



# SNOW.COM

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*Blessed to be a Blessing*

இறை உறவில் வேருன்றிட ! இளையோர் பணியாற்றிட !  
இதோ ஒரு சவால் !!!

சலேசிய அருட் சகோதரிகளின் சிறப்பு அம்சங்கள் :

★ஆனந்தத்தில் ஆண்டவருக்கு

தன்னையே அர்ப்பணித்தல்.

★அருட்சாதன வாழ்வில் வளர்தல்.

★இளையோரை நிறைவாழ்வுக்கு  
அழைத்துச் செல்லும் கல்விப்பணி  
ஆற்றுதல்.

★குடும்ப உணர்வை வலுப்படுத்தி, ஆன்மீக  
குழும உறவை மேம்படுத்தல்.

★ஒடுக்கப்பட்ட இளையோர், பெண்கள், சிறுவர்,  
சிறுமியர், அகதிகளுக்கு புதுவாழ்வு அளித்தல்.

★மரியன்னையின் வழித்துணையோடு மனித  
மாண்பில் மலர்தல்.



எம்முடன் இணைந்து உழைத்திட வாரீர்!!!



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## Editorial

### *Being a blessing is so much greater than just being blessed...*

*Ah! The blessing! We as Christians are called to live by faith, and in this faith we are called to be a blessing to others!*

*There's a certain entrepreneurial impulse I've always admired. To an entrepreneur, problems are opportunities.*

*It's human nature to get tripped up by the problem itself, to assume it's here to stay, or to cynically pass it on to someone else. These days we're awash in business models that "work" for one group of people at the expense of another. Our beloved State is set on the boiling temperature with turbulent incidence letting no one have a secure feeling. The rich enjoy at the expense of the under-privileged. But the situation is a clarion call for us who are blessed to extend ourselves to reach out to the lesser privileged as a blessing.*

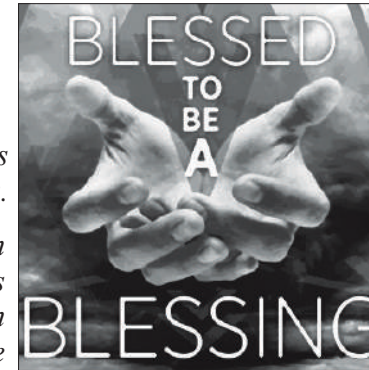
*As a blessing we are called to look inwardly and in a singular moment share the richness with the other to feel the love of God through our abilities to make them feel comfortable, joyful, peaceful, and on-the-whole happy. Choosing to live our life according to being a blessing is 'SO MUCH BETTER' than living to be blessed!*

*As people blessed we are called to live our best lives, our true lives, our authentic lives, we are called to become all of our brilliance. And when we show up in the world this way, the world benefits by the things that we do and thus we become a blessing for others. By their 'FIAT' the young Sisters who made their first and final commitment reassure hope in the world that is buried in selfishness and greed. As FMAs called to accompany the youth, we are the best sent for the least.*

*May our every endeavor recorded in the journal of life speak of the glory of the Almighty and kindle hope in the hearts of those in periphery. Called to be missionaries of hope and joy let us continue to march towards the peripheries bearing the light of faith and sow the blessings of divine love.*

#### **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 Prettenca



*Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi FMA*



# Missionary Impact

*A glimpse into the life of Mother Galina Cesira*

Mrs. Uthiriya Mary one of the students of Mother Cesira worked as a teacher in our institute for thirty three years. This is an interview with Mrs. Uthiriya Mary about Mother Cesira.

**Sister** : *Where and when did you meet Mother Cesira?*

**Mrs. Uthiriya Mary** : I met her first when I was a student in St. Mary's School in Katpadi. I was enchanted by her loving kindness.

**Sister** : *Can you share some of the sweet memories you have about Mother Cesira?*

**Mrs. Uthiriya Mary** : With pleasure. I had completed my Teachers Training when the construction of Auxilium College had already commenced. When I was in my twenties, Mother Cesira had a lot of trust in me. She invited me to come to Katpadi. As the construction of ACK building was in progress, I was asked by her to collaborate with Sr. Nancy and help her in the accounts. One day Mother Cesira came to supervise the work. She took me with her to see the building. As we were climbing down the stairs, suddenly a part of the building collapsed. Both of us were struck with fear. Immediately she held me with love, and assured me as she said: "God has saved your life and I have saved you. God will bless you with a longer life." Her joy knew no bounds as I was saved from the danger. I am spell bound by her motherliness. I can never forget this experience. As per her prophecy, God has blessed me with a long life.

**Sister** : *What transformation has she brought in your life?*

**Mrs. Uthiriya Mary :** She was not pleased to hear from us the words “I can't” She believed that the magic word for success is “I can and I will”. This insight has increased in me my self-confidence. Her love and concern has helped me to be an accomplished teacher.

**Sister :** *What are the personal traits of Mother Cesira?*

**Mrs. Uthiriya Mary :** Mother Cesira can be called “Mother of the Poorest and the orphans”. She had passionate love for the poor children. She had a limpid charming smile on her face. She is noted for her loving yet firm Sisterly corrections. Today we speak a lot about the rights of children but sixty four years ago Mother worked hard to uphold the rights of the children for education, health, hygiene and ensured a happy environment for the growth of the children. She entrusted us with lot of responsibilities and enhanced our self-confidence.

**Sister :** *What are the Salesian characteristics that you found in Mother Cesira?*

**Mrs. Uthiriya Mary :** Creating a happy atmosphere. Establishing a genuine friendly teacher student relationship were predominant in her. All the Sisters and teachers guided us and set us models to be followed. She taught us to be happy amidst worries and stress of each day. We learnt to live in the presence of God. The conviction that she imparted that God takes care of us and comes to our aid strengthened us to face life confidently.

**Sister :** *You had been a dedicated teacher for the past thirty three years. Can you share something about student teacher rapport?*

**Mrs. Uthiriya Mary :** I shared the same love that I had for my daughters with my students. The students were very affectionate towards the teachers. But today things are different. There is stress and violence in student teacher rapport. Today the relationship between the students and teachers are solely based on class rooms, tests, exams and marks.

*Mrs. Clotty was one of the orphans brought up by Mother Cesira. She has four children and lives in AuxiliumKatpadi. This is an interview with the Mrs. Clotty about Mother Cesira.*

**Sister** : *Could you share your reminiscence of Mother Cesira Galina?*

**Mrs. Clotty** : When I was one year old, I was adopted and brought up by Mother Cesira. I was with her when she was in Arni. I studied in Salesian Schools. When I was a child, I fondly remember being affectionately carried by her, fed by her. After dressing me up, I remember being admired by her. Oh I cannot forget the days when she took me for outing. I am enchanted by the way she loved the poor children. She used to sacrifice a lot to express her love.

**Sister** : *What have you learnt from her?*

**Mrs. Clotty** : I learnt to be contented in encountering all circumstances of life. I feel fulfilled in the thought that I am one of her favorite children.

**Sister** : *Can you share some of her personal characteristics?*

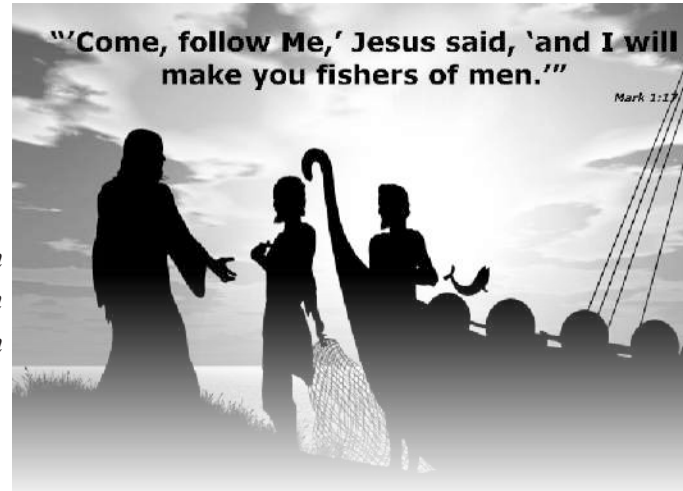
**Mrs. Clotty** : I love her compassion. She corrected us with kindness. Though she occupied a very high position, she never lost sight of us. She was concerned about us and she used to teach us good manners. She loved me with a mother's heart. I called her as Mother. Though she accomplished many things, the one thing which I remember with joy is her simplicity; the way she dealt with us, the manner in which she narrated stories, and the affection with which she took us out during vacation.

(This is an extract from the Tamil book “Mother Cesira's life and Mission” by Sr. Jeyaseeli. It has been translated by Sr. JeyaSharmila – Divyadhanam, Tiruchirapalli)



## Transformed by the Encounter

*“I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness I have drawn thee” – JEREMIAH 31:3*



*I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul cannot reach. I love thee, but thee with a love that shall not die till the sun grows cold and the stars grow old. My soul was restless, my spirit imbued with dryness, my greenish foliage's verge started to turn yellow in due season and thus, my feet trotted in spots and my eyes unveiled in eagerness to relentlessly seek out an ardent lover of the Master, to discover the beauty of a remarkably transformed life. I wanted something new, oh; something like chalk and cheese in my life like every other human being aspires always.*

*I searched in vain unless a gushing spirit invaded me and made me realize, “Why do you search for me in others, when I am present fully in you?” You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Masking the self-confidence within myself, I worked to banish them by illumining it in the light of others. A pile of papers lay ahead of me as I sat down for my personal reflection. My soul taunted me and a heap of questions swaying across my eyes.*

*We are all now connected by the Internet in the fast pacing technological world like neurons in a giant brain. But ranging from this modern booming era of android world, I brim with joy in gratitude for the gift of my Salesian vocation. The moments of gratefulness I pen down in these words:-*

✱ *My detachment of my mother, a single parent, as an only child who was born with all possible pleasures that the youngsters of this epoch would seek and run after, sorting from technological advancements of television, video games, computer, laptop, mobile, t.v. games, LCD (Projector), others like cycle, keyboard, guitar, scooty, and needless to say much more. I leave all these comforts for my Lord, am I not transformed by the encounter?*

✿ *My first crush with the Eucharistic Jesus in Mumbai as I received Him for the first time, oh, indeed I would say that I am transformed by the encounter for my VOCATION instigated there... desiring as a tiny bud waiting to bloom in the hands of God, looking curiously at the lives of the Sisters unbothered by the external stimuli of people.*

✿ *My developing love for the Infant Jesus in my school days in New Delhi with the Salesian sisters, oh, doesn't this say that I am transformed by the encounter? For His grace to make me actively involved in the church activities – altar girls, choir, volunteers, children and youth groups and intently look at Him amidst all competent and challenging friends.*

✿ *My steadfast hold to Blessed Virgin Mary through the marian chants and hymns in my Saelsian boarding at Calcutta with Our Lady of Bandel, Happy Voyage, learning to surrender even my entire family under her care and protection, only in the risk of accepting boarding life to live independently, am not I transformed by the encounter?*

✿ *My firm and unshakeable decision to follow the Crucified Lord, in Southern region of Tamilnadu in spite of my own experiences in familiar places of North and the Salesian Sisters calling there by, here, I choose a different land, yes, mission life simply drags me like the strangers in a foreign territory willing this to be His plan alone, ya, I feel I am transformed by the encounter.*

✿ *My experiences of life in various places and yet the assurance and guidance that He gives me to walk forward is stupendous. My late father was a channel to make my discernment irrevocably strong as he did not actually approve it and I had a real tough time as he was not present with me, yet something just led me ahead, isn't it the encounter that transformed me?*

✿ *I had my determination soaring high and the willingness to wrestle with my demons within me to cause the angels to sing. It's not a seed sown yesterday and a plant nurtured today or tomorrow. For transformation doesn't take place instantly, it takes days, months, and years, as in the life of Saul to become Paul.*

✿ *Therefore, there's no use only staring at others (as I thought) proclaiming to all that miracles happens only to special people or to virtuous souls and nevertheless, nothing happens to me. But as I view my every day's life until my childhood, will you not agree with me in saying, that each one's lives, like mine are undeniably TRANSFORMED BY THE ENCOUNTER.*

*- By Sr. SUNDARAM Bernadette Neha M7*



## NEWS TIT BITS FROM THE HOUSES

**KEELA ERAL**

**CANDIDATES RETREAT**

*Retreat is being with the Lord. Retreat is reflecting on our life.*

We the Candidates made our Annual Retreat for two days on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January along with the Apostolic Girls from Auxilium Convent, Thanjavur. On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 we started our retreat with Holy Mass. Fr. Singarayan Peter, Assistant Parish Priest of Keela Eral gave a brief explanation about retreat with a short inspiring story in the sermon. Then on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Fr. Bernardsha from Dindigul preached, animated and helped us to foster a personal relationship with Jesus.

He also insisted us to visit Blessed Sacrament often. Then his talk on “FMAs – the messengers called to a life of discipleship” motivated us to be joyful always. On hearing the talk on Salesian youth spirituality (SYS) with the wordings quoted “Sad saint is a bad saint” we reflected on our life and



also we took resolution to try to love our life according to the spirituality. Fr. Bernardsha very clearly explained about the benefits of confession. Then we had a special hour of grace that is confession and personal counselling. This refreshing and renewing day, helped us to reflect about ourselves. We shared our reflections like.

- ➔ God loves me; He guides me.
- ➔ God called me not because I am worthy. After calling He will make me worthy.
- ➔ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice (Phil 4:4)

We concluded our retreat with the Holy Eucharistic celebration, thanking God for this beautiful streamline which enthused our spirit to walk positively further with God.

## TOUCH OF DIVINE, AUXILIUM HOSTEL

*“When He is deeply engraved in our hearts, can joy and peace be away...?”*

The touch of Divine makes life more beautiful and meaningful. Leaving aside our daily schedule, our routine life, we had a break to halt, to think and to realize our life's rhythm with God. This efficient task was initiated, on 20<sup>th</sup> evening with a fervent Holy Eucharistic celebration by Fr. John Baptist SDB from Amsam Community, Trichy. The initial thoughts were focused on “Break Through” which was illustrated with the Parable of Sower. Father motivated us to, “Break Through the life, Come what may”. The next day points were lighted on Womanhood, Priorities of today's youngsters and LIFE. Interesting life realities quoted and funny videos made talk more alive. We had 2-3 hours of silent adoration – the moments of divine healing; simultaneously we also made our conscience pure through the Sacrament of reconciliation. The day's confession became a real breaking point. Each one had unique experience...

**Rachel** : I strongly believe that the Spiritual environment created by my Salesian Sisters did succeed in enabling the “Inner Me” to face the onslaughts of LIFE

**Ruby** : Experiencing HIM is the most personal and private experience I can ever have...

**Theres Fatima** : The moments of retreat enshrined the secret of a truly happy and blessed life

**Rama** : We learnt to praise the Lord in heat and cold, in joy and sorrow, in praise and censure, in pleasure and pain, in loss and gain and in the face of disappointments.

We, with grateful hearts offered a thanksgiving Mass for the day's experience, for our retreat Preacher Fr. John Baptist SDB and for dear Superior Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia and Sisters for this pleasant and graceful opportunity to encounter God and for all the special arrangements that provided us a conducive ambient to do our retreat well.

## ASHRAMAM EXPERIENCE OF CPC'S

The Candidates were accompanied by Sr. Epsibai to Manivakam for their Ashram Experience. It was from 04<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February. Sr. Rosalia Doss animated them on the theme "The purpose of becoming Christ Conscience". It helped them to know the basic Christian values and to deepen their faith. The Candidates learnt to read the Word of God in particular the Gospel with the purpose of becoming Christ like. The Ashram experience was a wonderful opportunity to know one's own identity, to grow in the fullness of Christ and to become another Christ. They understood the importance of silence, the demands of Christian life and learnt to deny themselves. This enriching experience made them to find the true treasure that is Jesus Himself in their life and follow Him closely. Some of their personal sharing as follows.



*B. Susmitha*

*We were motivated and encouraged to live the life of Jesus, to follow His commandments and to fulfill His will. It helped me to change my attitude according to the life of Jesus.*

*"Everyone can wear a cross, Can anyone bear a cross?" These words inspired and helped me to reflect more about my vocation. I will live according to His plan.*

*Nirmala*

*Meditation, Adoration and praying in the nature helped me to be united with God and made me to understand God's unconditional love and His Goodness.*

*Each one of us was asked to select a particular group of people and pray for them. We were able to deepen our faith and our relationship with Jesus.*

*J. Christina Jenifer*

*Ashramam experience helped me to feel God's presence and God's love in my life. I realized that, how Jesus suffered for me? For what purpose He chose me? It helped me to strengthen my vocation. And I took the resolution that I will work hard to fulfill His plan in my life.*

*Tensiya*

*Abinaya*

*The Ashram experience created in all of them a spiritual space due to the calm, quiet and unassuming atmosphere that prevailed there. This was a unique opportunity to go beyond the demands of daily life and to explore the richness of a spiritual life in an intimate silence, reflections and classes. The Candidates are grateful to God, Provincial and all the sisters for this rich experience. It is also one more gift to deepen their vocational journey.*

*Sr. Epsibai*

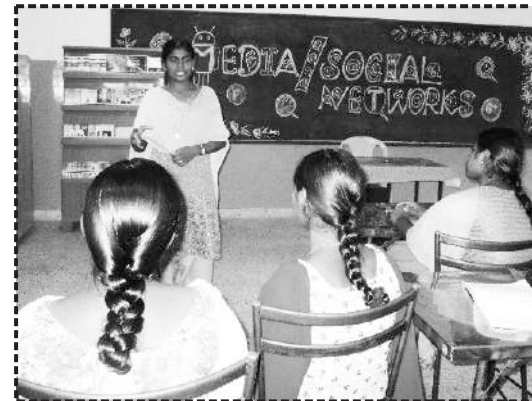
## “CONNECTING WITH MEDIA IS CONNECTING WITH WORLD”

Media becomes one of the significant elements in the life of today's youngsters. One way or the other they are either connected or influenced to mass media or Social media. Realizing this fact very strongly a one day media awareness programme was conducted to Contact Period Candidates by Sr. Joseph Pretencia. During the sessions the basic ideas about Mass Media, Social Media – their benefits and ill-effects were enlisted. Video clippings, group discussions and fun games made the day more creative and active.

**TECH – TALKS :** The case study with the case – made an innovative difference through tech- talks. Simple media issues were given in the groups to discuss and presented very technically by the candidates.

**FILM ANALYSIS :** During afternoon sessions we had film analysis. As future Salesian youth educators, the Candidates were enlightened how to analyze a film with following perspectives :

- ✓ Present Political and Social Scenario.
- ✓ Recognize Real and Imaginary parts in the movie.
- ✓ Identify the movie focus on one particular - group/religion/caste/language/etc.,
- ✓ Modification can be done in – Comedy/ Concept/ Romance/ Sentiments/ Fight – to make it little better.
- ✓ Apt title



Certain movies were critically analyzed and with the day concluded with a short summary of the whole day's input.

– Sr. JOSEPH Pretencia

## MADURAI - SIRUDUR

### E VIVA LITTLE SAINT LAURA, WE LOVE YOU!



It was a joyous day for the boarders of Auxilium, Madurai Sirudur since a day of youth was kept up on 21<sup>st</sup> January remembering the feast of our little saint, Blessed Laura vicuna and our Father and Founder Don Bosco. The youth pastoral coordinator Sr. Arockiam Santhana Mary was the organiser and at

10 am all the boarders marched to the stage of Matriculation School from the convent gate shouting the slogans such as "Long live Blessed Laura", "Long live Don Bosco" highlighting their Virtues. Reaching the stage Rev. Sr. Anthonyswamy Suganthi, the Superior inaugurated the youth day by cutting the ribbon.

The students were divided into groups and were given newspaper cuttings about ECO concern'. Within the time limit they came with beautiful reflections which they will remember to live in their daily lives. It was very creative and they learnt from that not to waste papers, to eat all kinds of vegetables etc. Then they were given chance to exhibit their talents through individual sports and group games. All the girls without any exception actively took part in it. The first part of the celebration concluded with a festive lunch.



At 3 o'clock Rev Fr. Renigo Roy sdb the Assistant and Administrator of St. Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur celebrated the festal mass. The qualities of Blessed Laura vicuna were highlighted in the mass introduction. The celebrant highlighted the sacrificing love of a young girl for her mother and thus stirred the hearts of the youth to recognise the sacrifice of their own parents.

In the evening before supper a short programme was conducted to recall the story of Blessed Laura Vicuna. The youth day ended with the spirit of the little saint's qualities and delighted hearts after receiving small prizes and grand supper.

- Sr. Arockiam Santhana mary

***NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY***

National Girl child day was celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> January'18. In order to commemorate the “National Girl Child Day” Marialaya organized a street play in Broadway community at Broadway Bus Terminus. The aim of the programme was to increase the awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by the **girl child** in the society. The observance of the day enhances the meaningful contribution of the girls in decision making processes through the active support of the parents and other community members. Marialaya also focused to make the people understand that it is necessary to remove different types of social discrimination and exploitation that girls generally face in their life as a girl child.



The programme started in the Broadway bus stand with our traditional music “parai” in order to gather the general public. Sr. Sebastiar Caroline welcomed the gathering followed by welcoming the Chief Guest Mr.Saravanan, District Child Protection Officer, Chennai.

An awareness song was sung by our community organizer followed by a Street play that emphasised on the Girl child discrimination and the exploitation that she undergoes in each stage of life. The street play also created awareness on the legal rights, equal education and fundamental freedom. Mr.Saravanan DCPO in his speech highlighted on the legal rights and and the fact of life. He also highlighted on legal legislation which we should be aware of as a citizen of society. Legislation includes Prohibition of Child Labour, Child Marriage Act, prevention from Child Abuse and child exploitation etc. Sr. Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya spoke on the significance of Girl Child and aim of celebrating and promoting it to the general public. The programme came to the end, with awareness song followed by vote of thanks by Sr. Caroline.

## AWARENESS ON GENDER EQUALITY

The awareness programme was organized and conducted by Marialaya George Town. More than hundred women participated and the meeting started around 10.30 a.m. with a prayer song followed by welcome speech and entailing the chief guest with memento. The programme was presided by Mrs.Susila, Advocate, Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary, Director of



Marialaya and Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam, Province Women Coordinator, Coimbatore. The main aim of the programme was to sensitize the women towards empowerment. Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary insisted that Gender equality does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. Mrs.Susila, Advocate spoke about the life of people in the current scenario and on how people are living concerned chiefly with one's own personal profit and pleasure. She also narrated a life story of a woman "Nangeli", in Nagarkovil who cut off her breasts in an effort to protest caste based breast taxation. She compared the goods and service tax (GST) towards the Napkins used by women which is included in the GST. She also ended up her speech by telling that even though we work more towards women empowerment and development still we lack so many things in today's reality. Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam, the Province Women Coordinator, insisted the women to work together for the gender equality and to treat the girls with equal access to education, health care, work, political and economic decision-making processes etc. for the sustainable developments of humanity at large. The Programme came to the end with Vote of thanks by Mrs. Theresa, women group organizer followed by lunch to all the beneficiaries.

## MEDICAL CAMP

The free medical camp was organized for the people of Kalyanapuram and Jadhkapuram. The aim of the programme is to make the helpful for vulnerable



children and women, who cannot afford expensive procedures and medicines. It started at 9.30 a.m with a welcome speech by Sr. Sebastiar Caroline followed by a prayer song. Mrs. Rose Lilly one of our staff helped us to arrange the doctors and medicine. There were five Doctors and assistants who

came for the medical camp from the Stanley Hospital. Some of the volunteers came to help us for registration and to issue medical cards. General check-up was done by Dr.Shanker MBBS and Dr.Naresh MBBS. More than hundred people had benefited through this camp. Medicines were distributed at the camp itself. Sr. Sebastiar Caroline thanked the doctors, assistants, volunteers and all those who helped for the success of the programme.

## CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The Programme started of around 4:00 pm. The awareness programme was held at the respective community.

It was organized by the Field work students from different college to educate the women in Loans Square area. More than twenty five women and few children participated in the Cancer Awareness Programme.





Thus keeping this as a background study, Marialaya organized community level Outreach programme, in order to sensitize the Community youth and women to prevent the spreading of cancer among women and youth. The meeting started with what is cancer? What are the types of cancer? What are its causes and consequences? The community youth participated actively during the interactive discussion. The resource person also insisted the youth to know on what are the main causes for cancer? How does it develops when we consume tobacco, junk food continuously? The resource person also screened a pictorial presentation and statistical data in order to make them understand even better.



At last the group was encouraged to discuss on how we can save people at its initial stages. After the session, youth were given time to ask doubts and question. The programme came to the end with vote of thanks by the community organizer and Pamphlets were distributed in order to make the

Community people to use their services (Cancer institute services) for free treatment.

### **PAST PUPIL'S MEET**

On this day we have decided to have an Initial Past Pupil meet in Marialaya Chennai. 30 past pupils participated in the meeting with great enthusiasm. The whole session was led by Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary the Animator of the community. The meeting started at 3.00 pm with a prayer song. Then they have introduced themselves through a music game. During the course of the meeting the past pupils recalled the memories of their stay at Marialaya. They collectively upheld that the values they learned in Marialaya helped them to stand firm in every kind of life situation. Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary appreciated their sense of belonging and she said that this was a golden opportunity to strengthen the bond of the union of each other and with the Salesian family. They thanked the management for their generous availability and asked to animate every month. Finally they came to a conclusion that they would met once in three months. They thanked each other, shared tea and snacks and as a token of love a bed sheet was distributed to each of them.

## 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

Marialaya celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March in the SagayaMadha Hall premises. The function started at 11.00 am with the welcome prayer song. The programme was presided by the chief guest Mr. J.P Kumar, Mimicry Artist, Mrs. Sheena, Associate Trainer, Life Academy and escorted by the other



dignitaries Fr. Christopher. Asst. parish Priest, Mr.Karthikeyan, Ganga Hot Chips and Sr. Arul Mary the Director of Marialaya were Guest of honour. The programme began with the lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour. The programme officially started off with Welcome Dance by Mrs. Siva Lakshmi, Community organizer. Welcome speech was delivered by Sr. Annamanickam, Superintendent of Children Home followed by the presentation of bouquet and memento. Annual report was red by Sr. Sebastiar Caroline. Around 420 children participated. Children were dressed in colourful attires.

**Fr. Christopher, Asst. Parish Priest**, spoke about MalalaYousafzai, a Pakistani activist for female education who is well known for the human rights advocacy, especially the education of women and children. He also spoke on the life of Stephen Hawking, one of the best scientist whose brilliant mind ranged across time and space though his body was paralyzed by disease.

**Actress Ms.Priyadarshini**, in her speech spoke on the Significance of love, respect and sharing.



**Sr. Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya** in her speech spoke on the significance of the children's rights and children's protection. She also questioned the children whether there is safety for children in today society? She also further explained on the functions/ Significance of children parliament?

**Mr. Jesuin John Bose, Professor MSSW,** in his speech motivated the children to be well disciplined and also insisted on sharing.

**Mrs. Sheena Manuel, Associate Trainer Life Academy** in her spoke on the life coping skill - how one should behave and tackle their life during crises situation.

A cultural performance was presented by the community as well as shelter home children (centre wise). Each centre gave their cultural performances with grace and got a big round of applause for dance, song and Skit performance – which emphasised Prevention of Pollution. Certificate and prizes were distributed to all the children who won in the competition held during the academic year 2017-18.

**Mr. J.P. Kumar, Cine artist, Runner up of Kallaka Povathu Yaru-3.** He entertained the children, with his mimicry and voice sound efforts. Children were over whelmed with joy by seeing his performance with their favourite hero voice. The programme came to the end with vote of thanks by Mrs. Saraswathy, Community Supervisor followed by lunch distribution to all the participants.



*"Do Not be Afraid of what GOD asks of you!  
It is worth saying yes to GOD!  
In him we find our joy!" - Pope Francis*

## GIRLS DAY OUT TO BANGALORE

Marialaya Children Home Girls had a fun and memorable trip to Bangalore that was organized by Chennai- Food Bank with the support of Marialaya. This programme was organized by food bank for the Children Home Girls on 24<sup>th</sup> March'18 to Bangalore through plane. 10 of our Marialaya Children Home girls were accompanied by Sr. Annamanickam, Children Home Superintendent along with 7 other NGO's representatives/children & volunteers from Food Bank.

Our children had their first wonderful & amazing trip by plane. It was two hour journey during which our children were excited at the unfolding day's events. It was a dream for many of our girls to travel by plane. While travelling in the plane, our children had a mixed emotion of both anxiety and happiness. Children enjoyed their first time experience in plane, where they also shared that **“We don't know whether we will get such a chance to experience it, in future”**.

After reaching Bangalore, Children were taken to Amusement park – **“Fun World”**. While entering the fun world, children were given chocolates as a token of love. At the amusement park, Children rode on various rides like Columbus, Tora-Tora, and Flying Saucer etc & appeared excited after enjoying every ride.



Children were later taken to **“Snow World”** - which was the best part of the trip. Children enjoyed a lot, playing in the snow. To be mentioned, everything was arranged professionally and worked out well by the organizers during the day.

Our Children were not sure on what to expect from this trip while starting from Chennai but our children really enjoyed a lot. On the whole, Our Children Home Girls felt short of words to express their gratitude to the donor for organizing such a wonderful trip for them. Our children boarded the plane, carrying the treasures of beautiful memories of the entire day.

*Sr. SEBASTIAN Caroline*

## **GRATITUDE DAY**

Gratitude is an expression of attitude to God and to human beings. This was visible on the 10th of February as we celebrated community day. Every big event is prepared both spiritually and with much love. The theme of the community day was “Encounter the Lord to Enrich the Young”. It was a Twelve days preparation in the community, because of lack of time. The Gospel passage for our reflection and to practice were



- Like Samuel let us listen to God's voice and spend time to listen to the stories of the inmates. (Prayer Experience)
- Like Jesus let us listen and accompany each Sister in the community as disciples experienced on the Road to Emmaus. (Community Experience)
- Search and accompany the weakest in our campus and help the persons to taste the LOVE of Jesus.(Mission Experience)

The climax was on 10th when the Sisters, staff, Salesian family members, Religious of different congregation, Benefactors and inmates congregated in Marialaya. We thanked God for the gift of Sr. Irudaya Raj Victoria, each sisters, Benefactors and inmates for being blessing to the community. The Morning Prayer filled us with joy as we not only believed but told each other that we were a “Miracle” to the institute, the community and each one.

At 10.30 a.m. we had a beautiful solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Francis Rosario, the Parish Priest, Salesian Priests from Nest Community and from St. Catherine Church. During the homily Fr. Rosario stressed on the thought - God is the foundation of our homes on the Rock of Christ and not on sand. After the mass we



had a time of short entertainment by children and young girls. The celebration ended with the agape.

## 12.02.2018 - RED HAND DAY

Today, child soldiers are fighting in at least 14 countries around the world. Boys and girls alike are forced into combat, exploited for their labour, and subjected to unspeakable violence. "The powerful weapon of its nation is its youth." But as it is believed it is not successful in the entire place. Even in this modern world so called technology world many young children are abused very badly especially



below 15 to 18. Not only physical but socially and economically, and all this because of their lack of knowledge about their rights and lack of proper implementation of mechanisms. Having this thought in our mind, we wanted to help the children to know more about human life and the dignity of their life, We as an organization working for child

right celebrated at Avinashi RC School. 500 students participated in it. With the support of the TDH (Terre Di Homes), we initiated an awareness programme named as Red hand day to stop the abuse of child as soldiers. We went to Avinashi, RC School to give an awareness programme in the morning. We began with the question. What are the days we celebrate and remember during the year? The reply came from the students were,

- Father's Day
- Mother's Day
- Teacher's Day
- Women's Day
- Children's Day Extra...

But nobody knows about the RED HAND DAY. So we started with STREET PLAY, this was given by the young girls from Marialaya. Then the coordinator of Marialaya Sr. Joseph Susai Latha explained the following the highlights.

- To know the children's rights
- To live more dignified life
- To know about the misuse of the children as a soldiers without their knowledge
- To inflict - pain than pleasure
- To show that 'children should be children, not soldiers'.

And highlighted the countries where children are used as soldiers, for example,



Congo to Myanmar to Syria. To mark this event and to make it more meaningful, all the children came forward to imprint their palms on the cloth which showed solidarity, concern and love to the children. Finally we thanked the Headmistress Sr. Alphonse and the Staff for their support and collaboration to host this event which paved the way for the better understanding of the status of children.

At the end all the children and the staff expressed their gratitude for organizing the day which has now become a memorable experience.

### THANJAVUR

## BIBLE DAY AT NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Deep reverence and love for Bible was kindled among the little buds of Nursery and Primary School through the celebration of the Bible week on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The Holy Bible was brought in procession, Aarathi was taken and the students carried placards to display the significance of the Word of God.



Rev. Sr. Magnificat Soosai and the interest taken by the parents and teachers to help the children perform their best was laudable. Thus the children were motivated to listen to the Word of God, grow in faith and bear fruits like the seeds on good fertile soil.



There were bible dances, songs and skit on biblical characters. The highlight of the day was the spontaneous narration of Bible stories by KG kids. The children also enacted the parable of the prodigal son, lost sheep, parable of the sower, Wisdom of Solomon and song on Zaccheus. The participants were appreciated much by the correspondent

## MEDIA WEEK CELEBRATIONS AT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

“Social media is something of a double-edged sword. At its best, social media offers unprecedented opportunities for marginalized people to speak and bring much needed attention to the issues they face. At its worst, social media also offers



everyone' an unprecedented opportunity to share in collective outrage without reflection. But it takes discipline not to let Social media take one's time.” This was the kind of awareness bought to the students of class VI to IX through the celebration of the Media week from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. It was well animated by Mrs.Sheela, PG teacher of Hr. Sec. School and Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer, the media coordinator. The various initiatives taken during the week's celebrations helped the children gain awareness on social media and various social networking sites and be updated with current scenario in the digital world of media.

A Group Conversation was held on the various Social Media and their uses. A seminar on the 'Pros and Cons of Social Media' was conducted by Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer in two groups for students of VI and VII separately and for VIII and IX separately. A Short film on Facebook addiction and overcoming it and various other videos and songs were played during the seminar. Group discussions were held encouraging the students to speak on how they would feel in the absence of social media and how they could use them effectively. The various Cybercrimes, illusion in Advertisements, Facebook culture and Selfie mania were highlighted during the seminar. The seminar promoted a good participation on the part of the students and encouraged an open sharing on their views and values they carry for their lives.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, being 'International Women's day', the projection of women in Social Media was presented by Mrs.Sheela. The students were given an activity to collect as much information as they could from Newspaper pertaining to women in society and the class that collected the most was awarded a prize by the teacher. It was interesting to witness the students presenting various reports of women achievers, leaders and victims of crimes and abuses. Again various video clippings and songs were used to cover the topics on women in media, fan clubs and hero worship, What's app, YouTube and social networking sites. The celebration of the Media week served a great deal for the good of children and it also was an eye opener to the realities and advancements of today's technology.



## HOSTEL DAY

The grand and most awaited day for the hostellers of Auxilium youth centre is the Hostel day. It was celebrated in the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and organized by Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, the hostel warden.



The hostellers gave a fantastic and colourful programme that included songs, English skit, dances, and debate on the role of women and miming on the evil on media. Prizes were distributed for talent show, games – group and individual and for the volunteers.



Finally those who came for Holy Mass daily without fail were given a lucky prize. Sr. Superior gave her message on valuing the gratuitous love of God which is most often taken for granted. The day was a witness to the special charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello in our mission.



The first Annual Sports Meet of Auxilium College of Arts & Science was held in the College grounds on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The air was vibrant with the enthusiasm of all participants. Games and sports play a pivotal role in one's life. The Institute is architected in such a way that a considerable area of land is set apart for play grounds. We believe that healthy mind resides in a healthy body and to provide highest quality training.

The program started with the entry of Chief Guest, Mrs.Savariammal, P.C, Devakkottai, and the introduction of Students Council members to the Guests which was followed by March past by the students belonging to four Houses with their motto **Red** – “Get, Set, Go, here is our show”, **Blue** – “Race the waves”, **Green** – “Go ahead, be the Best”, **Yellow** – “winners never quit”. Torch run with Colorful balloons in the hands of the young girls on two wheelers made an attractive show and the Olympic torch was lighted up followed by the oath taken by the Sports Captain.



Then came the proud moment where doves were released by the Chief Guest, College Secretary and Principal, symbolizing Love, Peace and Harmony. Motivating songs were played while the students made a scintillating display of



their skillfulness through drills, yoga, aerobics, and pyramids and while they participated with the spirit of sportsmanship in edu-sports activities.

It was an opportunity for students to exhibit their talents. The competitive spirit was well evident during the events. Fun games were organized for teachers also.

Medals were awarded to the winners. Green House was declared the Best House. It was indeed a memorable day for all attendees!

Thanks to the Lord of all Good things and thanks to our dear Superior Rev. Sr. Maria Pushpam who showed much interest to make this day indeed a great one.

## **COMMUNITY GRATITUDE DAY**

**17 Feb. – 17 March**

### ***GRATITUDE DAY***

As the climax of the month long preparation the Community gathered together in front of the Chapel for the vigil service of the day of thanksgiving to express our deep sense of gratitude to God and to one another. The Prayer commenced with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and we thanked the Lord for His constant love and fidelity especially for His continuous invitation to remain in His Love. We thanked God for the gift of the Animator Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela the guiding star of our Community, by pouring honey in the empty bowl which she carried as a sign of being thankful for her sweetness of virtues and for strengthening our Community Communion by her witnessing presence. We raised our hearts in thanks for each Sister of the Community and the various sectors for whom we work in our Apostolate.

As a sign of gratitude towards God's creation we planted the saplings and have taken a decision to care for the nature. We came together to implore the Spirit of God upon each of us to strengthen us in love as the Trinitarian Community.

The Community invited the Animator Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela to open the surprise room. She was accompanied with 'Parai' a cultural dance performed by two of the first year Novices and opened up to see the surprises prepared by the Community with love and Prayer. She thanked everyone for their hard work and love.



On 17<sup>th</sup> morning the prayer was animated on the theme 'Witnesses of Joy'. We thanked God for the countless blessings He showered upon us every day. With a commentary based on 'Wheel and Axis' which symbolized the Communitarian act, all gathered and stood in a circle and made the wheel out of colourful ribbons in which the Animator was the hub symbolizing the uniting factor of our Community. While making the wheel all her beautiful virtues were explicated. Followed by the Holy mass which began with the classical dance and an introduction expressed our gratitude for everyone and everything and continued with 'MangalaAarathi'. Rev. Fr. SarprasadamAgilan SDB the Vice Provincial of Trichy, the main celebrant of that day in his homily stressed on 'Happiness the work of an inner act' and explained beautifully with his own experience the joy of living together in the Community. He invited everyone to be optimistic in our approaches, to go happily with everyone appreciating their goodness. He asked us to do everything willingly, especially he insisted the moments of decision making to be a happy experience at all times. We offered Prayers for various sectors of our Community through Prayers of the faithful.

In the evening, the Community had cultural programme during which the Novices expressed their joy of being together in the form of skit, dance and song. Followed by the Sisters' performance of a dance, action song and the notes of gratitude as a sign of expressing their love for the Animator Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela. Towards the end the Animator gave a message on 'Ten Beatitudes' written by her which we need to live in the ordinary situations of life and she presented those thoughts to each one with the gift. Thanking the Lord for His constant accompaniment the celebration came to an end.



## JUSTICE FOR ASIFA & ORATORY ANNUAL DAY REPORT

“Together with the young, we touch the chords of life” This was the core theme of our Oratory Annual Day celebration which was celebrated in our campus with the children from the three oratories of Don Bosco Gandhi Nagar, St. Mary Mazzarello Manikandam, Auxilium - Ambedkar Nagar, the evening coaching class & catechism children.

The programme commenced with the Rally around the village of Ambedkar Nagar before which some instructions were given on the purpose of the rally i.e.

“Justice for Asifa” giving heed to the cries of so many innocent children who are sexually abused and this rally was arranged to bring awareness against the violence and injustice done for the children and women. Throughout the village, all our children shouted out the



slogans vigorously without minding the hot sun. The events started at 10.30a.m. by welcoming the Animator Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela.

The OCD catechism children conducted the prayer service, by invoking God's blessings. Then each oratory presented their programme in a creative way. The whole celebration was organized by NCP, children of Ambedkar Nagar.

► Ambedkar Nagar oratory children creatively brought out the message through a small skit. It was based on the World Gratitude Day theme, 'With the young, we touch the chords of their life'. The oratorians brought out their talents and their rights.

- Manikandam Oratory children performed beautiful dance.
- Gandhi Nagar Oratory children through conversations explained what are the values and the qualities that they have learnt throughout this year.

Then the animator of our house Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michael, the Chief Guest of the day gave the message on “Realizing our talents and using it at the proper time and space.” She asked the children few questions from the message and from what they had learnt throughout this year and also gave small gifts to all those who have answered.



It was followed by Vote of Thanks group photos were taken. Then we distributed the prizes, food packs for the children after which they thanked everybody joyfully and set out to their homes. The Gandhi Nagar children thanked the animator for bringing them by bus which was provided by the MSFS Fathers.

By God's grace we ended up the oratory and gave thanks to God for His wonderful works and intervention in our oratories for the year 2017-18. With this the celebration was over and everybody reached home safely.

*- DEVADESS SONTYA, 11<sup>th</sup> Year Novice*



*Like the Good Samaritan, May we not be ashamed of tuching the wounds of those who suffer, But try to heal them with concrete acts of Love. - Pope Francis.*

## A WONDERFUL CEREMONY - ENTERING INTO THE NOVITIATE

How great was the day in which we have become the Novices!

Yes on this marvellous day we have received the Novices Medal. The Retreat was a preparation to begin our new life as Novices and receive the Medal. We had a prayer service in which we carried the candles toward the altar and everyone who gathered



in the Chapel prayed for us, invoked the blessing of the Holy Spirit on us and when the time came joy over whelmed in our hearts. We were very happy. We read the Scripture readings then we said our 'Yes' that we are ready to enter into the Novitiate in order to follow and experience the love of Jesus, to serve the Lord in gladness and to serve the young people.



Then our Mother Provincial Rev. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret introduced us to Novice Mistress Rev. Sr. Cruz Anthony Michaela after which we thanked Mother Provincial, Mother Mistress, all the community Sisters and Novices. On this day we had a deeper experience of God and we felt

that we had a great responsibility to be open to co-operate with the Holy Spirit who is the real Formator of our life to discern God's Will. We have to be faithful and fruitful servants for God and to His Covenantal Love. Above all this day was an unforgettable day for us.

*- Sr. Susainathan Ayesha, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Novice*



## **ANJANA'S SHARING IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PRE SYNODAL MEET IN ROME**

To talk about the presynodal journey and experience is always a pleasure, because I believe, that in itself is a witness. As you know, the preparations for the presynod, had started very early. The first of the series of discussions and meetings regarding the preparatory document I attended was in March 2017. So, from then on at various levels some work has always been on.

And as for the presynod itself, I represented the Syro Malabar church. There were altogether 9 delegates from India, including a Hindu and a Sikh. For me, the experience, in a word was transformative. The experiences are wide and varied. Like, meeting different people- from different continents, languages, cultures, religions, ideologies etc. I had two roommates- one from Spain and the other from Columbia. The girl from Spain speaks a little English and the girl from Columbia speaks no English. And I used to talk to her using Google translator because my knowledge of Spanish was limited to 'ola and ciao'. The 300 people were from 5 continents and 120 countries. There were people from as close as Pakistan and as far away as from Chile and I actually talked, interacted and discussed with them different aspects life and faith. There were also representatives of various religions, organizations, universities, departments etc. And for me, this was an experience like never before, and one which I am not sure whether will be repeated.

Another dimension of experience was the meeting itself. The meeting formally began with the interaction with Pope Francis. Yes, we see him almost on a daily basis and also do hear from him. But the experience of really meeting him was so humbling. Papa Francesco, was there with just like one of us, with an easy smile for everyone, talking to us, telling us things and asking us to share. The Holy See- a mighty ruler actually, I cannot ever imagine, our Modiji in that role. But he was there. Not only present but also listening. And for the discussions afterwards the four language groups (English, French, Italian and Spanish) were divided into small working groups. And I was in the English Group 4.









It is in these groups that the majority of discussions took place. And I think, being part of an English group actually enhanced my experience because the members were all from different places and from very different realities. I have been part of the youth ministry in some capacity for the last 11 years, but this was totally new – 6 full days of thinking, talking, walking, eating youth and church and nothing else. The morning mass will give the first thought and then begins the exercise, from breakfast till goodnight (most days I slept after 12- there were so many people to meet, and so many things to listen and share that time was not enough), it was all about youth, life and faith.

Also the Pontifical Mass on the Palm Sunday, was another unforgettable experience. I also met Salesian sisters and past pupils at the presynod. And Sr. Runita, Sr. Lolita and Sr. Celine had come to meet me on 25<sup>th</sup>. That was actually a moment of pride for me as a Salesian past pupil. As an Indian youth, and especially as a catholic youth – to be more specific, I belong to a minority group (Syro Malabar Church) within a minority Community (Christian) – in today's scenario life is not an easy task. And I say this taking into consideration different aspects of our lives. In the non-religious or rather in the ordinary life scheme, this is a time of change, unlike in the previous decades, now the reality is in constant flux (like a high speed neo engine). And youth today are facing this issue constantly. The youth is caught between the old cultural value systems and its teachings on the one side and the encroaching likeness of a globalized world which includes practical everyday issues like unemployment, insecurity, migration issues, an increasing group of qualified but unskilled youth etc. There is no easy way to stay true to both. The solution they find is in the individualism and associated ideologies. These have already proved fatal for the generation in the west. But caught up in the gyre, there isn't much else to do. And on the other hand, to live as a Christian, is also becoming increasingly difficult – both in the sociopolitical world and at a very personal level. The catholic values and individualism cannot coexist which leads to an inner turmoil for many youth today.

But, inspite of all this, Indian youth, especially Catholics are blessed. A major Indian contribution to the final document is regarding the youth commissions attached to all the bishop councils in India, because of which we have a structure (though at times lacking) to hold our youth together. This is not the case in Europe and elsewhere.

Another thought which came to me during the interactions, is that though realities are very different and solutions are varied, the essential problems that youth faces everywhere is the same. Their intensity varies of course. But ultimately, a German, American, Indian, African and Columbian could sit around and relate to each other's problems though by nature they were different.

Two ideas I would like to share with FMA India on the whole, after the global interaction would be, 1) find the youth in their places. This was what Don Bosco did. But I think, with the well-established schools and colleges and institutes we have become comfortable in our rooms where a lot of youth and children come to us. But the reality is still out there. And I think a lot more can be done. 2) Talk plainly about faith and Jesus. Be courageous enough to tell the young people that living a good life as an exemplary citizen is not enough, that living the catholic life is important because that alone can assure salvation and paradise.

Although it was just 8 days, I think I can go on for 80 days and I am sure I am going to recount and retell the stories until I am 80.

But, since I cannot go on forever like that in this mail. I'll stop saying, that this presynodal journey has reinforced my faith in Christ and in God's plan for me. I bow my head before the Master Planner and though I do not know what his plans are for me, I say Vado Io. Amen

*Love*

*Anjana Freesa Joseph Shadathil*



“Social media spark a revelation that we, the people, have a voice, and through the democratization of content and ideas we can once again unite around common passions, inspire movements, and ignite change”, says Brian Solis, a great Spokesman.

The FMA Sisters aroused their inner eyes to the reality of the modern youth through this usage of Media in our various houses as they felt the strong urge of threat posed by the manipulated influence of Media in the forthcoming generations which could easily hamper the target group of our Institute. We are given the Social Media and the Mass communication every day. Engulfing the area on Media, the necessity of photography was also stated with the various angles and shots in demonstrations in fusing in us the thirst to uplift our ignorant minds to socialization. So, Photos were always taken as a remembrance of the memorable events and to make a special embark on the chronicles of our community life.

Our community too adapted to various moments of participating in the usage of media as we have regular Spiritual Video on Saturdays based on the life of Saints and Biblical stories. To further add, the Salesians who come for Mass projected in the homily on “MEDIA, A POWERFUL TOOL TO COMMUNICATION”. We were also thrilled and enthused to know more about certain facts of which we were indeed ignorant. We also didn't abandon our inmates as we taught them the efficacy of Media through Media classes and they had the joy of witnessing the media based on life's real events connected with the Gospel values and relishing the Bible based stories.

If you can't be a pencil to write someone's happiness, then try to be a nice eraser to remove their sadness. Even during our special moments of prayer and to increase our fervour while preparing the liturgy, we implement its usage. During the most auspicious day of our community, we also relaxed by dancing, music and expressing ourselves freely and thus made our minds more refreshed.



Then, we entered the open space of the grounds to enjoy the company of each other through the short song videos favouring us to build up mutual love for each other and thus grow gracefully in the field of relationships. Further, we have some goodnights of What's App news with the message using the medium of net to make us all aware of the cry of the voiceless and the current scenarios. Not forgetting, the Print Media also paved way as Sundays and other leisure times were spent reading the weekly magazines, fortnightlies, bimonthlies etc.



Thus communicating through mike was a common affair during our everyday prayer moments and especially during the meetings and for important announcements. The music player was also used in times of birthdays, celebrations and for welcoming others. Apart from all this, we all Sisters as well as our house-girls were permitted to view one Tamil or any other language based movie once a month, specifically on a holiday or a Sunday. In order to prove some fascinating facts or for the use of Seminar, Recollection talks and relevant issues, Media was used profusely. The spark ignited from the flame touched us as we became aware of the rays that inspire us to be converted to the demands that it asks of us.

The message of Pope Francis on the 50<sup>th</sup> World's Communication Day's theme is "Communion and mercy, a fruitful encounter."

- Love is communication which leads to openness and sharing. So, we are called to reflect that Jesus has come for the fullness of life.
- Communication builds bridges. So, she stressed on the term "WORDS"...words in the field of communication and therefore, the words of Christians
- We are called to heal wounded relationship and to restore peace and harmony to the families



*"The work will wait while you show the child the rainbow, but the rainbow won't wait while you do the work." So, LET'S BEGIN OUR WORK OF EVANGELIZATION THROUGH MEDIA>>>  
"BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK... YOUR THOUGHTS RUN YOUR LIFE."*

- Sr. SUNDARAM Bernadette Neha



**SR. ROSARY** – *Sr. Gnana Samson Jennifer*

## **A UNIQUE LIFE OF SHEER DELIGHT**

A well famous quote of Henry Wadsworth “Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time.” reminds us of the indelible marks left behind by Sr. Rosary felt solely by the void created in the community of Thanjavur.

Her 84 years of earthly pilgrimage was lived in joy with a good sense of humour, great admiration for nature, prayerfulness, simplicity and a deep concern for the good of all, which characterised her witness to the Salesian spirit. She had a large heart as that of our founder Don Bosco to love all with compassion especially the poorest young people in all aspects.

A gifted and effective teacher indeed, an excellent and admirable artist, a talented and expressive dancer, a skilled and creative liturgy animator! These are just some of the unique descriptions of Sr. Rosary which none can deny. Her special and unshakeable love for the Holy Eucharist and Mary most holy brought her the grace of being taken to an admiration of eternal beauty on the day dedicated to Mary Help of Christians.

Sr. Rosary stood as an edifying example for a life of fidelity lived in simplicity, cheerfulness and a total dedication to the Lord for the sake of the young ones. She was known for her commitment in interceding unceasingly for all those who put an intention in her ears. Her gratefulness knew no bounds for all the favours done to her that with her fragile hands joined together, she would utter countless thanks.

A blessing was she when she untiringly blessed the little children and the school students who kept flocking to her before the morning assembly. Sitting at the entrance of our house, she was ever ready to welcome the children at school with her warmth and sweet smile. Such intrinsic values of Sr. Rosary keep her memory a lane to feel her loving presence in her absence.

'Marvellous in the eyes of the Lord are those who can notice the marvels of the Lord in others.' Sr. Rosary stood as an expert in appreciation and affirmation and invites each one of us to grow in that spirit of affirming each other! She also stands for all times a good model of Salesian cheerfulness, simplicity and prayerfulness.

“Everything passes, God alone remains”, is the hope she lived with. She is now united with the One who remains, to remain forever in His bosom and in our loving memories forever. Though we still continue to miss her presence, we are certain of having gained an intercessor in her for the good of our Province and our mission.





## TOWARDS INTEGRATED SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

ASSIST, the Social Development Office committed towards realizing integrated social transformation undertook the skilling mission for young people in partnership with QUEST ALLIANCE. The Coordinators and the Trainers of the Vocational Training Centers participated in the TOT organized by QUEST ALLIANCE from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Bengaluru. The well-equipped team plunged into the mission of mobilizing



and training students. Parents meetings were conducted in the respective centers to facilitate placements for the students with their consent and according to the choices and preferences of the students.



ASSIST also ventured into another fruitful effort of conducting summer classes for the benefit of the rural children and youth. 35 young girls and boys benefitted by this course. They were given lessons in Tailoring, Basic Computer application and Life Coping Skilling. The classes concluded with the certification. Mr. Swakin Eronimus the Specialist in conducting training for Teachers and Children was the Chief Guest. He congratulated the Parents and the students gathered for their interest and effort to spend their holidays in a useful way. In his talk he urged the students to learn skills that will make them confident to face life with courage in order to become successful and happy. Thus the students marched out with enthusiastic hearts all set for their new academic year.

*Mr. Lawly Claudson and Mr. Chinnarasu  
Program Coordinator and Instructor, ASSIST*

## The Chronicles of INT

### ANNUAL EDUCATING COMMUNITY MEETING REPORT

*MADURAI – SIRUDUR – 20.01.2018*

The Meeting started with 148 participants united in prayer guided by the community of Tiruvotriyur followed by the *introductory talk given by Mother Provincial*. The freedom given to the today's youth is mostly at risk because of the digital world in which they live. Educator is the one who is able to guide them through an understanding approach of listening and accompanying. All of these are fundamentally based on the relationship between the giver and the receiver. The future world has to be protected by today's good hearted men and women who can tend the vulnerable youngsters as well as the browbeaten Mother Earth. The thrust was given by her efficacious input to go through the day without missing the track.

*Sr. Anthonysamy Rosy and Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam* shared the message of the Rector Major to the participants. The explanation and the reflections on *the woman at the well* was very much inspiring to become creative and productive listeners. Strenna was well explained by projecting the points on the screen viewed by all. After the coffee break and photo session *Sr. Peter Selvarani* captured the recipients by her innovative presentation of the *Holy Fathers Message*. Refugees and migrants are to be welcomed and given a peaceful place to live. All who are not accepted in their homes and home towns are seeking refuge in our hearts and houses. The instructive display was illuminating the minds and the Pope's message was effectively conveyed to all. *Sr. AzariasArokia MarySelvi* animated the next session, taking the participants to the speculative world in which there is a least security for people to live and to enjoy the *richness of the Mother Earth*. She made everyone be aware of the selfishness of the politicians in making plans to exploit the wealth and prosperity of the Planet Earth.

The group discussion after the lunch break was thought provoking, bringing together the insights of all the members and the *General Assembly, co-ordinated by Rev.Sr. Micheal Cruz* helped the Educating Community to derive the plan for this year on the basis of active listening, welcoming and supporting the needy and caring for the Mother Earth. Thanking the Lord who called us to live responsibly, being co - creators of His peace, love and joy, the meeting was concluded.

*Sr. Peter Selvarani*

*Province Coordinator for Educating Community*

## TRIENNIAL EVALUATION FMA PCI

### - KOLKHATA

24-28 January 2018, were days of grace for FMA India as the representatives of Sisters, lay people and the young of all seven provinces gathered together for the Triennial Evaluation at the historical city, Dum Dum, Kolkata, the city of joy and the city of our beloved Saint Mother Teresa. The joy of meeting Mother General who greeted us like a real mother was overwhelming. We could feel the vibes that every word was impregnated with love and motherly care and her passion to reach out and accompany the young in the mission were beautiful. The PCI was blessed with the honourable presence of Rev. Mother Yvonne Reungoat and four members from the General Council: Sr. Alaide Deretti, Sr. Runita Borja, Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and Sr. Phyllis Neves. There were 35 participants along with the lay representatives.

The first day's liturgy invited us to blend together as 'WE' FMA India and not as individual provinces and this was seen and experienced right through the programme. Each day began with the talk of Mother General. Among many other things, Mother exhorted us to work for the increase in vocations.

The unique aspect of this PCI evaluation was that the answers of all seven provinces were collated and presented which saved a lot of time, repetition and boredom. It also helped us to understand the journey we have made as FMA India, our strengths and the issues needed to be addressed as FMA India.


We entered 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> with tricolors during the Morning Prayer and the Holy Eucharist focused on the significance of the day and on the theme, 'Missionaries of Hope and Joy.' Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB, the Vice Provincial of Kolkata, in his homily spoke on 'A joyful holiness is more convincing', he said, quoting the words of Pope Francis and invited the participants to be missionaries with an attractive smile.

Rev. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil the visiting councilor unfurled the tricolor flag and delivered the Republic Day message. She spoke about the tremendous growth achieved by the Nation in various fields and invited the audience to grow in tolerance and non-violence by developing a spirit of accommodation towards all.

Referring to the forthcoming Synod on young people, Mother General stated that our specific field of work is in the Church and that our Constitutions is the base of our personal life, community life, mission and it is very much in keeping with the teachings of the Church. She emphasized that we should not compromise with the formation of Sisters due to lack of financial and human resources.

Sr. Runita Borja gave us a glimpse into the Guidelines for Management of Goods in the FMA Institute which helped us to understand the document more clearly. In the end the participants watched with great interest the creative presentation of the Mumbai Province on the Encyclical 'LaudatoSi'. Joining St. Francis we say Laudato Si Signore!

The presence of La Madre and four General councilors added depth and clarity. Their timely interventions and clarifications were appreciated. The day came to an end with the evening prayer, dinner and a brief recreation which bonded us together as FMA India. It was a unique experience, where we felt at home with everyone and felt sad to part. A well planned programme, unique in many ways, uniquely lived in the Salesian spirit. Long live FMA PCI.



***Be shepherds with the smell of your sheep, in the midst of  
your people like Jesus the Good Shepherd.***

***- Pope francis.***

## PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY

Filled with a constant feeling of gratitude and a sound consciousness of God's steadfast accompaniment the Sisters, Staff, Lay Collaborators, Students and Benefactors of the Province of Our Lady of Snows gathered around our dear Mother Provincial to celebrate a day of gratitude to acknowledge and appreciate the boundless goodness and favors of the Almighty. The first Provincial Community day was held at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Trichy on 02<sup>nd</sup> and 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. The theme was "In Communion – Joyful Accompaniment of the Young to the Peripheries". The spiritual practices for the Provincial Community Day began from 07<sup>th</sup> January 2018 on various themes for four weeks accompanied by a video clipping to ponder on the themes: Jesus' Accompaniment of the Samaritan Woman, Mary's Accompaniment in the History of the Institute, Mary Mazzarello's accompaniment of the FMAs and Don Bosco's Accompaniment of the Confreres and the Young People. There were seventy Sisters, thirteen Novices, eight Contact period candidates, two teachers, seven College girls and three past pupils.

Eager and excited to vent out their thankfulness, appreciation and love towards Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret the Provincial, the Sisters, Staff and students got actively involved in making the entire house of Divyadhanam resound with simple and delightful decorations and heart touching messages. The bulletin boards highlighted the sentiments of thankfulness and appreciation from the depth of the heart of each individual present for the celebration.

The celebration started at 4.30 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> February with an inaugural ceremony which was held in a simple manner with special prayer and lighting the lamp by the Mother Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret and the Colorful balloons were flown in the air to mark the splendid start of the occasion. This was followed by the candle light Rosary in procession by all the Sisters animated by the Junior Sisters of Regunathapuram. For each mystery, an article from the Constitution was

read on 'Accompaniment'. The Sisters and Novices proceeded to the cemetery and a decade of Hail Mary was offered for Sr. Muthusamy Rosary and Sr. Abramo Teresia who were buried there. After praying the Rosary, there was a gathering at the Conference hall for the dissemination of the Triennial Evaluation held at Kolkata from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Mother Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, the two delegates Sr. Ambrose Little Flower and Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya along with Mrs. Stella Sarun Devi – Laity Representative from St. Francis Xavier, Broadway and Miss Arul Sowmya – Youth representative from Regunathapuram presented the happenings and suggestions of the meet held. After a grand dinner, there was a good time of get together and recreation at the lawn. The Sisters from all the communities felicitated Mother Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret with gifts in a creative manner. Finally, Mother Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret thanked all the various groups – Councilors, Animators, Provincial team, Communities, Novices, the young and different sectors through a PowerPoint presentation and prayers of blessings were invoked during the Night Prayer.

The next day 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, the festal day began with the animation of the Morning Prayer by the community of Marialaya, Coimbatore. This was followed by the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Antony Joseph SDB the Provincial of Trichy and concelebrated by Fr. Sarprasadam Agilan SDB the Vice Provincial, Fr. Lawrence Britto Ashok SDB the Provincial Secretary of INT Province. The introduction was done in the form of choreography by the girls of Auxilium School, Thanjavur under the guidance of Sr. Fernando Majella. The homily was presented on the Strenna of the Rector Major. After the Holy Eucharist, there was table fellowship. Followed by the representatives of different sectors greeting Mother Provincial. Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam the Vice Provincial who organized the celebration thanked everyone for their great cooperation and collaboration in celebrating the first Provincial Community day in a meaningful way.

*Sr. Gracy Rani*

## **JUNIORS TRI-MONTHLY RECOLLECTION**

The thirteen Juniors of the Provinces of INT made their tri-monthly Recollection animated by Fr. Barnabas John Baptist SDB the Director of Christodayam from AMSAM, Trichy. He rejuvenated thoughts and positive impressions of the 'Call of God' and motivated them to celebrate their 'Call' even in the midst of heavy obstacles. Followed by there was an hour of Adoration recalling their short comings before God and reconciled with Him through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In his second talk he described the demands of Religious life and the purpose of those demands through the parable of the Sower. They spent the day with deep reflection, silence and Prayer.

### ***SKILL TRAINING IN JOURNALISM :***

With great eagerness the thirteen Junior Sisters and the Novices started their two days of 'Skill training on Journalism' on 11th February 2018 animated by Fr. Irudaya Raj SJ the Director of LENS, Media Centre, Gnanaolivupuram, Madurai. He trained the Sisters and Novices on writing skills which is an important part of communication and transmits the message with clarity. He concentrated two full days the writing skills on Experience, Incidents, poem, short story, report, chronicles, interview, news report and interesting conversations. Exercises were given to train more professionally with standard parameters. They viewed two Documentary films titled 'Pottu' and 'Kakoos' enumerating the struggles of the widows and manual scavengers which really enkindled them to create an awareness among the youth and to stand for them in all possible ways.

### **AWARENESS ON GENDER EQUITY**

The programme was held on 7th February 2018 started around 10: 30 am with a prayer song followed by welcome speech and felicitation of the Chief Guest with memento. The programme was presided over by Sr. Lourdhusagayam, Province Women Coordinator, Coimbatore, Mrs. Susila, Advocate (All India Women Association Social welfare Advocate), Sr. Susaimuthu Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya. The aim of this programme was to sensitize the women towards empowerment. It was conducted for the women self-help group members of Marialaya, Chennai. 125 women participated with great eagerness and enthusiasm.

Sr. Arul Mary greeted the participants, gathered for the programme. She insisted the significance of Gender equality and the precondition for Sustainable People Centered Development in all the Socio-economic, Education and cultural perspective. She focused on the point that women and men should be equally respected at home, in the work place and in the society which will ultimately develop the positive thought about life and one's existence.



Mrs. Susila, JananayakaMadharSangam Advocate explained that even though we work towards women empowerment still women are getting suppressed and oppressed by the society. She also illustrated with few statistical data on how women are being treated at social, economic and political level.

She also shared her perspective as a lawyer that even though women have their rights and benefit out of the educational institution “Does women are getting equal benefit as men in the current society?” She further answered that women still lack when it comes to Gender equality. She concluded her inspirational speech by telling that even though we work more towards women empowerment and development still we lack as whole when it comes to implementation.

Sr. Antony LourduSagayam, the Province Women Coordinator, started the session with the following words “Sometimes you have to take destiny into your own hands, rather seeking for other hand to help us” which will end up in failure. Yet be positive in your thoughts, words and actions. She concluded the day's activity with the exhortation, “We should work together, in order to eradicate gender inequality”. She also insisted on providing women and girls equal access to education, health care, work, political and economic decision-making processes which will ultimately lead to sustainable development of individuals and humanity at large.

*Sr. Antony LourduSagayam*  
*Women Coordinator, INT Province*





## TNPYCRI MEET: 10-11 FEBRUARY



The Formators Meeting was conducted from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February in Joe Beach Resort (DMI), ECR Road, Krishnan Karanai, Mahabalipuram. The topic of the meeting was, on “Psycho Spiritual Integration in Formation.” The resource person was Rev. Fr. Sundar Wilson OFM, Cap, Director of Anugraha – Dindigul. Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, the Novice Formator (INT) and Sr. Kulandaisamy Lourdummy (INM), the Animator of the Aspirants and the Postulants, participated in the two days meeting. The total numbers of postulants were 70 from different Congregations.

The main topic was divided into the following sub-topics and were presented, discussed and shared.

- **Formation is moving from imprint to personality.**
- **Healthy ways of processing emotions.**
- **Mind locks.**
- **Primal pain.**
- **Three major instincts.**
- **Probiotics food.**

The second day we were divided into groups according to the responsibilities assumed in the different stages of formation. The discussions were based on the case studies of the formees and how to discern their vocation. For the coming year, the majority of the participants wanted the same theme “Psycho-spiritual Integration in Formation” to be continued.

It was an enriching experience of meeting the Formators from different Congregations and sharing of similar problems and receiving classifications. In the end, we thank the Resource Persons and the participants and departed happily to our own homes.

*Sr. Cruz Michaela  
Novice Mistress, Divyadhanam, Trichy*

## ***ANNUAL RETREAT***

We, 36 sisters, made our Annual Spiritual Retreat in Mornese, Yercaud, from 18<sup>th</sup> March to 26<sup>th</sup> March. We were the first batch of sisters (INT) to make our retreat imploring blessings and grace of God on our newly erected Province. Sisters starting with the year of profession 1964 to the year 2017 were the participants of this group.

Our beloved Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margret was with us listening and accompanying us and guiding us to make a progressive journey in our vocation. Her everyday Spiritual Animation on Constitution Articles and Mother's circulars had been a gentle reminder and an authentic recommendation, molded us for a quality living in our communities and in our mission with an Oratorian heart.

Our Retreat Preacher Rev. Fr. Alphonse Lazar, SDB helped us to reflect on the Trinitarian Community as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who called us to live a life of service to the poor and needy. The challenges we meet to fulfill our commitment as disciple of Jesus was well explained by the priest and he animated us by showing video clippings and presentations of very many exemplary lives lived by our holy founder and saints.

With renewed enthusiasm we proceed to live our life of love.

*Sr. Peter Selvarani*



*"Laugh and play and dash about as much as you like, only be careful not to say or do anything that would be displasing to God".*

*- St. Mary Mazzarello*

## MINI BOSCOREE 2018

Boscoree is the gathering of all the Scouts and Guides from Don Bosco and Auxilium institutions all over India. It is an event in which Scouts and Guides along with Scout Masters and Guide Captains from various Don Bosco and Auxilium Institutions would camp together in the same campus, living together as a learning experience of love and brotherhood with a commitment towards society and nation building.

Mini Boscoree was a collaborative venture of SDB and FMA Tiruchy Province. The purpose of the gathering was to prepare the Scouts and Guides towards XIII Boscoree, a national event which is going to be held at Don Bosco - Nashik, Salesian Province of Mumbai from 30 December 2018–03 January, 2019.

Mini Boscoree 2018 focused its gathering on the theme “Scouts and Guides towards Ecological Citizenship”. The camp was held for three days (22 – 24 April, 2018) at Don Bosco Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. A total of about 400 Scouts and Guides from twenty units participated in the 3-day event.

Every day, the activities began at 6.00 am and ended at 10.00 pm. The programmes included group trainings, competitions, games, adventure activities, theme presentation, backwoodsman cooking, tent pitching, colour party marching, peace rally in cultural costume, and campfire. Awards and certificates



were issued to each participant and the troops. Well-experienced animators were invited for the various activities and programmes. The animators animated the students on scouting skills and the concepts of this Mini Boscoree's theme.

Don Bosco Community, Thanjavur hosted the programme in its campus and made the event into a splendid experience to all the participants through their

hospitality and well arrangements. Auxilium Community, Thanjavur extended its support and collaboration by accommodating all the Guides in its campus and taking care of them.

The gathering began with the flag procedure in the presence of Mr. Samynathan, District Commissioner, Thanjavur District Scout Association. Special invitees like Mr. KrishnasamyVandaiyar, President, Thanjavur District Athletic Association; Dr.G. Ravikumar, Professor of Plastic Surgery – Thanjavur Medical College; Sr. Margaret FMA, District Commissioner (Guide Wing), Don Bosco District Scout Association; Fr. John Peter SDB, Secretary, Don Bosco District Scout Association; Fr. Amaladoss SDB, Economer – Salesian Province of Tiruchy were all invited to preside over various Scouting programmes and competitions of Mini Boscoree. They addressed the Scouts and Guides on the theme of the Mini Boscoree and inspired every participant to emerge as responsible leaders of the nation. The gathering concluded with the valedictory function held in the presence of Fr. Agilan SDB, Vice Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy and Sr. Magnificat FMA, Superior, Auxilium Centre – Thanjavur.

The prime objective of this gathering was to train the Don Bosco Scouts and Guides into socially responsible citizenship by educating and sensitizing them on the significance of environmental protection, conservation of natural resources, promotion of equality and to provide them with an opportunity to learn from each other to cope with life situations, learn practical skills and to trigger their creativity was greatly achieved.

*Sr. Sebastine Margaret FMA*



***"Make up your mind to become a saint"***  
***- St.Mary Mazzarello***

## **SECOND NOVITIATE – II PHASE REPORT**

“I AM SURE I SHALL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING”. The still air, the landscape unspoiled and untouched by the hustle of city life, panoramic views across the hills in Yellagiri was the God destined place for the Second Novitiate Sisters to spend days of intense preparation and total commitment through strong moments of prayer, in depth study, reflection, assimilation on Word of God and the constitution reading. Self-introspection and evaluation, living and working together with our companions strengthened our determination, to adhere to the demands of following Christ in the Salesian way and to pronounce our final 'Yes'.

I, Sr. Josephraj Josphin Diana from INT province, along with the four sisters from INM province participated in the second phase. We were accompanied by our facilitator **Sr. Arokiaswami Maria Kalyani and Sr. Perianayagam Martina the Animator of the house.** We were warmly welcomed by the community and by the tribal children who are in the boarding. It was indeed a happy moment to experience the family spirit.

The inputs on the following topics by experts enabled us to renew our spirit and commitment.

**- Rev. Fr. Arockiadass SDB gave an introduction about “Authenticity in Religious Life”**

**- Rev. Sr. Matthew SiriaPushpam was invited as resource person to enlighten us, on the topic FMA constitutions - Introduction and Identity of FMA.**

**- Rev. Fr. ArockiadassSdb spoke in clarity on the theme “Fraternal relationship”**

**-“The Salesian spirituality- Spiritual journey of Don Bosco” was presented by Rev. Fr. Pathiraj SDB, the Novice Master- Yellagiri.**

**- Rev.Fr Maria Dass the Dean of the Novices - Yellagiri was the resource person for “Lumen Gentium Dogmatic constitution of the church”**

**-We were privileged to have, an experienced and scripture scholar Rev.Fr. Stephen from the Vellore diocese on “Experiential prayer with the word of God”,**

- **Sr. Maria Kalyani** creatively presented about “**Conflict, Stress and Tension**”.

- **Rev. Sr. Mathew SiriaPushpam**, the animator of Mazzarello Convent, Tirupattur came to animate two days on FMA Constitutions articles mainly on our **Prayer life, Fraternal Life and Mission**.

- **Sr. Josephine Rani** the Animator of Pallikonda community enlightened on 'vows' **from constitution articles**.

- We were enlightened on the topic “**Integration of sexuality and intimacy in consecrated chastity**” by **Rev. Sr. Maria Kalyani**.

- We had the great opportunity of to be inspired by the great personality of **Fr. Jerry SJ** for the new impetus on “**Discernment for the total commitment**”.

- We were enlightened on the topic “**Contemplative Dimension – Mystical Experience of St. Teresa of Avila**” by Fr. Ravindran OCD.

- We were blessed by the very presence of **Mother Provincial Rev. Sr. Nirmala Maria Lazar**. She met us and gave the message of Holy Father Pope Francis. To look within, to look around and to look up attitudes would lead us to focus and integrate well to live our day today life as Salesian religious is the stimulating thought which lingers in our hearts. We evaluated our one month stay and on the whole, it was a positive one. Sisters were spontaneous, flexible, helping one another, reaching out everywhere. Given time table was meticulously planned and followed. The facilitator Sr. Maria Kalyani was very positive and guided us with maternal assistance.

All the sessions were enriching, empowering and enlightening. We were rejuvenated by an outing to the boat house and Peter's park and experienced the Salesian family spirit. Daily fifteen minutes adoration helped us to be in touch with the divine. It enabled us to confront ourselves in the presence of the Lord. As we were in the month of Mary, recital of the daily Rosary and Marian liturgy helped us to recommit ourselves as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The glimpse of the divine power and His love expressed in the surrounding nature refreshed us. We thank God for the amazing days of preparation to say infinite 'Yes'. I am grateful to the Provincial Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margret for giving me the great opportunity and prayerful support to make my days of preparation a fruitful one.

*-Sr. JOSEPHIN JOSEPHRAJ DIANA, INS*

**ANNUAL RETREAT -**  
**TIME OF “UNION OF HUMAN & DIVINE!”**



“TO LIVE IN HIM, WITH HIM, THROUGH HIM and FOR HIM”, the Postulants, first and second year Novices, the second Novitiate Sisters and few Senior Sisters made their Annual Retreat from 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at Divyadhanam, Manikandam - Trichy. The Retreat began in the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

The Animator of the Retreat was Rev. Fr. Isidore Mani Lazar SDB. The importance of living in the intimate union with our Lord, i.e, “being MYSTIC IN SPIRIT, PROPHETIC IN ACTION and being SERVANT OF THE YOUNG” was stressed upon with the Scripture and in a particular way the Gospel as the basis of the topics handled. The daily trials of life and struggle of an individual against the temptation and against sin was also included in the talk, so as to remind the retreatants that, in the walk of life everyone faces the difficulties. The temptations beginning from Adam and Eve till this Modern Era were pointed out to impart in the listeners that holiness is proved by facing tribulations with the strength of God, to prove our love for the Creator. Along with these as part and parcel of our life, the attitude which one should cultivate

in oneself to live a better life in community, with JOY and OPTIMISM; LOVING and SHARING & SELF SACRIFICE and INTEGRITY was brought about too. The final topic dealt was about the three evangelical vows i.e., CHASTITY, POVERTY and OBEDIENCE, including that of FORGIVENESS. These solid spiritual stuff helped the participants to trust in the guiding presence of God and to accept and believe in themselves as God's chosen instruments to continue their journey with the Lord, to save the young. The retreat days were enhanced by the adoration in which the daily talks were reflected. The study of Constitutions and the Goodnight thought of Mother Provincial, Rev. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret, instilling in us the various values added flavor to the Retreat. The Postulants revised what was expected of them in the Postulancy and were introduced to what is expected of them in the Novitiate with the help of Mother Mistress, Rev. Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela. The retreatants had the joy of expressing their gratitude to Fr. Mani Lazar on 22.05.18. The Retreat was then brought to conclusion on the following day, and it was marked with the significant event of the Renewal of the Vows of Consecration by the Junior Sisters of the Province of Our Lady of Snow - Tiruchirapalli.

*Santhiyagu Mary Theresa  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Novices*



***The world tells us to seek success,  
power and money; God tells us to  
seek humility, service and love.***

*POPE FRANCIS*



## JOYFULL YES, THE EPITOME OF LOVE


The seven illuminated droplets Sr. AdaikalamRekha, Sr. Andrews Edylin Roseline, Sr. Anthony Cruz Mathalen Mary, Sr. Anthony SamyRenuga, Sr. Charles Sandal Princy, Sr. Joseph Kulanthai Theresa and Sr. Thirukumaran Tamil Selvi, blended into the lovely arc of covenant on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and let the world know that they have initiated their journey of fidelity and fecundity by living their motto, “REJOICE IN CHRIST, ACCOMPANY THE YOUNG.”

During the Morning Prayer, the Novices offered oil lamp labeled with seven virtues of our dear Blessed Mother as a sign of their readiness to become her beloved daughters. The day was marked with its great importance as it is 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Consecration of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. At 10.30 a.m. these young II year Novices came in procession along with their parents to the Eucharistic Banquet, with joy brightening up their faces. The Junior Sisters honoured the parents with aarathi for their generous gift of their daughters to the congregation for the service of the Lord and to respect the young Novices who have said “YES” to the Lord to be His disciples. The Holy Sacrifice of the Altar was presided over by the Bishop of Coimbatore Most Rev. L. Thomas Aquinas D.D. and 22 other priests. The Mother Provincials of Trichy and Chennai Provinces Rev. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret and Rev. Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala were present to receive their Vows on behalf of the Superior General of the Congregation of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Rev. Mother Reungoat Yvonne.

The Sisters who were to be professed, sang the response after the first reading of the Holy Mass to express the marvelous deed of the Lord in choosing them to be His disciples and manifested their LOVE for JESUS. Then the Sisters expressed their willingness to follow the Lord individually in front of the gathering. To imprint in the participants and in the seven young Sisters the

divine call of the Lord, the readings were focused on the consecration of Human to the Divine. Most Rev. L. Thomas Aquinas D.D., Bishop of Coimbatore delivered an enlightening homily about the 'Three Evangelical Vows - Chastity, Poverty and Obedience", with which the virgins were to bind themselves with Christ, the Master. The young Novices' professed their 'YES' and their willingness to become Christ's followers by accepting to live the three Evangelical Vows. Then the Newly Professed Sisters as the post communion prayer thanked the Lord for His mighty works in their life and all those who had helped them in their formative journey. Then they sang the song of their consecration before the faithful and showed forth their joy in becoming FMA's. After the Holy Mass the youngest FMAs' and their family members rejoiced in the mutual presence and the Priests & Religious and the laity gathered took part in the Agape. We experienced the holiness of these Sisters by good showers of rain thrice, before and after their consecration, as they marched forth in the journey towards the Lord to their motto, "REJOICE IN CHRIST, ACCOMPANY THE YOUNG."

*ParalogarajSutha*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Year Novices*



**Any harm done to the  
environment, therefore, is harm  
done to humanity**

**POPE FRANCIS**

## VOCATION CAMP, PULIADITHAMMAM

The house was ready and decorated for the coming of the participants and their arrival made the house vibrant with noise and happiness. The 24 participants of the vocation camp arrived on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018. They were students who completed Std. XII and College studies. The community Sisters welcomed the students with great joy. On the day of their arrival the participants went to Don Bosco Parish at Pallithammam for Eucharist celebration. During the goodnight Sisters shared about their vocation and Salesian life.

The two days camp had a regular time table. The day started with prayer followed by Mass, celebrated by the Salesians from BoscoMaiyam, Pallithammam. They shared about the blessings of being a religious and their experience of God in following Him which was encouraging and motivating. After breakfast and little chores, they began the session at 9.00 a.m. Sr. ArockiamSanthana Mary FMA animated the first day on God's call in the Scripture with video show, quiz and group activity. The second day was animated by Sr. Antony RayappanJothy on Salesian vocation in a creative way. Later in the evening they had a lively recreation, and film show on Don Bosco, Maria Mazzarello and on the second day, Debate was conducted on the theme, 'the Challenges of religious life'. It was a great moment of spontaneity and life.

The camp concluded on 13<sup>th</sup> April with a thanksgiving Mass for the Community, Animator, House Staff, and Workers. A short evaluation of the camp was conducted before the departure of the participants.



## VOCATION CAMP, THANJAVUR

The 24 participants of the vocation camp arrived on 1st May 2018. They were students who have completed Std. VIII to XII. Sr. SoosaiMagnificat and the community Sisters welcomed the students and made them feel at home. In the evening at 6.00 p.m. Sr. SoosaiMagnificat gave orientation about the camp and its purpose in order to make it a fruitful experience. Later they participated in the Eucharist celebration celebrated by Rev. Fr. John Barnabas SDB who focused on the theme of vocation and further elaborated in his sermon on the same theme as a total commitment to Jesus. During the goodnight Sisters shared about their vocation and Salesian life. The two days camp on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 had a regular time table. The first day started with prayer followed by Mass, celebrated by the Salesians from Don Bosco, Yagappanagar. They shared about Salesian life and Don Bosco's spirituality which was encouraging and motivating. After breakfast and little chores, the session began at 9.00 a.m. Rev. Fr. Alex SDB animated on vocation in the New Testament and Sr. ArockiamSanthana Mary FMA spoke on God's call in the Scripture with video show, quiz and group activity. The second day was animated by Rev. Fr. Aswin SDB and Sr. Antony RayappanJothy on Salesian Spirituality and Salesian vocation in a creative way. Later in the evening they had a lively recreation, and film show on Don Bosco, Maria Mazzarello and on the second day, a Debate was organized on the Challenges of religious life. They participated whole heartedly. Sr. John BoscoEdal Queen animated the Liturgy, prayer moments, music and recreation.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May the camp concluded with a thanksgiving Mass for the Community, Animator, House Staff, and Workers. A short evaluation of the camp was conducted before the departure of the participants.

The evaluation highlighted the experience of the participants as a joyful and love filled one during the camp. The vocation camp team had succeeded in giving the students an experience of Salesian life and joy during the camp. The animators experienced God's guiding hand and our Lady's protection all through the camp. Thanks also to the Animator and the community of Puliadithammam, and Thanjavur who were a big support and help.

I also thank Sisters who brought the girls and all the workers of the house who dedicated their tireless service and hard work for the success of this camp. I also thank Mother Provincial and the Provincial Council for this opportunity and suggestion to organize this camp.

*Sr. Devasagayam Maria Joice.*  
*Vocation Promoter*



**REPORT OF THE SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS  
AND COMPUTER CLASS  
AUXILIUM CENTRE, MADURAI**

“Young people, faith and vocational discernment” is the focus of Pope Francis and the whole Church during this year 2018. As we are in the initial years of our province, vocational discernment strategy has better accompaniment and discernment as its focus. So, a course on spoken English and computer class for those who would like to learn was conducted from 7<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The Animator of the Community welcomed the five girls and Sr. Maria Joice, the Vocation Promoter and Sr. ArockiamSanthana Mary who would animate and accompany them. An apt time table with time set for English, Computer lessons and Salesian Spirituality with moments for deep prayer experience were drawn and followed meticulously. On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Smart English sessions were initiated at Auxilium Matriculation School with a short prayer and good morning given by Sr. Anthony swamy Suganthi. She orientated them and welcomed Mr. Peter the English Professor, and a Cooperator of Madurai unit to facilitate the sessions on spoken English. He was honored by the Vocation Promoter with a shawl. In the afternoon, Mr. Saravanan, teacher of Mathematics and Computer, taught Computer and its Applications in the computer Lab of Auxilium Matriculation School.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May the participants went to Vadipatti - the shrine of our Lady of Velankanni. They prayed the Rosary for various intentions especially for their Public Examination results and spent an hour and returned. On the way they visited the Churches of St. Jermainina and Christ the King and prayed for all.

***Faith Formation:***

Sr. ArockiamSanthana Mary screened Biblical videos on Jeremiah, Joseph of Egypt, Salesian Saint. St. Joseph Cupertino which triggered the participants to follow their exemplary life and choose God and to follow Him definitely. They studied the Salesian Saints book and learnt about SalesianCharism to live their life meaningfully for a cause.

***Intellectual Formation:***

The spoken English class helped them to learn English in a simple way. The Master taught grammar and sentence making patiently, effectively and encouraged them lovingly and clearly by clarifying all their doubts. At the conclusion of the course the participants did their written and oral tests well. During the computer class Mr. Saravanan, taught them the basic operation of Computer, MS Word, Word Excel, Power Point Presentation, Accessories and some hardware operation. They learnt them thoroughly and presented their work efficiently.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May Sr. Devasagayam Maria Joice and Sr. ArokiasamySanthanam along with the participants gave a short programme on what they learnt during those fifteen days. It was a new venture towards vocational accompaniment. The four girls were accompanied spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. They were strengthened in their vocation and promised to join as contact period candidates at Dindigul.

*Sr. Devasagayam Maria Joice, Vocation Promoter*



# *House in Focus*

Marianjali, Marianathapuram, Dindigul



## **A BRIEF HISTORY:**

During the concluding celebrations of Don Bosco's death centenary in 1988, some of the Tamil Nadu Bishops who were present for the function, extended their invitation to Sr. Celine Arokiaswami, the then Provincial, to open a house for youth apostolate in their dioceses. Most Rev. Dr. Sengole Lawrence Gabriel D.D, Bishop of Tiruchirapalli was one among them.

In 1993 Fr. Jude Paul Raj, the Parish Priest of Marianathapuram and brother of Sr. Ophelia Arokiaswami the Animator of 'Arul Sudar', Trichy, invited the Sisters, with an understanding with the Bishop and the Diocesan Council. The first community began to serve the people of Marianathapuram from 30.04.1994, the day on which Sr. Magdalene Morano was beatified by His Holiness Pope John Paul II at Catania, Sicily. The first community Sisters were Sr. Josephine Soosaimanickam the Animator, Sr. Muthusamy Rosary and Sr. Remigious Angel Veda. They stayed in a rented house and began their apostolic mission in the parish of Marianathapuram and the surrounding villages.

## **SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS OF THE INSTITUTION:**

### **1. PARISH ANIMATION: 1994**

The Parish is named after OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION. Sisters are actively involved in parish animation. Given below are some of the activities carried on in the parish:

- Liturgical animation
- Teaching of Catechism.
- Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

- *Animation of the* BCC - Basic Christian Communities.
- Family visits
- Marriage Preparation and Settling of Marriages
- Adult Catechism

## **2. MARIA ANJALI DISPENSARY: 1994**

The health ministry was one of the urgent needs of the people of Marianathapuram and the surrounding villages. As soon as the Sisters set their feet at Marianathapuram the healing ministry began.

Besides distribution of Medicines and caring for the sick, CHAI does a wonderful job. Since we belong to this association we are able to tap the resources to help the poor. Meetings are conducted regularly.

Training is offered to: C.H.V. (Community Health Volunteers)

Dispensary renders service to the poor of the locality. There is a laboratory to test the blood and to find out the blood group. Drips are given to the patients at a minimum cost. Per day 20 to 30 patients frequent the dispensary. It is a great blessing for the poor.

## **3. AUXILIUM STUDY CENTRE: 1995**

Auxilium Study Centre – had its origin with few boys of the village. The study centre was inaugurated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1995, with just 50 children from std I –VIII and it was called Inigo Study centre. The Centre was situated in East Marianathapuram and it catered to the children of this area. Spoken English was taught to the children as that was the need of the hour. In 1998, the study centre became well organized and the number of children also increased to more than 200.

Around 350 children frequent the evening coaching classes and ten teachers are appointed to take care of them. Children are given snacks in order to help them study well. Spiritual animation is given importance and once a month the sacrament of Reconciliation is arranged for the children. Children are given opportunity to



take part in First Friday Mass in the Parish. The month of Rosary is kept up by reciting the Rosary. All the feasts of our Salesian family are celebrated in a grand manner.

#### **MEAL A DAY PROGRAMME: (UNA CENA PER TUTTI)**

We found that the children of Marianathapuram were weak and tired. They frequent the evening coaching and we wanted to provide them with a meal. We approached many people to help. At the end the past pupils of Liguria, Italy willingly accepted to help us. Thus began the meal a day programme. Thanks to Mrs. Rosanna Iebole who was the inspirer and the generous donor of the project.

#### **4. WOMEN'S PROMOTION: 2000**

Inauguration of:

- 1) Typewriting Course
- 2) The Needle Work and Tailoring Section with the Government aid from "*Nehru Yuva Kendra*". The Girls receive a Government Certificate at the end of this Course.

Women are empowered through skill training and placement services rendered through the Vocational training courses. Now the typing centre continues to function. Every year 50 to 60 boys and girls frequent our typing centre and appear for Government exam and come out with good results like first class and distinction.

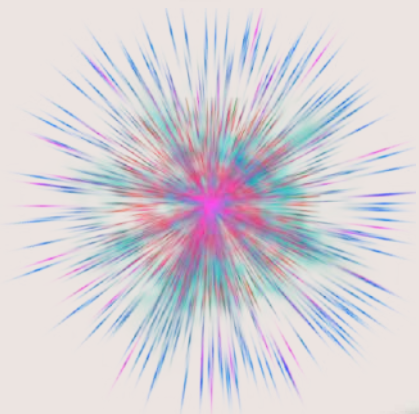
#### **5. EDUCATING COMMUNITY: 1996**

Monthly Parents' Meet is conducted class wise at the study Centre. This is a great help for us to get to know the parents better and also to have their involvement in their children's education. We have the Core Group Meeting once in three months. The parents are given animation programmes.

The members are animated spiritually. All take part in it and give their whole hearted cooperation. Educating community is a blessing for the locality.

*Sr. Lazar Bernadine*

*Animator, Marianathapuram*



# *Beatitudes for today*

- Happy are you if you accept every one as your brother and Sisters without looking at differences.
- Happy are you if you love others unconditionally without waiting for rewards and appreciations.
- Happy are you if you build community values without giving importance for competitive spirit.
- Happy are you if you look at others with compassion without judging them and their actions.
- Happy are you if you give importance for persons for what they are, without looking for what they can do.
- Happy are you if you choose your friends from among the least and the neglected without searching for friends of your standard.
- Happy are you if you trust in divine power without placing your trust in the power of human beings.
- Happy are you if you give importance to essentials of life without losing yourself in passing things.
- Happy are you if you hold on to eternal values without sacrificing them for the sake of momentary pleasures.
- Happy are you if you live a coherent life without any double standards.

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