

FMA  
TRICHY



# SNOW.COM

September - December 2017

## Reason for the Season







***THIS JUBILANT NEW YEAR MARKS  
A FRESH NEW START OF BRIGHTER  
AND MORE EXCITING JOURNEY.  
I WISH THAT YOU WILL HAVE  
THE MOST ENJOYABLE RIDE EVER!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018**

Sr. Mary Margaret Amalanathan FMA  
Provincial-INT

# ASSIST

***Auxilium Synergy Source for  
Integrated Social Transformation***



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## *He Stooped to Conquer*

*"Grace is God loving, God stooping, God coming to the rescue, God giving himself generously in and through Jesus Christ." - John Stott*

Jesus was rich, for our sake He became poor! The eternal Son of God stooped to conquer our sins. He took on our lowly human nature, He gave Himself to suffer and die, all to turn God's wrath away from us. Brothers and sister, boys and girls, God did this all for us! He died for us, that we might now live for God!



Jesus is prone to stoop. He stooped to wash feet, to embrace children. He stooped to pull Peter out of the sea, to pray in the Garden. He stooped to carry the cross. Grace is a God who stoops. He stooped to carry the cross. Grace is a God who stoops.

THE greatest mystery of our faith -- is the incarnation of Jesus Christ our Savior; the coming in the flesh of God's only begotten Son, our Lord.

It is one of the greatest mysteries of the faith because we who are human can never quite understand how it is that the eternal Son of God could take to himself human flesh; how the divine nature could take on the human nature; how the glorious and majestic Son of God could take to himself human weakness and frailty – coming in the form of a helpless baby.

That is the marvelous mystery of Christ's incarnation – of His human birth: the Glorious Son of God humbled himself and took on our lowly human nature – all for sinner's sake. As he stooped the Humiliating Reality of Christ's Birth took place in the history of the world. As he conquered sin the Glorious Benefit of Christ's Birth was realized.

And now this same Lord comes to you and me, and he measures our gratitude, Christ measures our devotion to Him our thankfulness for what he has done by seeing if we are willing to do the same to others.

Let us praise God for His indescribable gift! My His mighty hand hold us and lead us in this New Year 2018

*Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi FMA*

### **Editorial Team:**

Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi  
 Sr. Ambrose Little Flower  
 Sr. Devasagayam Maria Joice  
 Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy  
 Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jenifer  
 Sr. Joseph Prettencia





# Missionary Impact

He said to them, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)*

Sr. Auxilia shares her journey as a missionary in South Sudan

## ☀ Dear Sr. Auxilia please share about your life in the family.

I was born and brought up in a happy family. My family is a gratuitous gift of God who is good to all and at all times. We were eleven children- six daughters and five sons for our parents. My dad Joseph Amal and my mum Rajathi were exemplary parents. They were of one mind and heart in bringing us up with their example of faith, patience and good relationship. Three girls from the family became Salesian Sisters - Sr. Magdalane, Sr. Annie and I, another sister joined the Sisters of St. Anne, and one sister Sagayamary is a lay Auxiliaries of Apostles and two elder brothers are married and one younger brother is unmarried.

The childhood experience that I still cherish is that as a joyful family we prayed together, ate together, enjoyed certain moments like visiting the annual exhibition, circus and watching some good movies in the theater and we also shared few moments of misfortune together. Moments of character building were mingled with sense of humor that made these times lighter.

## ☀ What motivated you to become an FMA?

From my childhood I had the desire to give myself to God in the religious life. When I was in class 9 our Sisters came to my parish for three days vocation camp which my sisters Annie and Sagayamary participated and I did not participate but I went on the last day only to see the film of Mother Mazzarello. Later Mother Helen Fernandes sent the life of Laura Vicuna in Tamil, a medal of Laura and a short loving note through my sister, Sr. Magdalane FMA. Mother Mazzarello's cheerful life with the children and teenagers of Mornese and the life of Laura lived with our sisters in our boarding that had the family atmosphere attracted me to join the FMA.

## ☀ Who was the source of inspiration for your missionary vocation?

As an Aspirant I had the desire to become a missionary and I chose books on our sisters' life for my spiritual reading. I was greatly inspired by the life of Mother Troncatti. Her life lived in the missions, the



Good night thoughts of our Pioneers - Mother Teresa Merlo and Sr. Consiglia Tarricone in the Novitiate and the sharing of the Juba Mission in Sudan (at present South Sudan) by Fr. Tony De' Souza SDB when I was a Novice strengthened my desire. I opted for the missions when our Mother General Mother Marinella Castagna asked Sisters for Africa Project. My application was accepted and I was and I am very happy and grateful to God, our Blessed Mother, our Superiors and Sisters for my Missionary Vocation.

☀ **What was your experience and feelings when you first stepped into Ethiopia?**



When I first stepped into Ethiopia I was happy and enthusiastic to serve young people as they were open and delighted to be with us in the oratory which was our only apostolate at that time in the community of Sacred Heart Home in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.

I was glad to be in the community with the multi-national Sisters. The faith, spirit of hospitality and solidarity of the people of this land were great inspiration and remarkable one which impressed me a lot.

☀ **How did the people respond to you?**

In the initial stage they resisted the education of girls. As they gradually became convinced about the power of education which would enable them to have a dignified life by eradicating poverty, they wanted to educate their children who were the first generation learners. Since all Ethiopians are expected to complete their primary education as per the Millennium goals, many adults are learning their lessons with enthusiasm and pride. Don Bosco's first apostolate was oratory and Oratories are flourishing till today. Our Oratories are filled with 250 to 500 children and young people. As they are getting educated in academics and Christian life they are improving in their response to the initiatives of Sisters.

☀ **Please share an unforgettable experience in your mission land.**

There are many experiences. Let me share just one experience about the Kindergarten Registration in one of our schools. It was my second year



in Ethiopia and the first year in the mission of Zway in the Shoa region. At 8.00 a.m. on the day of registration I went to the office with Sr. Giuseppina Boldi (Animator of the community) and Sr. Anna Opezzo (Sister responsible for the Kindergarten). There was a very long queue of children standing with one of their family member. Amidst them there was a tiny little child without anybody and holding tightly in her little right hand the fee for registration. When she reached the desk, Sister asked her, "Who has come with you"? Bruktait answered, "Nobody. I have only mother. She is in the market and told me to go and register. Here is the registration fee". Looking at the child my eyes were filled with tears. Sr. Giuseppina told me to go home and come after some time. I said to myself how at this tender age (4 years old) this little one has to face the realities of life. She was admitted in the Kindergarten and she was regular to school with great joy.

### **What would it mean to embrace the periphery?**

To embrace periphery is explicitly Cristo Centric. It means to share what we can share: gestures of goodness, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, acts of justice and what we have: time, talents, knowledge, goods, money, our unused ambient with materially poor children and young people, marginalized by the rich starting from our locality gradually to extend to other places. As Salesian Sisters to do these above mentioned together with our young people so that their joy may be complete is embracing the periphery.

### **What is your message for the young Sisters?**

The young Sisters should allow themselves be transformed by encountering the person of Jesus in their life and in that of others. They should be with Mary who is present in our life and in our houses as a guiding mother filled with filial love. Learn to give lavishly and live abundantly for we have received freely and so we are called to give freely, cost what it may. Let us be Missionaries of Joy and Hope with the young, journeying with them along the way of holiness. Let us accompany each other with our prayers.

*Sr. Auxilia Rodriguez*

Missionary in South Sudan



# "We encountered HIM on that day"

Transformed by  
the Encounter

*A* College Circular announcing that the students who failed to pay the Semester fees after the due date with fine will not be allowed to appear for the Final Semester examination was displayed. This was one of the usual circular notices which we never bothered until it touched our skin.



The usual evening fun and laughter in the Hostel room disappeared that day and we were indeed stunned to see one of our beloved roommates named Reshma, crying pathetically. After a long silence she told us that she had not yet paid the final semester fees and there was no way that she could afford to pay it within that given two weeks. With tears she explained that her father who was the only breadwinner of the family could not earn enough as a coolie fisherman to run the family. Further, nothing of those valuable goods of the house could be sold too and the family was already suffering with excessive debts.

We, the roommates and other 10 of my friends who belonged to different religions but lived in the same Hostel and used to come together to my room to read and pray with the Bible every evening were feeling helpless regarding the situation. As Reshma was my roommate, we simply trusted and turned to Jesus to seek His help. It was a Thursday evening when we implored Jesus' Mercy and compassion for our Reshma to meet her needs. We hoped that she must get the money miraculously, for the family had all the doors closed to do so. At the end during the prayer we were inspired to read the particular passage from the Bible: "Today I declare that I will restore to you double" Zech 9: 12 we read and believed and some of my friends of other religions were curiously expecting to see this miracle saying "Nothing is impossible to Jesus."

Meanwhile it was announced that the hostel would be closed that week end and all the hostlers should submit the leave form on Friday itself. Reshma was restless and anxious and I continued to console her and asked her to believe in Jesus. The next day evening we wished each other and left the hostel. As we were reaching the bus stand to take a bus for our home town, we heard from some of her relatives exclaiming that Reshma's father was a lucky man to get such a coolie within a day! For they said that the owner of the fishing boat along with Reshma's father and two other helpers went for fishing and that Friday early morning there was a fish which got into their net. Since the fish was very big, the four men could not manage to pull the net out. They decided to let the net loose and to let the fish go out of the net. But the fish was not moving so after much difficulty and with the help of the other boats men they managed to drag the fish till the shore. The news spread everywhere in the village and that fish was sold for some lakhs and her father got the coolie which was exactly double the amount of the fund that Reshma was in need of.

Praise be to Jesus whose promises are ever true and His love is everlasting. Our simple prayer with faith was answered astonishingly and indeed this great miracle helped us to understand that "God's ways are incomprehensible; our faith in God intensifies when we invite Jesus into our lives and our faith in God is strengthened by the evidence and grounded in a transformed life."

-Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy



# Tit Bits from our Houses

## Keela Eral

### “FILIAL ATTACHMENT TO BL. MARY, BRINGS HEAVEN DOWN”

The month of October specially dedicated to Our Lady of Rosary was celebrated with great love and fervour. Our campus was filled with the fervent vibrations of chain Rosary - the beautiful tradition embedded in our Salesian congregation. ON Staturays Rosary was animated by the four committed groups. The candidates initiated the first week's animation, remembering and praying for the special intentions of Sisters, Teachers, Hostellers, Students and Workers. Marian group offered the Rosary more creatively for all the communities in the INT Province by surrendering each house under the maternal protection and loving care of Blessed Virgin Mary. At the end of October, everyone in the hostel gathered and prayed the Rosary focusing on the following themes:



**Mary, the Gate of salvation for young souls**

**Mary, the fountain of God's grace.**

The young girls with great trust offered their petitions at the feet of Mary. The Mother of God being lovingly surrounded by her poor children irrespective of religion was a unique experience on that day.

*Sr. Joseph Pretencia*  
Keela Eral

## GT Marialaya

### INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PREVENTION OF OZONE LAYER

In order to commemorate the International day for prevention of depletion of the ozone layer, Marialaya organized a Community level rally on 16<sup>th</sup> September '17 at railway colony around 3:30 p.m. The day was mainly intended to create awareness on Ozone Layer Depletion - Causes, Effects and Solutions. Children from Railway Colony and Bharathi Nagar sang a song on the importance of planting trees and the disadvantages of deforestation.



Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya stressed on the cause, effect and solution, for the depletion of Ozone Layers. Sr. Sebastiar Caroli - the Project Coordinator spoke about the importance of nature and its impact.



The programme concluded with a Rally around Railway Colony. More than 150 children participated in the awareness campaign. Mrs. Menaga, the Community Organizer delivered the vote of thanks. The programme concluded at 6:00 p.m. with tea and snacks.

## **BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS**

Marialaya in collaboration with YWCA organized an Awareness Program and a Medical camp on Cancer on 6<sup>th</sup> September'17 around 11:30 am. The Camp was conducted in the Marialaya Auditorium. The aim of the program was to help the vulnerable women who cannot afford expensive procedures and medicines. The programme commenced with a prayer song. Mrs. Shanthi, Counselor of YWCA briefed the process of medical checkup.



Dr. Sargunam, explained about cervical cancer and the possibility of curing it if it is identified. Giving a statistical data, Professor Dr. Thangam defined cancer, its

types, causes, symptoms and the procedure in its treatment. He displayed a video clipping on the life of a successful women suffering from Cancer. The participants were exhorted to take Gardasil vaccination to prevent cancer. The participants who were examined were informed that the result would be given within fifteen days. The meeting concluded with awareness and resolution to spread the word with the neighbors.

*Sr. Sebastian Caroli*

## **Vadakku Paganoor**

DANCE FESTIVAL India is a land of varied cultures and traditions. Each region of the country has a unique culture which is also prominently visible in its various art forms. The folk dances in Tamilnadu are performed on every special occasion and festival to express elation and joy. But in this modern era the traditional dances are disappearing due to various reasons. So the Schools of Manikandam Union had decided to bring back our traditions and cultures. The first effort was to celebrate folk dance festival on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017. St. Antony's R.C. Aided Primary School – Vadakku Paganoor got the first chance to perform folk dances such as Devar Attam, Mayilattam, Puliattam, Paraiattam, Kurathiyattam, Kummi, Kolattam, Oyilattam and Bharathanatyam in the Government High School, Edamalaipatti Pudur.







Forty five students performed the dances. Mr. V.Tamilselvan, the District Elementary Educational Officer was the chief guest and seventy five Headmistresses of various schools were present for the dance festival. Mr. Marudanayagam, the Additional Elementary Educational Officer of Manikandam coordinated the programme. The Chief Guest and all those who were present appreciated the students and Mr.Marudanayagam presented gifts for all the dancers for their wonderful performance.

*Sr. Santiagu Celine*

### **“Gratitude Comes from the Noble Heart.”**

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.” Says Melody Beattie. 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 was a memorable day for the Community of Vadakku Paganoor as they joyfully celebrated the Gratitude day and the Feast of St. Mary Dominica Mazzarello. The Chief Guest of the Celebration was the Most Rev. Fr. Amalraj Susai SDB the Former Provincial of Trichy. He solemnized the Holy Sacrifice of the

Mass. The Boarders enacted the Spirituality of St. Mary Mazzarello and thanked the Lord for the Members of our Salesian family as they lighted the Kuthu Vilakku. The Priests and Sisters from nearby Communities took part with joy and fervour in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After the Holy Eucharist the boarders felicitated the audience through various dances and skit. The participants were grateful to have had the joy of celebrating the feasts with the community as one family.

### **Celebration of 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Missionary Expedition**



The 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first FMA Missionary Expedition was celebrated with all the Educating Community Members, Women group, Vides, Parents, Past Pupils, Boarders and the Sisters. Sr. Arulandhu Savari Stella animated the meaningful prayer service on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Sr. Santiagu Celine the Animator of the Community delivered the speech on the first missionary Sisters and their effort in establishing the Kingdom of God. She exhorted the audience to be little missionaries wherever they are by bringing the light of God's love to the people. The Boarders presented a short cultural programme. The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets.

*Sr. Vishwanathan Sujatha* Vadakku Paganoor





## Manikandam

### BIBLE WEEK - "YOUNG PEOPLE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT."

#### SACRED HEART NOVITIATE – TRICHY

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." Jn. 1:14.*

In order to make the Word of God as a lamp to our feet and light on our path, the Bible Week was celebrated from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 2017 in the Novitiate at Divyadhanam, Manikandam - Trichy. The theme of the Bible Week was, "Young people faith and vocational discernment." The magnificent week began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration where the Bible was solemnly enthroned and garlanded. Each day's homily during Church service, Good Night message was focused on the theme: The Call of Abraham, the Call of Jeremiah, the Call of St. Paul and the Call of Our Blessed Mother.



The Bible week was an occasion for us to express in a practical way our gratitude for God's Word. Each one found time to read, assimilate, pray and live the Word of God. The

celebration of the Bible week helped us to transform ourselves in to a living community and living temple of God. The climax was the adoration during which we meditated, reflected on how to be the missionaries in the place we live by carrying the Word to everyone and sharing our joy of being with the Lord and by living His Word.

Among the activities suggested were: The creative presentation of the groups through different liturgical animations, songs, games, dramatization, memorization of Biblical quotations, invited us to strengthen our vocation to become authentic missionaries of hope, joy and peace.

*Sr. Adaikalam Rekha  
Sr. Anthony Samy Renuga*  
Second Year Novices

#### CHRISTMAS AT THE ORATORY

*"God is indeed with us".*

*To make known this truth visible to all,  
To make known the invisible Love of God visible to all,*

To make known the 'Babe of Bethlehem' present in the most needy, we invited all the Oratorians of the three oratories of Ambethkar Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Manikandam and the Catechism children of the Nagamangalam Parish to take part in the Christmas celebration held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Divyadhanam, Manikandam. The celebration commenced with a short prayer service and proceeded with various programmes presented by each oratory in the form of dance, songs, skits and debate on the theme 'How we



need to show our love and care to Jesus present in the vulnerable'. Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela the Animator of our Community articulated, 'The Joy of sharing at Christmas' in particular one's own time, talents and strength with the others. She also offered the family of Mr. Francis and Mrs. Sagaya Mary as an example who sponsored generously their money for the use of the poor children of our Oratories. The children were very attentive to hear the message of Christmas and they assured that they would surely celebrate the Christmas meaningfully than the other years. The Novices also gave a programme on 'Meaningful celebration of Christmas' which was very interesting and edifying. After the lunch with joyful hearts the oratorians thanked and wished everybody 'Happy Christmas' and set out to their homes. We were happy to make them understand that God is present where there is sharing and caring.



*Sr. Thirukumaran Tamilselvi*  
Second year Novice

## **WORTH Trust Christmas Celebration**

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017, we, Divyadhanam community had the Christmas celebration by sharing our joy and love with differently-abled and less fortunate youngsters of God at Worth Trust in Manikandam -Trichy. After the cordial welcome given by the Manager, the celebration started with prayer service, followed by the message of Rev.Sr. Anthoni Cruz Michaela, the Novice Mistress. In her Christmas message she emphasized that Jesus was born poor to share His love and to bring joy to all. She invited everyone to share their time, talents, abilities and works in order to celebrate the Christmas in a meaningful way by being an instrument of joy to others. Then the Novices enacted a short skit on the theme of 'Sharing'. The skit invited everyone to share with the have not our time, love and materials for a meaningful celebration of Christmas. We sang the carols to fill the air with music and joy. The students understood the message and were grateful for our presence. Finally as a sign of sharing the joy of Christmas we had the fellowship meal with them and distribut a small gift. The joy of Christmas filled the hearts of all.

## **CHILDREN'S DAY**

Immense was our joy at the dawn of 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017, to have the Children's day for our oratorians, organized by Sr.Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi, the Social Development Co-ordinator and Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy the Coordinator of the NCP. 105 children from three oratories: Manikandam,



Gandhi Nagar and Ambedkar nagar gathered together to celebrate the Children's day on a grand scale, with Sr. Anthony Cruz Michaela the superior of the community of Divya Dhanam as the Chief Guest who motivated the children with a short story highlighting their strength and their rights. It was a different experience to have some of the parents of our oratorians as guests for the programme. The children expressed their deep joy through various programmes like dance, song and pyramid.

Interesting games were conducted for the children which imparted the importance of their rights. The children actively participated in the program to make the day a joyful event. We were very happy to see some of our oratorians' parents Mr. Rajini and Mrs. Baby who wished and encouraged our children by their inspiring words. After the program all were happy to pose for a group photo and distributed the lunch pack to the children. It was indeed a very meaningful programme both for the children to understand their rights and for the parents to safeguard the children so as to enjoy their rights.

## **Tanjore**

### **140 YEARS CELEBRATION AT TANJORE, INDIA.**

*The seeds of the Kingdom values  
are sown in everyone!*

The commemoration of the 140 years of the first missionary expedition of the FMAs was celebrated in a grand

and meaningful manner on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017, in Thanjavur the place where the first FMA Missionaries arrived on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1922.



Jesus' mandate to His disciples to go out and proclaim the Good News to all nations, Don Bosco dream inviting him to turn the wolves into lambs through loving kindness and Mother Mazzarello's vision: 'I entrust them to you', were memories that were recalled and lived today in the celebration of this great day. The special bidding of Goodbye by Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello to the first six youthful missionaries at the port of Genova was beautifully enacted. It was held in the presence of the entire assembly of the school that consisted of children and youth numbering almost 2240 of different religions like Hindus, Muslims and Christians who appreciate the work of the Salesian Sisters. Thus reaching out to the poor in the peripheries as Prophetic Missionaries, is lived by the FMAs at Thanjavur despite any differences in religion, caste, and creed. It is commendable to witness the mission at Thanjavur extended with great fervour in order to spread God's Kingdom even in this small city of Tamil Nadu. Certainly the



missionary zeal of the early FMAs which surged them to go to unknown distant lands has been set ablaze in India too which relishes the sweetness of the fruit of the mission and charism here. The young girls were indeed grateful for the evangelizing education and the values imparted to them. The celebration has been very meaningful causing a renewal of spirits with great missionary fervour to continue, to reach out to the peripheries.

In the twilight, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated solemnly in the presence of the recipients. The introduction gave a heavenly feel of sanctity when the first six missionaries to Uruguay introduced themselves followed by the first six pioneers to India who spoke few words on their life and mission here. It moved the hearts of all in gratitude and praise to God for the marvelous works in the life of our Institute. The celebrant Rev. Fr. Barnabas SDB brought out vividly the history of the missionary life in both SDBs and the FMAs and encouraged the young girls gathered to have a missionary vocation. He emphasized that it was the duty of every baptized Christian to proclaim the Gospel and reach out to the poorest in the peripheries. The event celebrated has left indelible marks in our hearts.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF AUXILIUM CENTRE, THANJAVUR

### BOARDER'S ANNUAL RETREAT (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017):

The Catholic Boarders of Thanjavur numbering around 130 had a renewal of their Spiritual life with the participation in the Annual Retreat held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Three Salesian Priests - Fr. John Baptist, Fr. Barnabas and Fr. Alex preached the retreat for the boarders in three different groups. Morning Prayer, meditation, Adoration and Holy Eucharistic Celebration were held separately by the preachers. At the end, the Boarders made a good confession. The retreat helped the boarders to be refreshed both spiritually as well as physically. Thanks to Sr. Soosai Magnificat, the Animator for making all the arrangement to avail an experiential retreat for the children in the Boarding.

### COMMUNITY GRATITUDE DAY (27<sup>th</sup> October 2017):

The celebration of the Gratitude day was a beautiful experience of family spirit, love, and joy in the community. Preparations were in full swing a month ahead. Captivating themes were chosen for the four weeks.

**Week I – 'Vision of Contemplation'** facilitated the community to contemplate God's creation with its beauty, magnificence and grandeur.

**Week II – 'Vision of Memories'** helped the community to recall their families



that nurtured their faith, love and hope.



**Week III – 'Vision of Future'** enabled them to create a family atmosphere and offer the young hope and life.

**Week IV – 'Vision of Joy and Celebration'** encouraged them to rejoice in each other's presence and celebrate their uniqueness.

All these practices have helped the community to admire and appreciate the uniqueness of each and every Sister and be grateful to God and one another. The vigil service, Holy Mass and the programs at schools, boarding and hostel were an expression of love and gratitude by all the students, staff, workers and the educating community members. The celebration has proved that the joy and family spirit are excellent proof of our identity as Salesian sisters.

## **FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The preparation for the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady began in line with the thought - "With Mary most pure, we are secure". During the Novena days, the introduction to the Holy Mass was given in a very ingenious manner in collaboration with all the Boarders. Each group did

their utmost best to express their unique love for our Lady. The evening Rosary too was animated for the Boarders with new and creative initiatives. After the nine days of preparation, during the liturgy on the day of solemnity, the apparition of Mother Mary to Bernadette was enacted. Sharp at 12 noon, the students of both the schools gathered in front of Mother Mary's image splendidly decorated and the scene of the beginning of Salesian work by Don Bosco was staged and a Hail Mary was fervently prayed by all the students gathered.



The Catholic staff of our Schools along with the sisters spent the holy hour in the chapel as recommended by the church following the model already given.

In the evening, all the Boarders, Hostellers and Residential Staff together with the Sisters numbering 341 in all, went for a beautiful Candle Light Rosary Procession to every corner of the campus entreating the Blessed Mother to protect each and every one from all dangers. All of them prayed for the intentions of the Community, Province and the whole world. The celebration of this feast has renewed the spiritual vigour within each one to live a life of sanctity imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary.



## OCTOBER - MONTH OF ROSARY

*“The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight.”*

*“Where the Rosary is recited, there will be days of peace and tranquility”.*

Such was the confidence in the hearts of all, as the month of October dedicated to the Holy Rosary began. The month of October is special to every Hosteller and certainly it can be called a month of holiness. In Auxilium Youth Centre, the 150 Hostellers fervently prayed the Rosary each day, putting across many intentions, based on specific themes and thus sought the blessings of Mother Mary by honouring her. Every day, the statue of Mother Mary was placed in a room of the hostel to enable the hostelites to feel her presence. With intense zeal, the Hostellers of either one or two rooms joined together to decorate their room in the most beautiful and pleasing manner, to welcome Mother Mary into their rooms.



Every evening, the Animator and all the Sisters joined with the Boarders and the Hostellers and prayed the Rosary with great enthusiasm and love for the Blessed Virgin Mother. Each day, the Group that animated the prayer, decorated the statue creatively, conducted games, enacted the mysteries and presented some gifts to the winners in the games. The Rosary was concluded with the Goodnight

thought given by the Hostellers. They shared their life experience and the miracles that took place through the intervention of Mother Mary. It revived the faith of the participants. At the conclusion of each day's Rosary, the Animator Sr. Magnificat shared the holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mother and carried her statue to another room in the hostel. The inmates of that room offered special prayers believing that the whole night will be filled with blessings on them, their families and thus they may be safeguarded from all danger. This month of Rosary was indeed very special to all the Hostellers.

*Sr. Nirmala Rani,*  
Tanjore

## Madurai - Sirudur

### COOPERATORS - NEWS BITS:

Mr. Peter Arockiasamy, one of the Cooperators noticed a girl going to school on foot covering a long distance from her house. His heart was moved to compassion as he noticed her struggling to walk for a long time. He sought the help of the Cooperators in his unit. Mr. Manohar , a Cooperator from Puthur came to the rescue and gifted a bicycle to Usha Nanthini a student of standard X , daughter of Mr. K. Bagarajan and N. Chandra on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017.





## KABADDI MATCH

The second Kabaddi Match was organized by the Salesian Cooperators of Auxilium Convent, Madurai on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at Auxilium Matriculation School ground, Madurai. The General Organizers of this very special event were Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam, the FMA Delegate and Mr. Peter Arockiasamy, the Local Coordinator who carried out the task so meticulously and systematically thus marking this day as a remarkable one.



The event began with a meaningful prayer service and was inaugurated by Mr. P. Moorthy, B.A, M.L.A. Mr. Benedict, a Salesian Cooperator welcomed the gathering and the dignitaries were honoured with a shawl.

Students from Lady Doak College, American College A and American College B, Auxilium Higher Secondary School, Lourdu Annai Higher Secondary School, Annamalaiyar Higher Secondary School and Joe Britto Hostel participated in the Kabaddi match.

Mr. N. Siva – AKFI, Madurai District Assistant and Mr. J. Augustine, Madurai District Secretary were the special judges of the game. The match went on in full swing as each team played their best and made it enthralling. The prizes were distributed by Dr. Mary Rajkumar,

the Guest of Honour and members of Lions Club. The First Prize - A cash prize of Rs. 4000, was sponsored by Dr. Mary Rajkumar. It was awarded to the students of American College A. The second prize of Rs. 3000/- was won by Lourdu Annai Higher Secondary School, sponsored by Luka Counseling Center and the third prize by Auxilium Higher Secondary School, with a cash prize of Rs. 2000, was given by Mr. Manohar. Additionally, the fourth prize was awarded to Lady Doak College with a cash prize of Rs. 1500. To keep up the enthusiasm and determination of all the Kabaddi players, consolation prizes were given to American College B Group and Annamalaiyar Matriculation School, each with a cash prize of Rs. 1000. The Best Players award was secured by Kamali and Arul Reshma. All the participants were given cash prize, shields and certificates. The shields and certificates were sponsored by Lions Club while Luka Counseling Center backed the food expenses. The match came to a successful conclusion. The closing talk was given by the President of Lions Club. He emphasized the importance of promoting good health, spiritual strength and social welfare activities among the students.



Thanks to God the almighty for His wonderful assistance especially in granting a pleasant weather and for the successful completion of the Kabaddi match. The accompaniment of the community of Auxilium and the



help offered by them towards the realization of this event are laudable. Above all, thanks to Divine Providence in an amazing manner. The utmost cooperation of all the Salesian Cooperators in this event has been awesome. The blessings and graces experienced are breathtaking. Every one returned home with contended heart.

### **COOPERATORS PILGRIMAGE TO ST. GERMAINE'S CHURCH**

15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 was set apart to go on a pilgrimage to St. Germaine's Church near Vadipatti by the Salesian Cooperators of Auxilium Unit with their families. The total number of Pilgrims were 40 that included 23 Adults, 14 Children and 3 babies. They were accompanied by Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam, the Local

Delegate. Mr. Peter Arockiasamy, the Local Coordinator made all the arrangement for the pilgrimage. On reaching the church, the entire group prayed the Rosary, sang hymns and offered intercessory prayers for everyone. There they met Rev. Fr. Singarayar, a diocesan Priest of the place who had come from Orissa. He shared his experience of his mission and also spoke about Don Bosco. After a good meal they met the Parish Priest who was a Jesuit. He in turn appreciated the mission of the lay people and invoked God's blessings on them. They returned home praising and thanking God for His blessings and for the beautiful moments of being together.

*Sr. Soosai Marian Pushpam*  
Madurai, Sirudur



### **PARISH ANIMATION:**

Over the past years, Church life has continued to be both exciting and challenging to Christians. The daily ministry in the parish is supported by an active group of volunteers and the Sisters of Francis Xavier Convent - Broadway. Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga apart from the teaching hours in the FX School, spends her time in sustaining the rapport of the parishioners with the parish, takes care of the youth group and visits families. The following activities were undertaken as a means to animate the parishioners and revive their dedication to the Church and their spiritual life.

- On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Night Vigil was conducted for the parishioners and the young people. This moment of togetherness in the nocturnal hours revived them spiritually, helped them to taste the refreshing effect of the reception of Sacraments and make a fresh start in their Christian discipleship.



- With the collaboration of the young people the Bible Week was celebrated on the last week of October. They prepared posters and animated the liturgy on the theme - **“Nature and the Word of God”**.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, the youth group participated in the singing competition held at Mary Help of Christians Church – Basin Bridge and secured the first prize.



In the month of October, Sister accompanied the Parish Priest and visited the catholic families, took part in the joys and sorrows of the families and prayed the rosary with them. The visit to the families paved the way for many Catholic Families to return to the church.

*Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

The community of St. Francis Xavier Convent, delegated the Benjamin of the house Sr. Mahimai Raj Sharmila FMA, to prepare the children for confirmation. The classes were held from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> November in FX campus. Twenty children received Confirmation. It was indeed an opportunity for them to know and experience the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Children were happy to attend the catechism classes and study in group. This preparation was useful for them for it gave importance to their faith journey. Their parents were instrumental in enabling them to experience love of God through this Sacrament. In the final week with the help of video clippings children were helped to understand the need of transformation. The long awaited 26<sup>th</sup> November dawned. With the spark of excitement and thirst for the divine they received the Spirit of God in their hearts. Parents of the children thanked Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya who generously availed Sr. Mahimai Raj Sharmila for preparing their children for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*Sr. Mahimai Raj Sharmila*

## Nirmala Oratory

### Children's Day Competitions :



**“Children are uncut diamonds”.**

Keeping in mind Pablo Picasso's saying that Every Child is an artist, a drawing competition was exuberantly animated in Nirmala Oratory at Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway for the students from Standard I to XI headed by Sr. Mahimairaj Jeyasharmila



on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017. They also exhibited their skill in dancing, singing, fancy dress. The Judges and the audience who witnessed the events admired and appreciated the children who participated in the programme. Children were encouraged for their active participation and given prizes for their unique presentation.

### **Visiting the Families of the Oratorians :**

On every Saturday Sr. Mahimairaj Jayasharmila visited the families of the oratorians in the locality. People were hospitable and welcoming. It was a precious opportunity to take part in the joys and sorrows of the people and share the love and accompaniment of God in their lives journey. The parents were contented to send their children to the Oratory for it is an opportunity to imbibe human values, and excel in their studies.



*Sr. Mahimai Raj Sharmila*

### **First Holy Communion**



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 was a joyous and memorable day for all the children those who have received their first holy communion. From October 16<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup> they had a long preparation to receive the Lord worthily. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December all the children and their parents attended a Spiritual Retreat and made a good confession. The following day, the Mass

was presided over by Fr. Vallabaraj SDB, and con-celebrated by Fr. John Sagaya Raj, the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis Xavier's Church. During his homily Fr. Vallabaraj expressed words of appreciation to the 8 children for their eagerness to welcome Jesus in their hearts. He said, "Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. He gives himself as our food. When we receive Holy Communion, we love others as Christ has loved us and we should live with others in unity & peace." The melodious singing, well prepared liturgy with children's active participation captured the attention of the assembly. At the end of the Mass Fr. Sagaya Raj appreciated the Sisters, Catechist and those who had prepared the children for their First Holy Communion.

### **VIDES Activity at Broadway Centre- Drawing Competition**

The VIDES members of Broadway unit organized a drawing competition for the Marialaya & Oratory students. At 8.45a.m they had a small prayer service animated by the children. The students from classes I to X took part in the competition. After the prayer the following topics were given to the children.





**Std I to Std V - Nature**  
**Std VI to Std VIII - Leaders of our country**  
**Std IX to Std X - Rain water harvesting**

107 Students participated in the competition. Sketch, Crayons, Pencils & Erasers were distributed to each child. They completed their drawing and coloring in one hour. Mr. Kasim and Mr. Jameer judged their drawings. Each of those drawings were done so beautifully and diligently by the children, it was a treat to the eyes. Selecting the students was a tough task for the judges. After the competition all the invitees, VIDES members, Sisters and Students were served refreshments at O.L.C. Campus. Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya distributed the prizes for all the winners. She appreciated the children for their wonderful performance. All the VIDES members were filled with joy to share something with the poor children.

*Sr. George Mary Vijila Rani*

### **PATROL LEADERS and PATROL 2nds TRAINING CAMP**

A three day patrol training from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 was given to the Guides in Don Bosco Matriculation School - Pannoor. The programme was conducted by District Secretary Rev.Fr. John Peter and Assistant District Secretary Mr. Antony Guna Raj. From Our Lady's Centre Matriculation School, eight children participated in the guide camp. They were accompanied by Miss. Arul Swathy and Miss. Kalpana. The camp started with the Flag hoisting. Fr. John Peter gathered all the school guides and the programme list was given to the respective guide captains.

The Scout Master Mr. Peter took class about guide's responsibilities, duties and the patrol leader's qualifications. The Scout master Mr. George and Mr. Edwin taught about Patrol Meetings, Patrol Corner and the way to conduct the indoor and outdoor meetings. Mr. Guna Raj and Miss. Victoria animated sessions on community development project.

On 25<sup>th</sup>, all the school guides pitched tents and hoisted the flags. Towards the evening they had a grand camp fire wherein children exhibited their talents. Guide captain Miss. Angel took class about badges. The following notes were given to the Guides:

- ★ *Responsibilities & duties*
- ★ *Public Relationship*
- ★ *Administration of Patrol*

A special practice was given about court of honour (COH). At the end of the programme they announced the first three places of guides based on their activities and punctuality. Our Lady's Centre Matriculation School secured the II place in the Overall Championship. All the guides and staff after some recreations returned school with cherished moments.

*Sr. Fernando Majella*



## CHILDREN'S DAY COMPETITION

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 competitions were held to enable the students to exhibit their talents on the occasion of the celebration of Children's day in the Campus. Sr. Ancy and Sr. Sharmila from Francis Xavier Convent along with our Headmistress Sr. Majella were invited as the judges. Each class was given a topic for the competition.

### **Std VI – Wealth out of waste.**

Students brought plastic bottles and made different models of Flower Vase, Pen Stand, etc.

### **Std VII – Vegetable carving.**

Children employed their creative ideas and carved out various designs in the vegetables.

### **Std VIII – Jute Products.**

Students made use of their talents in making various items like handbags, purse and home decorative materials using jute.



Students from 9<sup>th</sup> standard cooked food without fire. Delicious food was served by our little chefs.

Fancy dress competition was held for our K.G. students. Colourful kids mesmerized the gathering with their innocent language.

We believe that these competitions offered an opportunity for the participants to gain experience, showcase skills and analyze outcomes and uncover personal aptitude.

## Christmas Day Celebration

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017, the Catholic students of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Standard along with few teachers and Principal Sr. Fernando Majella stepped out of Our Lady's Centre Matriculation School and reached Sagaya Illam situated at the foot of Mount. The encounter with the abandoned elderly citizens was filled with the eagerness to meet and converse with them and to share with them the joyful message of Christmas. With smiling faces, empty-toothless mouths and drooping eyes few elders came to welcome us. Valuable time was spent with them by singing, dancing, acting and conversing. We shared biscuits, Sarees, soaps, oil and Bed sheets which was brought by generous students and teachers of OLC. With heavy hearts which desired to visit the home again we took leave from Sagaya Illam.

We had a meaningful Christmas in the School premises of OLC on 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. Correspondent of St.Gabriel Boys Higher Secondary School was the Chief Guest. Rickshaw Pullers and Auto Drivers were invited for the celebration to realize the words of Pope Francis by sharing our joy





with the poor who help us in our daily life. The singing and dances performed by the tiny tots to the rhythm of the music were a feast to the eyes of the audience. The enactment was a bold proclamation done yet silent action by actors spoken aloud the meaning of the celebration. Later the whole school, sang carols joyfully which hit the

highlights of the day. Bed sheets, Oil, Soaps, dress material, towels and biscuits were distributed to our invited Guests – the Rickshaw Pullers and Auto Drivers to mark the birth of Jesus for the men of good will. The day ended with the mood of Christmas and fulfillment of sharing.

## **CELEBRATION OF 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST FMA MISSIONARY ST.FRANCIS XAVIER'S CONVENT, BROADWAY 14.11.2017**

The 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first expedition of sisters to their mission land was commemorated by the sisters and the entire educating community of St. Francis Xavier's Convent, Broadway. We had an animated, creative and solemn Eucharistic celebration which enriched our minds with a brief enactment, depicting the fire of the mission which was lit 140 years ago by the first FMA Sisters. The missionary expedition had its origin from the Divine word.

The 'Yes' of the first missionary demanded all that they are and all that they had only for one reason to proclaim and bear witness to Christ. It was celebrated in a grand manner along with the Children's day.

A missionary outlook in preparation for the celebration began on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Rosary was prayed as a special offering for missionaries. On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017, an enactment depicting the fire of the mission which was lit 140 years ago was staged. On the third day, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 a speech was given by the Animator of the community recalling the life and vocation of all the FMA missionaries of both past and present. The commemoration revived the Spirit of 'Strong Missionary Impulse' and helped everyone in becoming missionaries of hope and joy in the very place where we are living.





## **Tiruppur**

### **MARIALAYA - TIRUPPUR CHILDREN'S DAY- 12.11.2017**

*“Buds wait to become flowers,  
Words wait to become poem,  
Seeds wait to become trees”.*

Yes Children wait to become great persons in the society.

Marialaya, Tiruppur had the joy of celebrating the children's day in our campus. More than 250 children were gathered to celebrate this function. The Chief Guests were Mr. Dr. Makkal G.Rajan, Correspondent of Sri Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College, Sennimalai, Mr. Kanagaraj Headmaster of Government Higher Secondary School, M. Nathampalayam and Sr. Irudayaraj Victoria, Director of Marialaya. The Programme was organized by Ms. Maria Monika. Sr. Susai Joseph Latha the Coordinator of Marialaya, welcomed and honored the Chief Guests and the gathering.

Dr. Makkal G. Rajan, through his valuable talk enlightened the mind of the



children with the words, “YOU CAN DO” and he urged them to live these words by giving them a role model in Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, a man of integrity. He explained to them the effort Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has taken to come up in his life. He also assured the children to give free admission in his college after their 10<sup>th</sup> STD.

Mr. Kanagaraj, Headmaster of the Government Higher Secondary School encouraged the children by stating that they are the building blocks for a strong nation.

On this beautiful day the Sisters and staffs arranged a colorful cultural programme and Puppet show for children to enjoy. Everyone appreciated the show. Mr. Dinesh Babu, one of the staff thanked everyone and invited the children for a sumptuous lunch. The celebration ended with a note of joy.

### **INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY 11.10.2017**



The International Day of the Girl Child gives people and organizations an opportunity to raise public awareness on the different types of discrimination and abuse that many girls around the world suffer. On this day, various events are held to showcase the work that people are doing to empower girls through active support.



and engagement with parents, families, and the wider community.

Discrimination and violence against girls and violations of their human rights still happen. The UN felt a need to raise awareness on the challenges that millions of girls face every day. In December 2011, the UN declared that it would annually observe the International Day of the Girl Child, starting from October 11, 2012. This year's theme is **“The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.”**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October Marialaya, Tiruppur has remembered and celebrated this day as International Girl child day at AVP Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tirupur. The programme started with the welcoming Ceremony by Sr. Susai Joseph Latha, Coordinator of Marialaya and Sr. Victoria, Director of Marialaya honored the Guests with Ponnadai. Mrs. Poongothai, District Social Officer, and Mrs. Priya Raja, Principle of AVP School were the Chief Guests of the day. More than 700 students participated in this programme.

MSW students of PSG College, Coimbatore, presented street play on “The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.” Mrs. Poongothai in her speech focused on the importance of the world girl child day. Miss. Maria Monika, staff of Marialaya concluded the event with vote of thanks. Refreshments were provided to the staff and students and ended the day well with appreciation for the role of girl children in this world.

### **FEAST OF ST. MARY MAZZARELLO**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 we had the joy of celebrating the Feast of our Holy Foundress St. Dominica Maria Mazzarello. The Morning Prayer was animated by Sr. Thomas Sirumani Sathiya. In the evening at 6.30 p.m. Rev. Fr. Xavier SDB, Rev. Fr. Hervin SDB and Rev. Fr. Arul Kumar SDB from Don Bosco NEST, Tiruppur celebrated the Festal Mass. We had an well animated liturgy with introduction, prayers of the faithful and shared homily. Children and women along with 12 boys from NEST participated in the celebration. We thanked the Lord for the gift of our Mother and Mistress and for all the graces obtained through her intercession. We also remembered 140 years of Missionary service in different parts of the world by our missionary Sisters. Since they have sown the charism, we have now grown into a big shady tree. After the mass we the Sisters, staff and the young girls gave a cultural programme, which our children enjoyed to the full. The celebration concluded with joyous vibrations for the gift of our Co-Foundress St. Dominica Maria Mazzarello.

*Sr. Joseph Susai Latha*, Marialaya, Tiruppur

## **Thereseapuram**

### **CHRISTMAS, A TIME OF SHARING, SOLIDARITY, SACRIFICE AND CELEBRATION**

**Matthew 1:23** "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Christmas is a time of Joy; it's a time of sharing, solidarity, sacrifice and celebration. All the three schools had the celebration. The students and the staff were eagerly waiting for the day. Sisters prepared the students to celebrate Christmas meaningfully.

**SHARING:** In all the three Schools, namely Auxilium Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Little Flower R.C High School And in the R.C. Primary School the students were motivated to give their generous contribution to repair the house of one of our workers. Most of them responded and shared their might for the less privileged.

**SOLIDARITY:** There are a quite many children who are semi orphans, looked after by their Grandmother and the Grandfather. Mrs. Thamayanthi one of our Parishner who was the Chief Guest for the Christmas celebration on 22nd December 2017 held at R. C. Primary School distributed 50 sets of new clothes for the Poor children. The deserved ones were very happy to receive the gift.

**SACRIFICE:** During our Good morning talks we prepared the children to make little sacrifices for the sake of Jesus, and to receive him worthily in their hearts. Spiritual practices were given to inspire them to change from their usual naughtiness, and to speak well of All.

**CELEBRATION:** In all the three Schools we had a meaningful celebration, by inviting the Chief Guests. Mr. Ajay a Dental Doctor of Therespuram, working in Tirunelveli Government Hospital was the chair person and he enlightened the children to grow in wisdom and knowledge like Jesus with his parents in Nazareth. Through Christmas drama, Carol singing and dance children expressed their Joy. Rev. Fr. Daniel SDB from our Parish community was the Chief Guest for the celebration in Little Flower High School. He also highlighted the aspect to love Jesus in the less privileged.





## ADIEU SR. FERNANDO JULIET OCT 22

With Jesus' hands full of graces and consolation, His Heart full of forgiveness and love, His lips full of words of absolution and encouragement, death loses its bitterness if it takes place between Jesus' arms. Jesus cannot abolish death, but He can make it sweet for those who die trusting in Him.



A loving heart stopped beating and toiling hands were laid to rest promptly at the call of the Divine Master around 6.30 p.m on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at St. Isabel's Hospital – Chennai.

Dear Sr. Juliet, though you went serenely to meet your bridegroom and rest between the loving arms of Jesus, your swift entry into heaven is a shock to each one of us.

Dear Sr. Juliet, though at the threshold of your religious life, the tempest of death of your dear father caressed you, you steadily walked on the path of fidelity, guided by the letter of your mother which exhorted you to follow the Lord and never to turn back.



- You were a pearl of great price, rich in Salesian values and an embodiment of human love and affection.
- All through your life, you cherished company. God gifted you the grace of being with Sisters, conversing, and joking with them even till your last breath.
- You were an intuitive mother, affectionate sister, wise educator and a pleasing companion to all, in moments of pain and struggle.
- You were an exemplary FMA rooted in the love of Christ and nurtured by Mary's maternal care.

- You found innovative ways to heal the sick through herbal medication coupled with individualized tender care and attention.
- You were a simple sister with great ambition of becoming a saint through accomplishing little things in an extraordinary way mingling it with prayer and intercession.
- You were a kind teacher to the little ones, teaching them the art of loving God and serving the nation with dedication.
- You showed great zest in fulfilling your duty in the parish ministry and you were fondly called an assistant Parish Priest by the people of Michaelpuram.
- In whichever community you went, you would ask yourself what more you could do for the sisters and the children.
- Wasting time and things were not in your dictionary. You led an active and austere life cemented with charity for the poorest.
- You decreased your needs to reach out to the needy and the helpless. Your motherly care for the children at Pothur and other places manifested the fecundity of your vow of chastity.
- You had always been a happy FMA radiating joy around you. Lamenting, grumbling and gossiping were not your style of life.

Dear Sr. Juliet, the joyful celebration of your golden jubilee with your companions at Katpadi, is still lingering in our minds and hearts. We can never forget your words of wisdom – “You pass through life in this world only once, live it joyfully by making others happy.” We will always treasure and live this simple formula of yours. As we were eagerly waiting to celebrate your jubilee in your community in the month of November, you seem to tell us that your celebration in heaven transcends all the celebrations on earth.



**FAREWELL DEAR SISTER  
BLESS US FROM HEAVEN!!!**





## NEWS from ASSIST

### ORANGE DAY CELEBRATION

'Leave no one behind, End Violence against Women and Girls', was the theme of the Orange day celebration held in Ambedhkarnagar village organized by ASSIST, the Social Development Office of INT. Mr. Lawly Claudson the Program Manager and Mr. Vijay the Local Coordinator for Evening Study Centers jointly organized the awareness programme with the cooperation of the local people. As a means to reach out to the entire population of the village Mr. Lawly Claudson arranged the mike system which was fixed in the village. This arrangement enabled the message to reach the women and men in the houses. In total 30 women and men were assembled near the temple for the program.

The program started with the Kummi dance performed by the small girls of the village followed by the talk given by Sr. Cruz Michaela FMA, the Novice Mistress and Superior of Divyadhanam Community. In her talk she explained the role of women, the need to respect, love and forgive in the family as a means to build healthy and happy families where women and girls will enjoy their rights and dignity as human beings.

There was an interactive session in which women participated in expressing their feelings and promised to facilitate such atmosphere in the family. Men accepted to be kind and gentle in their dealings with their wife and children. Thus the program kick started a new thinking in the people of the target area.

*Mr. Lawly Claudson,* Program Manager, ASSIST

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### 14<sup>th</sup> NDF Annual Meet

"Unity is strength ..., when there is team work and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved". To celebrate the achievements collectively under the one umbrella called National Development Forum 30 participants from seven provinces gathered together at Aluva, Kerala from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Sr. Azarias Aroquia Mary Selvi, the Social Development Coordinator, Mr. Lawly Claudson, the Program Manager, Sr. Xavier Josephine Jenophia representative of Schools and Miss. Kalapana the Coordinator from Marialaya, George Town as a representative from Non-formal sector participated in the meeting from INT.



Rev. Fr. Philip Parakatt SDB, the former member of Kerala State Commission for protection of Child Rights, Rev. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ, Consultant of NDF and Deputy Director of Jesuit Refugee Service, Rome and Sr. Ancy Mathew Provincial Delegate of Bangalore province were present at Atma Darshan, Aluva in Kerala for the inauguration of the 14<sup>th</sup> NDF Annual Meet. The Chief Guest Fr. Philip Parakatt gave the key note address on child protection policy and urged the SDCs to provide clear guidelines and knowledge to the teachers, staff, students, management and the parents in all their institutions. Inauguration concluded with the release of three publications. Fr. Philip Parakatt SDB released the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and the first copy was given to Sr. Ancy Mathew. The Newsletter was released by Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ and the first copy was given to Fr. Philip Parakatt SDB. FMA India Social Ministry Policy was released by Sr. Ancy Mathew and the first copy was presented to Sr. Isabella NDFC.

Mr. Haridas, Caritas India was the speaker on 1<sup>st</sup> day. He urged the participants to think out of the box, think beyond project and to be passionate in the work and insisted participants to collect various information from the target areas. He also spoke on Baseline Survey, Logical Frame Work,

The dynamics and the purpose of the Annual Meet were:

- 1.Review of the short-term plans of Five Year Plan**
- 2.CPP Amendments – What have we done so far? What are the new learning? What aspects need to be amended?**
- 3.Sharing of NDF and Province Annual Reports for learning**
- 4.Developing common future plans for NDF.**

The emerging reality of a new culture of closely working with Provincial Council and other ministry sectors, building broader ownership of major plans and policies were discovered through the sharing and presentation of the various provinces. The Five year Plan has enabled the SDCs to assess the reality of the implementation of the short term plan with its achievements and failures and to identify the releasable activities.

It was an experience of collective thinking, sharing of innovative initiatives and resources defining the identity as FMA India. Energized and refreshed with the spirit of commitment and dedication towards the marginalized the participants journeyed back to the Provinces to make their plans a reality in the coming days.



# The Chronicles of INT

## VOCATION PROMOTERS SEMINAR - 2017

The TNLBC Commission for Vocation, Clergy, Religious & Seminaries conducted two days seminar for Vocation Promoters from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at TNBC Commission for Laity, Pirattiyur, Trichy -9. It was presided over by Most. Rev. Dr. J. Susaimanickam, Chairman of the Commission, Bishop of Sivagangai.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam S.J. from Madurai was the resource person of the day. The theme was: Looking at the Vocation through the Eyes of Psychology. There were 85 participants- Priests, Brothers, and Sisters from various Congregations. He said that every company spends lot of money for marketing its USP: Unique Saying Phrase. He questioned the participants to find out the USP of their Congregation. He added that it should be self explanatory, attractive, inspiring to everyone. He also exhorted that Vocation Promoters should be persons with high self esteem capable of building “USP + JOY + IDENTITY” which implies that the individual should feel, “I am a child of God, God has called me to follow him, Jesus made everyone feel dignified.”

Performance Measurement Framework and Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). He concluded his speech exhorting the participants to identify the most disadvantage, depressed and isolated people of the community and change their attitude towards life.

Further Most. Rev. Dr. J. Susaimanickam, Chairman of the Commission in his talk insisted on Witnessing Life and having a sense of Church and the Kingdom of God. He also stated that Congregations should not duplicate works but rise with courage and enthusiasm to meet the need of the hour.

The zealous Vocation Promoters are all set to promote USP: Unique Saying Phrase as a means to find workers for the Lord's vineyard.

## SALESIAN FAMILY DAY CELEBRATIONS – TRICHY

The Salesian Family 'Live-in' was organized in the Province of Trichy on 02 October 2017. Fr. Antony Joseph - the Provincial of Trichy gave the introductory talk on the greatness of the Salesian Family and the importance of Collaboration in fulfilling the dream of Don Bosco. Fr. James



Theophilus - the Director of DBRC - Bangalore, animated the participants on the theme of "The Identity of the Salesian Family - in today's context". Sixty Five Salesian Family members participated in the Salesian Family Live-in Programme. Fr. Agilan - the Vice Provincial led group into discussion on the same theme.

In the afternoon, Fr. Provincial presided over the Salesian Family Consult, which was represented by various groups of the Salesian Family. The members came up with a few practical suggestions for joint collaborative action. Fr. Thomas Louis - the Salesian Family Delegate of Trichy Province, coordinated the whole programme.

### INT Youth Fest

"Youth Fest" – was an exquisite banquet served for the vibrant young that long for a sumptuous faith experience, belonging to the youngest province of Tiruchirapalli (INT), S. India. It was a joyful and captivating celebration, partaken by 600 young girls and boys on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur from various communities of the Province. They had gathered for the celebration with hearts full of enthusiasm to experience joy, fun, laughter and fellowship! All of these were topped, of course with a firm determination to experience Christ in their youthful vigor along with their peers. The theme of the Fest was "Faith and Vocational discernment", with all the events and talks organized for the day, centered on this theme.

The kick start of the day was the grand entry march of youth representatives from all the communities of the province accompanied by the band, and all of them merrily waving their colorful caps to each other. The Youth Fest flag was hoisted by the Mother Provincial Rev. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret and a sapling was planted as a memorial of this event.



The Youth Anthem was sung in high spirits setting the hearts of the young aglow. The community of Tiruvottiyur gave a warm and colorful welcome adding to the glee in the air.

The dignitaries and other guests of honor on the stage – the Provincial – Sr. Amalanathan Margaret, the Vice Provincial – Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam, the Animator of the community of Thanjavur – Sr. Soosai Magnificat, all the councillors along with Fr. John sdb, Fr. John Baptist sdb and Fr. Barnabas sdb were given a warm welcome.



The community of Regunathapuram presented an inaugural dance depicting the parable of the ten virgins. The Inaugural address was delivered by the Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, on the expansion of the word “Good Morning” and went on to impress the young minds on what they were searching for and what they need to search in future.

The first talk was presented by Rev. Fr. John Baptist SDB, Youth Director of INT Salesian Province on “Youth – their problems and challenges”. He motivated the hearts and minds of the young by bringing in various examples of young people who have achieved great things despite their drawbacks.

The second talk was presented by Rev. Fr. Barnabas SDB, Vocation Promoter of INT Salesian Province on “Youth – Faith and Discernment”. He stressed on the importance of living by the Word of God and the Principles of the Church. He also proposed a change in attitude and inspired the youth to question 'what for' rather than 'why' they have come to this world.

After enjoying a good fellowship meal, the youth gathered for the afternoon's program. It was a spectacular Cultural Bonanza. The events were diligently organized and exquisitely carried out by the various communities in the Province. Dances, songs, Music, Skits, Mime, Street Play, Folk presentations highlighted the themes - the role of the youth in the Church, ecology, family, media, leadership, creating a non violent world, young people and culture. The presentations of these themes were splendid and profound.

The culmination of the day's events was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. An air of divinity pervaded the hall as the liturgy was animated by Vadakku Paganoor community and con celebrated by three Priests - Fr. Baptist SDB, Fr. Barnabas SDB and Fr. Wenseslaus OCD. The day ended on a refreshing note as tea was served blended with love and joy.

It was certainly a memorable and a soul searching day. The sessions conducted during the day enabled them to search and discern the way of life that God wants them to choose in their lives for a bright future. May this beautiful experience linger on in their hearts.

*Sr. Immaculate*

Youth Pastoral Co-ordinator



## NOVICE FORMATORS MEET

The meeting of the Novice Formators was held in Rome from October 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2017. The theme of the meeting was "At the root of a perpetual vitality: The Constitutions, A life plan that forms and transforms". Twenty six Novice Formators reached Rome on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 from different parts of the World. The inaugural ceremony was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. During the Prayer service each



Novice Formator was invited to sow a mustard seed symbolically inviting them to take care of the seed which has the potential to become a tree. Sr. Nieves Reboso presented the 20 days programme. In the inaugural address she said that there is an urgent need to start a process of reflection on how to convey, help and transmit the treasures of the charism with its prophetic value to young people of today, so that it might be assimilated vitally. They were guided by the theme: United in the Community in the name of the Lord and sent to youth in the spirit of the 'da mihi animas' as the horizon of an ongoing process of formation which included Articles 36-76 of our Constitutions. Therefore the participants concentrated on Prayer, Fraternal Life and Mission. The following objectives were presented:

1. To have an experience that shapes, transforms and qualifies the ministry



of discernment, accompaniment and guidance of the formation journey of the Novices.

2. To form oneself to accompany the Novices, understanding the present context ,being united in a community in the name of the Lord and sent to the young people in the spirit of the *da mihi animas*.
3. To assume the responsibility for self-education in an ongoing formation process to form oneself and others to '*docibilitas*'.
4. To deepen one's study of some aspects of youth ministry as Formators, such as discernment, accompaniment, formative itinerary and study program and the formative community.
5. To develop didactic aids that guide the transmission of the Constitutions to encourage, throughout the Institute, a unified and differentiated path, depending on the socio-cultural context.

To arrive at the objectives they were divided into 4 groups. For every topic input session was conducted by experts and then Constitutions Articles were divided and assigned to the groups for study. The following strategy was used to deepen the Constitution Articles.

The important elements that should be focused in the presentation of the articles

- Listening to ones own experiences and reality (our thoughts, feelings and knowledge)
- Presentation of the content of the articles
- Some reference texts for deepening the content
- Some suggestions for a vital synthesis
- Sharing and paying attention for inculturation in ones context
- Sharing the problems, questions and challenges during reflections and research together

Constitutions articles from 36-76 were studied in groups and was presented to the assembly, after discussions and clarifications, conclusions were arrived.

Thanks to Sr. Nieves Reboso and her team for all the arrangements made with love for this meet. Thanks to dear Mother Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret for sending me to take part in this meeting with due preparation.

*Sr. Cruz Anthony Michaela*



## **MEDIA EDUCATION**

Social media offers the opportunity to use new tools through which the young get exposed to the world which they begin to explore, learn, and share. In this regard, we had two days of animation 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 on “Media Education and Leadership Training” for the young in the non formal education sectors and the young of Marialaya at Pothur, Red Hills. The



participants were around 50 from Marialaya Coimbotore, Tiruppur, Broadway and Pothur. Sr.Teresa started the day with Inaugural Prayer followed by the introductory talk given by Sr.Vedha the Animator of Pothur Community. The resource persons were from DBICA Team under the guidance of Fr. Francis SDB , Director of DBICA .There were five resource persons Bro.Arun, Miss.Teresa, Fr.Francis, Mr. Senthil feature film Assistant Director, Mr.Jana Editor of the feature films, who enlightened the young minds and hearts in a creative and innovative way on the theme. They explained about a) What is Media?

- b) How to use it critically for the betterment of the society
- c) What are the advantages and disadvantages

of Media through various videos and games. The second day was on Leadership the inputs were based on

- a) How to be a leader among their peer groups
- b) What are the qualities they need to possess to be a best leader

among their own peer groups and in society at large. The Resource persons animated through various games and drawings in order to arrive at motivating the children to be a best leader and to use media critically. Children enjoyed these two days of animation with the new idea on Media.

*Sr. Santhiyagu Theresal*  
*Media Coordinator*





## SALESIAN COOPERATORS RETREAT AND PROMISE DAY

The Aspirant Cooperators entered into the phase of preparation for their promise with the retreat arranged by Fr. Raj Devan SDB, the Rector of Alaigal Media, Trichy on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Bro. Sagayaraj preached the retreat. Fr. Raj Devan animated the adoration. All the Aspirant Cooperators were given the opportunity to make their confession and prepare spiritually for the Promise.



On 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7 a.m. Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam the INT FMA delegate for the Cooperators animated on the theme, 'Cooperators as Samaritans' in the Society. She brought out the modern way of reaching out to the needy and saving them. Through a Powerpoint presentation, she also explained the altruistic attitude of Malala Yousafzai, Sr.Rani Maria, Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, Fr. Christdas and Mrs. Gladys Staines which inspired each one of them. At 9.00 a.m, Fr. Xavier Michel, the SDB Delegate explained PAL through a Power point. It helped the Aspirant Cooperators to understand the meaning of the promise.

Mr. Xavier, the Provincial Coordinator gave a practice for the Aspirant Cooperators to get acquainted with the procedure in making the Promise. The Holy Eucharist was Celebrated by Rev. Fr. Joseph Antony, the SDB Provincial as the main celebrant. During the solemn entrance procession, each one carried the lighted candle while the commentary was read. A representative of Aspirant Cooperator also carried the PAL. During the Mass, the copies of PAL were blessed by the Provincial.

Fr. Thomas Louis, responsible for the Salesian family presented the introductory talk. Fr. Agilan, the Vice Provincial preached the sermon. The Promise of the Cooperators was received by Mr. Xavier – the Provincial Coordinator followed by the distribution of PAL.

After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the dignitaries were honored with Ponnadai. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret FMA, Provincial of Trichy welcomed them into the Salesian family and assured them support in their formation and mission. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret and Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam - the Vice Provincial distributed the holy articles to all the newly Promised Cooperators. Fr. Joseph Antony SDB,

Provincial too welcomed them and distributed the Picture of the Holy Father to each Cooperator. The SDB and FMA Delegates Fr. Xavier Michel and Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam distributed the Certificates. Finally, a hymn to Don Bosco was sung by all. Later in the day the lay Councilors and SDB & FMA Provincials and Vice Provincials, the Provincial and local Delegates had a meeting. They discussed about the 'Autonomy and Communion of the Cooperators'. It was a remarkable day for all the Cooperators.

*Sr. Soosai Marian Pushpam*  
FMA Delegate for Salesian Cooperators



## **INT – INM JUNIORS MEET AT MANIKANDAM, TRICHY**

It was indeed a joyful day for all the Junior Sisters of INM and INT to get together for a day of animation and recollection from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017 respectively. The aim of this meeting was to keep alive the fire of Missionary zeal among the juniors. The first day commenced with a touch from the Lord on the theme of “The Slave Girl in the Story of Naman”.



During the meditation Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi underlined that every problem is a blessing, every obstacle a stepping stone and every worst situation is an opportunity to awaken the missionary zeal in each person. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret the Provincial of INT in her introductory talk encapsulated the beauty of beginning, education, entry into the congregation and living the evangelical counsel in love. Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi made the first session interactive by using appropriate video clippings, stories and examples on challenges of the young people and FMAs response. In the second session she presented the life of Ruth and Zachaeus and beckoned the Sisters to move from experience to love expressions. The group discussion on interests, abilities, role models and inspirations enabled the Sisters to enhance their self knowledge, enlarge the site of their tent and live the Missionary passion through -“Vado io, faccio io.” The first day concluded with prayer and sharing in the company of Mary at the wedding at Cana – who is full of faith and arouses faith in the life of others. Rev. Fr. Pushpanathan Rajadevan SDB the Rector of Alaihal Media was the animator of the Tri-monthly recollection. The adoration, confession, talks and the celebration of the Holy Mass focused on the theme



FMA's Missionaries to the periphery. The animation of the day helped the participants to review, revive and renew their Consecrated Missionary Life Today.

### **9th Annual General Body Meeting of the Asian Movement of Women Religious against Human Trafficking (AMRAT)**



Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi and Sr. Thomas Sirumani Sathya attended three days IX Annual General Body Meeting Of The Asian Movement Of Women Religious Against Human Trafficking (AMRAT) at Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru. There were more than 100 Catholic Nuns from various Congregations - India and Sri Lanka.

There was two days capacity building program organized along with the general body meeting that began on 10th November 2017. According to AMRAT, human trafficking is lucrative trade in humans, mostly for sex, forced labor and for extraction of human organs or tissues. Founded in 2009, AMRAT covers India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. One of the objectives of AMRAT is to identify the congregations, organizations and institutions to enlist new member to support each other in counteracting human trafficking especially among women and children. Archbishop Bernard Moras of Bangalore in his keynote address said that human trafficking is a major concern for the Church and the Archdiocese will provide all support to the Sisters who are fighting against it. He paid tributes to AMRAT which is networking among the congregations to bring human dignity to all.

Fr. Edward Thomas SDB, director of Dream India, spoke on missing children and Mr. Luckose Vallathara, a retired Indian Administrative Service Officer spoke on child labour and child trafficking. The International Justice Mission (IJM) team from Bangalore gave awareness on Bonded Labour. Sr. Lissy Rose - Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMI), Coordinator of AMRAT Karnataka Unit, welcomed the participants and guests of the meeting.



Fr. Stanislus D'Souza, Provincial of the Jesuits in Karnataka, commended AMRAT for being a convergence of different women religious congregations in the region. Sr. Gracy George SMI Provincial Superior, emphasized the importance of taking preventive measures, along with awareness building, to combat trafficking of women and children. A documentary on trafficking was screened on the first day. The meeting concluded on November 12 after addressing issues on human trafficking and presentation of reports by different regions in India and Sri Lanka. The participants also worked out a plan of action for the next year. Sr Arpan BS the President of AMRAT thanked the participants for their active presence, participation and collaboration. Sr. Jyothi BS the Founder President applauded the members for their zeal and commitment to fight against human trafficking and prayed God's blessings on the participants.

**VIDES MEET – 12.11.17 AUXILIUM CONVENT  
REGUNATHAPURAM**



***“Rising the Phoenix way Stop falling, Start Rising”***

**SOAR HIGH**

With this awesome inspiration, the VIDES Meet 2017 – 2018 had its good start on 12<sup>th</sup> November at Regunathapuram. The days' event began with invoking God's presence in a more fervent manner, guided by Thanjavur VIDES members. Mr. Arul, the State level President of VIDES invited the gathering. Ms. Ilavarasi, the Secretary read the Zonal report 2016 – 2017. Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam - VIDES delegate, presented a brief report on the Zonal level VIDES Coordinators Meet held at Dindigul on 22.7.2017. A beautiful introductory talk was delivered by Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushapam , the Vice Provincial and the Animator of Regunathapuram Community on the importance of fulfilling every day duty with fidelity and love which is the basis of forming every family. She concluded the speech on a pensive thought saying, “Move little far from you and closer to others to make them happy, there you find yourself.”







Mrs. Sheela, a teacher from Thanjavur Auxilium Higher Secondary School was the day's eminent Speaker. Her creative enumeration clarified the importance of relationship in the family. Group games were conducted to test the group dynamics of the members. The members were motivated to cultivate a good Family Spirit and to give first priority to relationship.

### **Stretch your wings in faith**

The members gathered for Holy Eucharistic celebration with one heart and mind. The Gospel reading and reflections were very apt for the day's event. Fr. Oovari, a diocesan Priest inspired the members during his sermon to be more active, alert and awake to help the needy.

### **Extract from the past**

The report of each VIDES group was an eye – opener for other groups to function better. The leaders of this academic year were chosen by the members: The re-elected members were - Mr. Arul -President, Ms. Ilavarsi – Secretary, Mr. Richard – Treasurer. The newly elected councilors were: Ms. Miriam – Broadway, Mr. Sri Bal – Vadakkupagnoor, Mr. Edwin – Regunathapuram Ms. Christina Mary – Ulagampatti.

### **From the ashes to the glorious horizon**

Rising the phoenix way, to soar high gloriously, our VIDES members walked out with new beginning, new decisions, new visions, new dreams and new effort .

*Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam*  
VIDES delegate



## **CATECHETICAL SEMINAR FOR CATHOLIC TEACHERS**

### **Archbishop Louis Mathias Home - Thiruvottiyur, Chennai -19**

To foster total personal and spiritual growth of each Catholic teacher, the Catechetical Seminar was animated at Thiruvottiyur Arch Bishop Louis Mathias Home on the theme “Relationship as Spirituality in Families”. Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani FMA the Catechetical Co-ordinator of the Province of Trichy animated the seminar for thirty teachers working in three schools

belonging to the community of Tiruvottiyur on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The seminar commenced with a Prayer supported by a video clipping and followed by felicitation by the Teachers of Our Lady's Higher Secondary School.

In the first session Sr. Gracy Rani presented the Holy Father's views on Spirituality in family relationship - which is made up of small but real gestures that manifest God's presence in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. She reminded us that:

- *The fraternal and communal demands of family life are an incentive to growth in openness of heart and thus to an ever fuller encounter with the Lord.*
- *Family Prayer is a way of strengthening the hidden presence of the Risen Lord by taking a few minutes of each day to pray or give thanks and to come together before the living God.*
- *To love, to share, and to have concern to the family members.*

She encouraged the teachers to continue to give the Integral Education to the students. She drew the attention of the teachers by showing video clippings on the essence of family and taught lively action songs. The Second session was focused on the important qualities of a Teacher. She insisted that a good teacher should be sincere, committed, caring, source of confidence, inspirational, friendly and of course good communicator having command over her subject. She also gave few Techniques for better classroom control and reminded us how to handle the students in the class room.



Bible games, quiz and group discussions were held on the theme of the day. It encouraged us to inculcate the interest to read the Bible and helped us to understand that Spirituality in family relationship is a shared privilege and responsibility of each individual present in the family. Many

teachers resolved to know the Bible in a profound manner. The teachers who attended the seminar returned home with fulfillment and renewed faith.

*Mrs. Sofia Daisy,*

Our Lady's Primary School, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai.





## CATECHETICAL SEMINAR FOR CATHOLIC TEACHERS

### Auxilium Convent, Therespuram

One day seminar titled **“Relationship as Spirituality in Family Living”** was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Auxilium Convent, Therespuram, for the Catholic teachers offering their services in our schools. Faithful to the exhortation of Pope Francis: “Be not just teachers but also 'a witness' through your example”, the seminar was focused on initiating the teachers to live a life of witness in their families as well as in the schools through their ability to establish and nurture relationships. Relationship is an essential dimension of getting into the life of the other which paves way to influence the other and be influenced by the other. Hence relationship is an indispensable element in family life as well as in the school life. Hence the effort was made to present relationship as spirituality that one needs to grow in as teachers. In all 75 teachers participated in the seminar.

Believing in the working of the Holy Spirit the Seminar began by lifting up of hearts and minds to God in prayer. The theme of the day “Relationship as Spirituality in Family Living” was presented by Sr. Arokiam Gracy Rani FMA with the aid of powerpoint presentations and short videos. The first Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis 'Evangelii Gaudium' was one of the important resources. The input session dealt on the following elements: The understanding of family in the light of the teachings of the Church; The different types of families that are existing in the society, the importance of relationship in family life, the relationship of the Trinity as reflected in family life; teacher as a relational person with specific qualities appropriate to the teaching ministry; role of relationships in education, etc. The second session was handled by Fr. Daniel SDB, the Assistant Parish Priest of Therespuram,

who enlightened the teachers with the Spirituality of Mamma Margaret. This was followed by Sr. Anthonysamy Rosy, the Animator of the Community of Therespuram, presenting insights on the theme 'Spirituality of the laity'. It included the sharing of the faith experience of Mrs. Jessy, one of the teachers of the Primary School, Therespuram. 'Being and doing... It is not what one teaches but what one is' was the central message that Mrs. Jessy communicated through her sharing. Her sharing was quite inspiring and much appreciated.





In the afternoon, the teachers were initiated into discussion on the theme of the day. They formed nine groups and the conclusion of the discussions of each group was presented to the assembly. The discussions and the reflections that emerged in group discussion were a source

of inspiration to the teachers which made them to realize the need not only to grow in faith as individuals, but also to share their life of faith in their families as well as in the school. At the conclusion of the Seminar the Teachers took two resolutions: (i) To set apart time for personal and family prayer everyday and (ii) to be willing to forgive in order to experience God's grace.

*Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani.*  
Catechetical Co-ordinator



## **National Mission Ad/ Inter Gentes Co Ordinators Meet 18-20 Nov**

### **“FROM EMMAUS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH”**

It was a Red Letter day for the Delegates of Mission Ad / Inter Gentes coordinators in FMA India. Sr. Bala Savarimuthu (INK) the National Coordinator for Mission Ad/ Inter Gentes organized the 3 days animation. 24 Sisters from 7 Provinces participated in the Mission Ad / Inter Gentes National Meeting held at Maria Nivas, Nandigama, Vijayavada. From INT Province Sr. Loyala, Sr. Caroline and Sr. Maria Tamil Selvi participated with full zeal and enthusiasm. The 3 days of animation were led by Rev.Fr.T.C.George SDB, the National Delegate for Missionary Animation. We had solemn Welcome & Inaugural address by sisters on INK Province. The eminent speakers asked us to be passionate for the mission and to bring personal transformation and to become saints.

Fr. T.C. George gave us an elaborated input on How God is passionate for us. He further explained how this passionate love paved way for the mission of Jesus in the world. He exhorted that we the followers ought to have the same thirst and unction in our mission. The theme of the second day was, “The Disciples of Emmaus' hearts were burning after recognizing Jesus”. He explained that Transformation leads to proclamation of the Word that is touched, felt and experienced which becomes reality in our ministry. The Model for Transformation was Mr. Jim Caviesar. The inspiring video of



the Actor was presented to us. Mr. Jim Caviesar the Bollywood actor acted in the Film "Passion For Christ" whose life changed and stood as a role model for all. His acting in the Film was a turning point in his life to convert himself to God and now he is a best preacher of Christ.



On the third day we reflected about Mother Mary. The role of Mary is an essential part in our missionary journey. Mary shares Jesus' Mission. We are urged to begin a Marian Missionary journey. Fr. T.C.George helped the participants to reflect and to revive missionary Spirit through personal

and group reflections and sharing. It was really an experiential one for all of us. Finally with all the vital points the participants prepared the National Plan and Project for the coming 3 years. Sisters left to the Provinces with much passion and love for our mission.

*Sr. Prudhayasamy Maria Tamilselvi*  
Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinator



## COOPERATORS PROMISE DAY – PUTHENTHURAI

The Aspirant Cooperators commenced their preparation for the promise on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam FMA orientated the Cooperators with a talk on Don Bosco who chose to work among the poor and marginalized young people using the Preventive System. With the help of video clipping she brought to light the meaning of Promise. Rev. Fr. Xavier Michel SDB exposed the Blessed Sacrament and prepared the Aspirant Cooperators for confession. Fr.Camilus SDB, Fr.Xavier SDB, and Fr.Casmir SDB availed themselves for confession. Mr. Xavier the Provincial Coordinator prepared them for the Promise.



On 9<sup>th</sup> December - The Promise day began with the Solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Joseph Antony SDB, the Provincial of INT and con-celebrated by Salesian Priests. During the solemn entrance procession, each one carried a lighted candle seeking God's assistance in their endeavor to be a light in the World. A representative of Aspirant Cooperator also carried the PAL. During the Mass, the PALs were blessed by the Provincial.

During high mass 28 members solemnly took Promise. Among them five were from Kuthenkuzi prepared by the SDBs and twenty three co operators from Puthenthurai prepared by Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani FMA and Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam FMA. Fr.Camilus SDB gave an introduction for Mass, Fr.Agilan SDB the Vice Provincial of Trichy Province preached a very meaningful sermon. Mr. Xavier the Provincial Coordinator received the Promise and distributed PAL to each Cooperator as the Holy Spirit song was sung by the choir members. Rev.Fr.Godfrey the Parish Priest of Puthenthurai gave full cooperation inspite of the agitation in Kanyakumari due to the recent cyclone.

During the felicitation, the song Showers of blessings song was sung by the Fathers and Sisters. The dignitaries were honored with a shawl. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret Provincial welcomed them in the family by distributing rosaries and assured to support them in their spiritual and mission life. The Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Margaret FMA and Sr. Angela FMA the Provincial Economer and the community Sisters of Puthenthurai accompanied the Cooperators by their presence and prayer during the whole day. Fr. Joseph Antony SDB too welcomed them and assured them in their spiritual and mission life and distributed the Certificate. The Parish Priest happily welcomed them and assured his support. Finally, a hymn to Don Bosco was sung by all. The breakfast was prepared by the parishioners and shared with joy. They generously bore all the expenses of the meeting. May St. John Bosco bless them and help them to be signs and bearers of God's love among the young people.

*Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam.*

MA Delegate for Salesian Cooperators



## **Inter-Province Second Novitiate First Phase, Manikandam, Trichy**

The soul searching journey in preparation for the radical commitment to remain in His love for perpetuity began on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Divyadhanam, Trichy. We delved into a passionate search to discover and commune with Him in order to derive the inner strength in sweet solitude.

The first phase of the second novitiate was also an opportunity to build communion with one another as we were 11 of us from four provinces namely one Sister from INT, four Sisters from INM, two Sisters from INK and four Sisters from INC.

We initiated the course with the Blessings of our Lord through Holy Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Selvakumar Arockia SDB. We had an enriching experience in an ambient filled with the beautiful miracle of soul





raising sights and colors of peacocks, beautiful scenery and the perfumed wind which seduced our mind to hold our ears to His mystical sacred hymns and gentle voice. The family spirit and the sisterly love and care nourished us to realize God's tangible presence amidst us. Though we were from different culture we shared our experiences, our talents, joys and sorrows.

We were fortunate to have inspiring inputs from 14 eminent persons. The following were the topics which lead us into deep reflection about our life in fidelity to the call:

- Significance of the Second Novitiate – Sr. Micheal Cruz FMA
- Canon Law: Spiritual & Community Life of the members – Fr. Arulkumar SDB
- Women Discipleship in the Gospel – Sr. Margaret D.J FMA
- Community, place for vocational growth based on the Constitutions – Sr. Margaret Amalanathan
- Cost of Discipleship – Fr. Bernatshaw SDB
- Salesian Spirituality, Spiritual Journey of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello – Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy FMA
- Discernment – Dynamics for ones Consecrated Life (Personal & Community) as a way of life – Fr. Rex Pai SJ
- Religious vows from theological and psychological perspective – Fr. Amalraj Susai SDB
- Patron – Spiritua Humanism of St. Francis de Sales – Fr. Santhiyagu MSFS
- Mary in the Salesian Charism and the Life of the Institute – Sr. Josephine Rani Susai FMA
- Formation of Conscience – Fr. John Baptist SDB
- Psycho-Spiritual Integration – Fr. Lawrence OFM
- Person of Jesus Portrayed in the Gospel of St. Luke – Fr. Terrance
- Challenges of Media in the life of the young religious – Fr. Stephen Martin SJ

We also carry the sweet memories of moments of being together and the trip to Our Lady of Lourdes Basilica at Poondi, Kallani dam, Trichy Cathedral our Lady's church and we sailed to Thanjavur the place where our 6 Pioneers started their mission.

We take this opportunity to thank our Mother Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Margaret who took up this audacious step of forming young Sisters. We are grateful to her councilors for their guidance, love and thoughtfulness. We also enjoyed the accompaniment of Sr. Magdelene Rodriques who was our facilitator. We express our gratitude for her constant encouragement and like an angel she followed us with her cheerful presence. We thank all the sisters in the Novitiate community and especially our Novices who are the blooming bud for their help in enabling us to enjoy pleasant days in the company of the Lord and each other.

*Sr. Josephraj Josephin Diana*



## **SEMINAR ON SPIRITUALITY OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT**

The seminar on Spirituality of finance management at USM (Universal Solidarity Movement) in Indore was a great help to deepen ourselves on the spirituality of finance management. The total numbers of participants were 24 out of which three participants were from INT Province namely Sr. Nirmala Poobalarayen, Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela and Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary.

The resource person Fr. Jacob CMI focused on the core principles that determine financial management. He said that Religiosity divides people whereas Spirituality unites people, encourages freedom, leads to be liberal, and promotes critical thinking. He urged the participants to live the Spirituality of finance that demands our accountability, accountability to God, to community, to target group, to Donor / funding agencies and to Congregation. The Seminar helped the participants to understand the tasks of the finance manager in the congregation as one being available and approachable, to guide, direct, motivate and teach others. Ultimately the message that financial management is a Spirituality which should enhance the Congregation to have its Vision, Mission, Goals and core values clearly was driven home. The participants were asked to adopt Result based Management: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation as a strategy of managing funds in the mission in compliance with the legal requirements.



Finally the participants derived the message that one needs to become steward in administering the finance in a honest way and the charitable organization should use the funds for the General Public utility (GPU) purpose. We are grateful for this opportunity which helped us to gain new experience of a well defined Spirituality of Financial Management.

*Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela*, Provincial Eonomer, INT



## Christian Icebreaker Games for Adults



### **I Am Blessed**

I Am Blessed is an excellent icebreaker game for an adult group of Christians get to know each other better. It gives participants the chance to share something about their lives.

- 1.Start with a volunteer and have them give their name and a reason he or she feels blessed.
- 2.Continue around the room, asking each person to say the same thing.
- 3.The only rule is that each person should have a new and different blessing.

### **Autographs**

A Christian icebreaker game that is fun and teaches adult players something about the members of the group, Autographs takes a bit of preparation. Once you have your sheet created, you can use it multiple times. Create an autograph sheet with lines and 15 to 20 different statements that some of the people in the room can do, but probably not most of them. Leave a line below each statement for an autograph. Some examples are, "Recite the books in the Old Testament." or "Sing the third stanza to 'How Great Thou Art'." Each person is to find someone in the room who will perform the task. However, they can only use each name once. The people who perform the task are to sign next to that statement. The first person who fills the entire sheet with signatures is the winner.



# House in Focus



## Origin

Under Mary's maternal leadership the new community was founded on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006 in Ulagampatti. Sr. Mary Ann Fernando the then Provincial along with the community Sisters of Marianathapuram initiated the Salesian Charism in this second presence in Dindigul Diocese. Sr. Amutha Fernando and Sr. Auxilia Periyamayagam were the pioneers of this mission.

## Context

Agaram Panchayat has an average literacy rate of 58%, lower than the national average of 59.5%; with 58% of the males and 42% of females literate. 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

Agriculture is the chief occupation. The land is owned by the few landlords and the majority of the population is employed as agricultural laborers.

Casteism is highly prevalent in this area and people are discriminated and oppressed based on caste.

The majority of the populations are Catholics who are traditional Christians. Though they are Christians for many generations the effects of the established culture are easily traceable in their mentality and dealings.

## Mission

The Salesian Sisters were invited to strengthen the faith life of the Parishioners and dignify the quality of life of every person in this locality through evangelization and education.

- A Sister is given the post of Headmistress in the Parish Primary School in Ulagampatti.
- Sisters render their service in the Parish Liturgical Animation, Parish Catechism, and preparation for the reception of Sacraments, animate the Basic Christian Communities and visit the families
- Sisters run Evening study centers in the villages to prevent drop outs and facilitate quality learnings for the first generation learners.
- Neighborhood Children Parliaments are formed and followed to inculcate responsible leadership among children.
- Cooperators unit function as the extended arm in reaching out to the unreached with Salesian Spirit.

We appreciate your committed life and work in this part of our mission land dear Sisters.  
Hats-off for your courage, passion and zeal for souls.



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## Contact

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