do is give our life in His hands and work to reveal the compassionate face of God through works of mercy.

The 29th of October 2016 was a remarkable day for The Society of the Helpers of Mary. His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias of the Archdiocese of Bombay honored the Helpers of Mary during the festival of light expressing appreciation and gratitude for all that the Helpers of Mary have done in the field of Evangelization. Rev. Sr. Stella Devassy, our Superior General was presented with a Shawl and Memento. It was an awesome moment for us to be recognized and appreciated for our dedicated efforts at this August gathering.



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Srs. Maryann Devassy & Nisha Veigas shm

New Vehicle for Snehalaya

It was indeed a joyful moments when Snehalaya – Jafarganj community received a new Vehicle under IDP (Integrated Development Program) project



sponsored by Manos Unidas through Diocesan Development and Welfare Society, Nainy, Allahabad Diocese. The Community is grateful to our Congregation for their immediate response to our request and supporting us to build garage for this vehicle. The Vehicle enables us to reach distant places and remote villages that lack travel conveyance. We can carry out our activities and various programs for the poor more effectively. We thank God and all those who support us in this venture.

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Sisters of Snehalaya, Jafarganj, Uttar Pradesh



SOCIETY OF THE HELPERS OF MARY - GENERALATE,

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A time together



We, 34 Junior Sisters from different parts of India had come to Andheri, Mumbai to reflect and nurture our Vocation. 'Vocation is a gift from God' was the theme for this Juniorate Program. Religious Vocation is a call, an invitation from God for a particular Mission. It signifies a divine choice originated in God's Love for the person called.

During this one month program we had an opportunity to reignite ourselves in the spirit of Mother Anna Huberta and be renewed in our charism. Topics like Different Prayer Methods, Core values of Religious life, Gospel of Mark, Mother Anna Huberta A visionary for our times, Spiritual Direction, Integration of Sexuality and Celibacy, etc. helped us to see the inner beauty of Consecrated Life as Helpers of Mary. The enriching topics, discussion, sharing and key note from Sr. Stella Devassy, our Superior General helped to be daring and vibrant Marys. It was a joyful moment of coming and learning together.

The program culminated with a fruitful retreat and renewal of our Vows. We are grateful to Rev. Sr. Stella Devassy, the Superior General and the Councilors for the wonderful opportunity given to us to evaluate our Spiritual, Community Life and our Apostolate, to interiorize and re-assimilate the Charism and nurture the traditions of SHM.

We appreciate the Sisters of our communities for taking over our responsibilities for a month. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Priya Paulose, the Junior Directress for her guidance and support at all times.

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SHM Junior Sisters (India)

Cleanliness drive at Vakola, Mumbai

Sisters of the community at Vakola were involved in the Cleanliness Drive held at Vakola, Mumbai. The Asha Kiran the CCO of St. Anthony's Church organized the cleanliness drive, an awareness rally, on 27th of October 2016. It began from the main three areas - from Vakola Police Station, Gaondevi Police Station and the Head Office of Asha Kiran. The mobilizations for this Rally started a month ago. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Police, Government Officers were informed about this drive. The authorities of BMC and Corporators sent some of their staff and cleaned a few areas. The women of Self Help Groups worked with great zeal. Morning hours were spent in cleaning the places, garbage bins and drainages and in the evening all participated in the Rally. There were more than 250 women.

During the rally Mrs. Qutub Kidwai and Mrs. Tulip Miranda, both lawyers and women activist spoke to promote peace and equality among human beings. They emphasized in caring and protecting the nature and species. The cleanliness drive created awareness and was an event of success.

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Sr. Maryann - Prem Seva, Vakola

Diwali Celebration with Prisoners

The Diocese of Varanasi celebrated the festival of light among the women and men of the prison in Varanasi. Being familiar with the persons, together with the Sisters of other Congregations we organized this celebration at the District Jail on 29th October. Young inmates of the jail decorated the place with flowers, lamps and Rangoli. We organized games for the young and elderly women. Most of them participated and winners received prizes. It was a day of celebration and joy. After the celebration bananas and chocolate were distributed to the inmates. Sr. Meena thanked the jail authorities for their cooperation and support.

On 30th Oct.2016 we also celebrated Diwali at the Central Jail. We began our program with a bhajan sung by the jail inmates. The Jail authorities thanked us for our active involvement. We greeted the inmates and jail authorities with a cultural program and distributed sweets to all.

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Sr. Meena Carvalho, Premal Jyoti, Varanasi

Diwali Celebration



On 28th October 2016, Premal Jyoti, Varanasi School celebrated the festival of Light. Sr. Avila and teachers designed a colourful Rangoli in front of the School. Sr. Meena Carvalho explained and emphasized on the importance of Diwali, the festival of light. She highlighted on issues like child labour, of children who are involved in making crackers and deprived of their education. She expressed her concern towards the degradation of our environment. The fireworks at Diwali cause pollution and releases hazardous gases into the atmosphere and in the long run menacing our health. She encouraged the participants saying, let us adapt eco-friendly ways and do our bit to protect our Mother Earth. The Children were excited to receive Diwali sweets and their happiness brought cheer to our hearts!

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Sr. Avila Pinto shm, Premal Jyoti, Varanasi

Children's day celebration

On 14th November 2016 children's day was celebrated at Snehalaya. Children from nearby villages came in big numbers. Around 350 children participated in the celebration. We conducted dance, singing and Rangoli competitions and organized games for our students, coached in five different villages.



Celebrating the lives of children

Kripa Academy for Skills centre, commemorated the Children's day on 14th Nov. 2016. Srs. Nisha & Cecilia along with the staff organized a five days program with various activities and competitions like drawing, reading, essay writing and games. Documentary films were screened based on moral values with the collaboration of Public Concern of Governance Trust (PCGT). The team from PCGT gave inspiring inputs and taught how to respect parents, teachers, elders, friends and every citizens of our country. They instructed to inculcate moral values at a young age that forms the character of the person. The Chief Guest Sr. Amala Tekam in her speech further emphasized it on Children's day. She quoted Mother Anna Huberta, "There are no bad children! There are only unloved children" and "When you are sad, see where you can make others happy".



The children and paramedical students staged a colorful entertainment program to mark the day. Prizes for the winners and gifts were distributed. The children were overjoyed and thrilled to receive it. Let's promote rights of children unitedly!

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Sr. Amala Tekam SHM, Andheri

These Children took a lot of interest to put up this program. Teachers prepared the children very well for the competitions. The winners were excited to receive prizes at the end of the program. It was an opportunity to build confidence in the growing children.

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**Sr. Snehal Karten,
Snehalaya – Jafarganj**

Twin Celebrations in African Region



26th Nov. 2016 was an exciting day for us in the African Region. Four Candidates Abenet, Meserat, Kavato & Walate joined the Postulancy (pre-novitiate). On this joyful day we thanked God for nurturing their Call and accompanying them in their first stage of Formation.

Our Junior Sisters, Srs. Alemitu, Martha E, Martha G, and Tadelu renewed their vows on the same day during the Eucharistic celebration at Regional House, Addis Ababa(Africa).

As heirs of foundress Mother Anna Huberta and being the young members of SHM family, our spirit and charism demands to live fully in the service of the poor. We thank God for our formees for taking a daring step to be Marys - to go in haste to reach out.

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Sr. Jacinta Carvalho, Regional House, Ethiopia

GOD'S GRACE IN THE LIFE OF HIS PEOPLE

The news of the one year Catechetical training at Kenya soon after our First Profession came as a big surprise. When we started to attend this classes there were mixed feeling with anxiety, challenges of language, food, culture and climate. We prayed and sought God's strength to cope with situations, encouraged each other and began seeing challenges with a positive note. We began to concentrate in our studies and found God's hand working in and through us. Taking things positive is the best way in life; it helps us reach to our aim and gives us peace of mind.

The loving people of Kenya helped us in many ways; especially our Sisters in Kenya encouraged and guided us to continue our studies. Truly it is God who walks with us always, He never leaves those who trust Him and ever ready to answer to those who ask Him with hope. We recalled the challenges on Graduation Day. We thanked God for helping and working in us. He is faithful to His promises.



We completed our study successfully. We are very grateful to Rev. Sr. Stella Devassy, our Superior General and Sr. Jagrani former Regional Superior and Counselors who organized this training. We are indebted to our teachers who put knowledge in our minds.

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Srs. Aster, Meselech, Bizunesh and Tarikua, Ethiopia

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his generosity.



Our Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt condolence to :

Sr. Vibha Martis who lost her mother
Sr. Elsa Antony who lost her brother
 May their souls rest in peace.

