



FMA - Trichy

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**2021 - A FUTURE TO DARE
WITH THE CULTURE OF CARE**

"We are Chosen for the World"



Retreat - Dec 2020

Contents

To give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference.

Concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolve the crises in the society.

Fratelli Tutti, 224



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Editorial

A guru asked his disciples how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun. One said, "When you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it is a cow or a horse." "No" said the guru. "When you look at a tree in the distance and can tell if it is a neem tree or a mango tree." "Wrong again," Said the guru. "Well, then. What is it?" asked the disciples. "When you look into the face of any man and recognize your brother in him: when you look into the face of any woman and recognize in her your sister. If you cannot do this, no matter what time it is by the sun, it is still night."



We have passed through the most difficult, dark and dire days of human history with the outbreak of COVID – 19, and we are still dealing with many unforeseen challenges which had taken a significant toll on the people all across the world. The past year 2020 had been a very long, bleak, exhausting year with massive job losses, shrinking of economies, loss of livelihoods particularly for women and children, exodus of millions of migrant workers who struggled to reach their home states, farmers' protests against the government which has tied a noose around their necks with black farm laws and other crises due to incessant lockdowns.

The unprecedented time of this great struggle in the past, has made us realize that the most excellent way to take care of ourselves is by learning to care for one another and for creation. What the world needs today more than anything else is **CARE**. Pope Francis who felt the pulse of humanity draws the attention of the world with his peace message on the theme - "**A Culture of care as a path to peace**". According to him solidarity means a firm and preserving determination to commit oneself to the common good.

As true followers of Christ, let us resolve to establish peace through a culture of care, and strive to form communities composed of sisters who accept and care for one another with an act of kindness, a concern not to offend by word or deed, a readiness to alleviate others burdens, speaking words of comfort and encouragement and not words that demean, sadden or show scorn. Let us make 2021 "**Annus Mirabilis**" with new hope, new vision and new life in and around us, considering the needs of others and bearing in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts.

**Let us have A FUTURE TO DARE
WITH THE CULTURE OF CARE**

Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen





Get the Future ready with our Apostolic Girls

It was a happy moment as we, with the inspiration of our Sr. Superior, took the initiative of calling our apostolic girls to be with us in this lockdown time. It was an imminent challenge to call our six girls from their homes - four from class XI and two from class X, who were attending their online classes and spending the rest of the time free at home. We took the initiative and saw



that it was realized as the candidates started arriving from 3rd November 2020 with their parents who left them under our care. By 5th November 2020, all the six had arrived joyfully.

We had drawn out a programme for them. In the morning, since all of them have the online classes, they were asked to carry their mobile phones. In the afternoon, they attended singing classes taken by our sisters in turn every week, followed by an hour of computer class by our Hr. Sec. School teacher on basics and another hour of Spoken English class and grammar by Ms. Arthika from the Nursery and Primary School. In the evening, they joined us for the last half an hour of Eucharistic adoration and then they conducted the Rosary for the community in English. It is indeed something wonderful and unforgettable.

Feast of our Co-Foundress

The feast of our dear mother and foundress St. Mary Mazzarello was celebrated in a meaningful manner with our Apostolic School candidates on 13th November 2020. In the Morning Prayer and during the Holy Mass, the virtues of our St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello were highlighted by the apostolic girls who were with us. They beautifully expounded her virtues and how to apply them in our life. The picture of the Saint was decorated by them with the help of the sisters. For us sisters, it was a call for an unwavering commitment to our call and the mission.



CHILDREN'S DAY

Though we missed our children in our school and boarding, we had the joy of having our six apostolic girls with us on 14th November 2020 to celebrate Children's day. We honoured them during the liturgy of the Eucharist. At the introduction, they were welcomed with sandal paste and Kumkum and a rose was given to each girl. We prayed that they may remain faithful to their calling till the end. Congrats to our dear girls!



*Sr. Barnabas Susanna
Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur*

SEVEN WONDER EXPERIENCES - Intensive Juniorate

"This is the work of the Lord a marvel in our eyes, this day is made by the Lord we rejoice and are glad"

The above words of the Psalmist were an echo of thanksgiving by every temporary professed sister of the young Province of Trichy. When COVID-19 became a stumbling block for so many, it became a time of uninterrupted blessings for the Juniors of INT Province. The INTENSIVE JUNIORATE PROGRAMME commenced and 14 juniors of INT Province participated in it from 24th July to 30th September. It was an extraordinary event in this time of pandemic and lockdown and we had a special blessing from God. The 2 months course was based on the syllabi of the "INTENSIVE JUNIORATE PROGRAMME- from FMA INDIA FORMATION PROGRAMME". There were relevant resource persons, innovative guiding methods, and integral spirituality. The presence of God and the guidance of the Blessed Mother were more visible. All of us enjoyed good health and were able to experience this to the core. Our sincere thanks to our Mother Provincial and team for availing us of this opportune moment.



*We look back at these days as 7 wonder
Experiences ever fresh in our minds...*



*One thing we cannot deny is that God took care
of us as the apple of His eye.*

*Doubly blessed! Fervent Holy Eucharist and well
prepared confessions, transformed our lives. Thanks to
Fr.Biji Thomas SDB*



*Three scriptural lectures: Synoptic Gospels, Gospel
and letters of St. John and the Books of the Prophets.
The Word of God is alive in us!*

*Four Angels: Sr.Amalanathan Mary Margaret, Sr.Ambrose
Little Flower, Sr.Madalaimuthu Angela, Sr.Kumbukkal Rosa..
hats off to their constant accompaniment*



*Five Batches of young INT FMA's lived our life together
sharing our joys and sorrows, nourishing the spiritual
experiences given and growing deeper in the roots of
our Founders..*

*Six skilled FMA's: Sr.Amalanathan Mary Margaret, Sr.Arokiam
Gracy Rani, Sr.Cruz Anthoni Micheala, Sr.Soosai Magnificat,
Sr.Jennifer, Sr.Ambrose Little Flower gave us Catechetical,
Constitutional, Pedagogical and Psychological Formation*



*Not only seven but seventy times seven our sincere thanks to
God, our Blessed Mother, Mother Provincial and all our
Animators and community sisters. We shall continue our
thanks by our authentic way of living our vocation radically...*

Sr. Raja Clarencia Mary





December 26th was a celebrated evening as all 55 Sisters started arriving from all our houses to our Mother House at Manikandam. The very surrounding was so welcoming as we saw the smiling face of Mother Provincial and the Community sisters of the Provincial House.

In this pleasant evening Mother Provincial spoke to us on the Six Mansions on our inward journey to meet our king where He resides, until the heart becomes the throne for our king.

At 06.45 p.m. we had the Eucharistic Celebration by Fr. Alphonse Philip SDB, Rector of Don Bosco Community, Tirupattur, Vellore Dt. The themes of the days are: Encounter God in order to be transformed, we are challenged and Consecrated. We are also called to move beyond our comfort zone and to find the real self to become a hope-filled person. He recommended to us to be recharged with the Lord, in the morning in order find out our spiritual worldliness, so that in our mission, not we, but people especially the less privileged may become the centre of our lives.

We enjoyed the moments that our Provincial enriched us in a practical way how can our life be enriched in evangelical values in connection with our constitution articles. From it arises the spirituality of Hospitality. In her last session, she stressed on the Mornesian Spirit- industrious work, fervor and Spirit of Mortification, live with joy in our personal Commitment with genuine love.

We had the New Year Vigil Mass at 09.15 p.m. and during the sermon the preacher stressed on Mary who saw the face of the people and understood their need and helped. So let us be challenged to be an integrated person after the heart of our Beloved Mother Mary and our saint M.Mazz.

Sr. Barnabas Susanna





In coincidence with the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX with the document *Quemadmodum Deus*, our Pope Francis has announced this **year** (December 8, 2020 - December 8, **2021**) a **year** dedicated to **St. Joseph**, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ. The celebration of the year of St. Joseph is a call for us to focus on his patronage is particularly relevant in this time of universal turmoil when so many are having difficulty finding employment, when we are becoming more aware of how much we owe to so many ordinary, hardworking people, and when our human frailty and mortality are so much in our minds and in the news. The Church reminds us that we have a powerful ally in Heaven who, having lived and worked so long in the shadows like so many unsung heroes, is both Patron of Workers and Patron of a Happy Death.



Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. Pope also presents St. Joseph as a beloved, tender loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous and working father. *WITH A FATHER'S HEART*: that is how Joseph loved Jesus and intercedes for us too. Here few of our sisters have shared their experience with St. Joseph that may increase our love towards our beloved saint.

St. Joseph **my Guide and my Protector**

St. Joseph is the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. Words can never suffice to thank St. Joseph for the numerous intentions that were answered through his intercession. So many are they that even an entire website can never contain the innumerable graces and miracles of St. Joseph. Yet, I would like to step into this forum of our newsletter to share a very significant event in my life wherein the intercession of this great saint was so evidently felt.

I am a devotee of St. Joseph and this special devotion sprouted and bloomed as I belonged to the Parish dedicated to St. Joseph. Hence it was not a surprise to find all



my family members having a special love for this amazing saint and naming members of the family after him as Joe. Even the possibility of visiting a church dedicated to St. Joseph thrills me and stimulates me to invoke his holy name. I have been faithful in praying the sorrows and joys of St. Joseph everyday and it is one of the prayers I love and enjoy the most. It is very powerful indeed and I do witness His astounding miracles in my life.



One such astonishing miracle that has left an indelible mark in my life was experienced solely through the powerful intercession of St. Joseph. I was attending a meeting in Thailand that was held for the Formators, when suddenly I received the shocking news of the demise of my dad on 14th September, 2001 (the day which was supposedly the first death anniversary of my loving mom!). The arrangements were made in a hurry to allow me to travel back to Chennai. Being a mountainous region namely UdonThani where the meeting was held, it was indeed a tedious task to get an air ticket to Bangkok, the Capital. I was in a fix and I entrusted the entire journey in the hands of St. Joseph to be able to attend the funeral service of my dad. It was undoubtedly a miracle to get an air ticket instantly and I attribute it very much to St. Joseph.

On reaching the airport at Bangkok, I had to book a flight to Chennai. As I was in deep sorrow, grieving over the loss of my dad, I was befuddled to move on my own and get the air ticket to Chennai. All that I did was only to invoke the name of St. Joseph as my dad was named after him as Soosai. At that moment, a gentleman came close to me, carried my luggage and walked before me asking me to follow him. He took me to the counter where I had to get my ticket. Surprisingly, he himself got my ticket and handed it over to me and departed. I immediately turned around to thank him for his kind and gentle gesture but he was no more there. He had already disappeared! Who was this person who helped me from nowhere? How did he know that I needed help? I kept asking myself these questions. It didn't take long to come to the realization that it was St. Joseph himself who had come to my aid and walked with me all through the airport to support me at that crucial moment and alleviate my suffering. I reached Chennai safe and was able to proceed further to my family for the funeral service of my dad on time!

The very thought of St. Joseph emanates a sense of joy, love and an assurance that he is always there to guard and protect us from all danger. With him by my side, I have nothing to fear. He will accompany us with the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout our life to the glory and praise of God now and forever. Praise be to St. Joseph!

Sr. SoosaiMagnificat, Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur



St. Joseph – My vocation promoter

I had been brought up by my grandmother and she had often taken me to her native place where we had the parish church dedicated to St. Joseph. I was in the midst of many who were deeply devoted to St. Joseph. The yearly and traditional celebration of St. Joseph's feast in the village had left me in wonder and had given me a great impact which had increased my spirit of piety and trust in the intercession of our silent saint. My parents and my grand ma used to pray for the gift of vocations in our family everyday during our family rosary and I too got the habit to pray for the same.

Whenever I went to St. Joseph's church with my grandma, she had always encouraged me to pray for the gift of vocations and often reminded me that she had surrendered me under his protection. So it was my regular prayer from my childhood to become a religious though I had forgotten as the days went on. But I am grateful today to my friendly saint who had taken my simple prayers very seriously and has answered me sincerely in helping me to say “Yes” to His call. Thank you dear St. Joseph for being my vocation promoter and constant guide even today, to live my call with passion for Christ and humanity.

Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen.

My beloved guardian St. Joseph



Young Jesus with Joseph
painting inspired by *The Urantia Book*

1. Joseph in the old and new testament

- Joseph the husband of Mary and Joseph of the Amazing Technicolor Dream coat have a lot in common.
- Both of their fathers were named Jacob.
- Both Saint Joseph and the ancient Joseph were informed of their future roles in dreams. Both are saviors.
- The ancient Joseph in Egypt saved the people from starvation. Joseph, the husband of Mary, saved both Mary and Jesus from death.

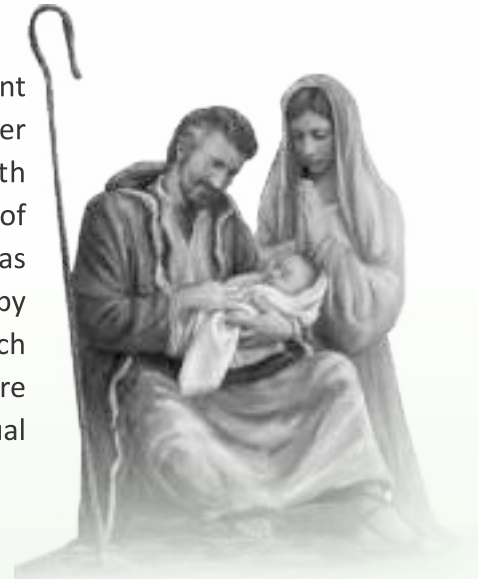
2. Joseph and His family:

The families of both Joseph and Mary were well educated for their time. Joseph and Mary were educated far above the average for their day and station in life. He was a thinker; she was a planner, expert in adaptation and practical in immediate execution.



3. Joseph the Virgin

According to Saint Athanasius in the 3rd century, Saint Joseph was a perpetual virgin. Saint Jerome, in a letter defending Mary's perpetual virginity, stated “both remained intact.” Saint Peter Damian held up the virginity of Saint Joseph as a reason for clerical celibacy. Saint Thomas Aquinas asserts that the Virgin Mary was enlightened by God that Joseph himself had taken a vow of virginity which made her acceptance of him as a suitable spouse more tenable. Saint Francis de Sales also spoke on the perpetual virginity of both Joseph and Mary.



4. “Joseph the Silent.”

In all the strange situations God placed him in, he remained calm and silent, Men described as the strong silent type have a role model in St. Joseph, sometimes referred to as “Joseph the Silent.” Joseph was a mild- mannered man, extremely conscientious, and in every way faithful to the religious conventions and practices of his people. He talked little but thought much. “The Gospels tell us very little about St. Joseph and that little in very few words,” wrote French Dominican priest.

5. Joseph the faithful father

Jesus derived much of his unusual gentleness and marvelous sympathetic understanding of human nature from his father, in emotional reactions to his adult-life environment, Jesus was at one time like his father, meditative and worshipful, sometimes characterized by apparent sadness.

6. St. Joseph- a humble leader

He knew the Father had confided a secret in trust to him. He did not want anyone who saw him to think him other than a simple workman trying to earn his daily bread. His fidelity and humility made him to be a model for Christian men. The universal vocation to know, love and serve God, and the primary vocation of marriage, and even his secondary vocation as a carpenter, he did them all perfectly.

“What a great man to emulate.

It's a brave thing to want to be like St. Joseph!



My Prayer

*Hail Joseph, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among men,
and blessed is the child
of your hands, Jesus.
Holy Joseph, Father of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

அருள் நிறைந்த சுகைசிய வரல்க
ஆண்டவர் உம்முடனே
ஆன்களுள் பெறுபெற்றவர் நீரே
உம்முடைய கரங்களில் சூழ்ந்தையான ஏசுவும்
ஆசீர் பெற்றவரே புனித சுகைசயப்பரே
இறைவனின் தாதையே
பானிகளாய் இருக்கிற எங்களுக்காக
இப்போதும் எங்கள் இறப்பின் வேளையிலும்
வேண்டிக்கொள்ளும். ஆமினே

Prayer modified by Sr.Peter Selvarani.

St. Joseph - Silent intercessor

Who is St. Joseph? He's a silent, humble servant of God who does his task well, and no more.

A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. As St. Joseph protected the Virgin Mary and Jesus, he also protects us in life's problems.

It happened once, in the community where I was the animator and we sisters had a problem with the people of the Electricity Board in our convent premises. Every day the sisters were harassed by a group which would enter the living quarters of the sisters on the pretext of examining the meter etc... After sometime this was very unnerving for the sisters who started to break down and were at their wits end. We were so worried and I finally entrusted our convent and this problem to St. Joseph. Within a few weeks, I had a miraculous chance of meeting the Director of Electricity Board and stated our cause and he sent us a person for inspection. After the inspection, when nothing was found to be amiss, the line inspector dictated a letter which I submitted to the Authority concerned in EB. That very week, all the people who caused us problems were discharged from their duties. We never heard from them again.

This is my personal experience of the power of St. Joseph. I very strongly believe that St. Joseph silently stands by our side and protects us from every perilous situation. I have nurtured this special love towards St. Joseph from my childhood. A man filled with blessed virtues, considered all above the saints but still remains much hidden. Along with our founder Don Bosco I am confident to "Turn to St. Joseph, and to know how powerful His protection is..."

*Sr. Fernando Majella
St. Francis Xaveir Convent, Broadway.*





CHRIST born in DINDIGUL - MARIANATHAPURAM

"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand." - Dr. Seuss

Santa speaking...

Can any Christmas be without sharing? Can Jesus be born in a place without love?

We responded...

Its true dear Nicholas that's why we share our gifts wrapped with love during Christmas. Though traversed by COVID-19, we kept our hearts attuned with love. Lockdown was only for the world not for our hearts. We experienced the scenario

of Bethlehem in Maria Anjali, Marianathapuram. Our house was a manger and the shepherds were those poor children and elders who flocked to us during this season. Jesus was born not only on the day of Christmas but every time we opened our doors and hands for the people.

Santa speaking...

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." Do you agree with me?

We responded...

Yes Mr. Jingle Bells. Little deeds done to those little ones of God had created a remarkable happiness in our hearts. We distributed dry rations, new dresses and cake on 12.12.2020, to the most deserving children of the evening coaching. On 20.12.2020 we distributed Sarees, bed sheets etc., to the poor elders of our locality. The smile they carried on their faces was more valuable to offer Jesus than Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

Santa speaking...

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection. How did you fill their thirsty souls?

We responded...

Every time we gathered them for sharing, our animator Sr. Susai Anthonia gave them a Christmas message. She invited the children and the old to make a room for



Jesus in their hearts. She asked them to be more loving, forgiving, responsible and grateful in all that they do and made them realise that these little deeds would please the Babe of Bethlehem. We also animated prayer services and we sang a Carol for them.

Santa speaking...

That's great! May God bless you all !

"I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month."



CORONA VIRUS EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMME

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." - Mother Teresa

Since the Covid-19 has left marks of pain, distress, isolation and illness, we could not deny the fact that it has opened the hearts and minds of many to gaze at the least of the brothers and sisters in need. We the Community of Maria Anjali, Marianathapuram worked to reach out to the families with the scheme, "CORONAVIRUS Emergency Relief for tailoring young women". On 16th September we distributed dry rations such as rice, dhal, oil and vegetables for the beneficiaries of our Tailoring and Evening Coaching centre. About 150 families were benefited by this initiative. The sisters together with the tailoring young women sewed protective masks and distributed the same to the poor families. Financial aid of Rupees 1000/- was given to 32 poor families.



BROADWAY - CHENNAI

CHRISTMAS SHARING WITH OUR WORKERS

Even in the midst of Covid – 19, the birth of Christ is something special which actually surpasses every tear and pain – this is an unavoidable truth. With great joy and a contented heart we celebrated Christmas on 18th December along with our workers of both schools and house staff. The heart that has the desire to give is the richest heart indeed – Mr. Keith and Mr. David two of our benefactors, who are the main source of Christmas sharing joined us in the celebration.



The beautiful event began with the moments of prayer, followed by workers greeting the F.X family, Mr. Keith, and Mr. David with a token of love for Christmas. After a short message given by Sr. Fernando Majella, the animator of the house on “Christmas sharing”, the gifts were distributed to the workers, and house staff. They happily received new clothes, and provisions as their Christmas gifts. We could feel and sense their real joy and satisfaction.

CHRISTMAS WITH ORATORY CHILDREN:



We gathered our oratorians and their parents for a Christmas Sharing on 19th Dec. The Oratorians gave colorful programme with great enthusiasm and joy. Our benefactors Mr. Keith and Mr. David were ready to share their generous help while Sr. Fernando Majella gave a message on “A contented heart and grateful mind”.

CHRISTMAS WITH ELDERLY WOMEN:

Around 85 of our elderly women who regularly come to receive our help on Sundays, were invited on 20th December and Christmas gifts were shared with them by Mr. Keith and Mr. David. The benefactors were also literally moved to tears by seeing the joy of the old ladies.



MARIALAYA TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION

“A teacher's purpose is not to create students in his own image but to develop a student who can create their own image”. We celebrated Teacher's day on 12th September 2020. Rev. Fr. Bharathi assistant parish priest from Ayanavaram was our chief guest and made the day a memorable one with his presentation on Corona. He explained about the causes and effects of the corona virus and he asked about the experience of the staff during the lockdown. We had a cultural program by teachers and children; it was so colourful to see and the Staff members enjoyed much.



Sr. Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya thanked all the teachers for their diligence, sincerity and hard work. We shared delicious lunch with our staff. At the end as a token of love, gifts was provided for all the staff and the staff had.

GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION



Girl Child Day was celebrated on 15th October in Marialaya Auditorium. The programme commenced with a small prayer. Sr. Lourdh Mary shared the story of Malala Yousafzai a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize winner. Then the boys took an oath on girl child protection. The children performed a drama on girl child protection and child rights.

FOOD DAY

Marialaya Georgetown organized the world food day on 17th October with all the staff from women group, evening tuition centre teachers, Marialaya office staff, and tailoring teachers and they brought with them home made food. Sr. Lourdh Mary spoke on the importance of nature, food habits and life style. Also she highlighted the working system of each organ in our body with a biological clock. Our Superior Sr. Arul Mary inaugurated the world food day celebration and all the sisters tasted the organic and nutritional food items prepared by our staff one by one. All of us enjoyed very well and everyone felt as one family.



ELDERS DAY CELEBRATION

Marialaya organized elders' day on 24th October At 11:30 a.m. The programme started with a short prayer and Ms. Isabella welcomed the gathering. The chief guests were Mrs. Syndhiya, Welfare Officer, Ms. Poonkodi, Family Counselor, Ms. Sasirekha & Ms. Sangeetha, District Coordinator, The children from Marialaya home performed a Classical Dance and the Chief Guest Ms. Poonkodi spoke about the Government programmes, schemes & policies and legal access which are provided for the elderly people. She gave some suggestions on how to live life with their family members.



SAFETY DIWALI AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Marialaya George Town organized a Safety Diwali programme at Vyasarpadi & Thiruvallur Nagar on 12th & 13th November 2020. The programme was presided over by Mr. M. Munnusamy from the Department of fire and Emergency services in Vyasarpadi and Mr. Kannan and Mr. Manikandan from the Department of fire and Emergency services in

Madras High Court. The aim of the awareness programme is to make the people and children know how to reduce fire risks especially while bursting crackers, how to deal with it and if necessary how to escape safely, what to do if one is caught in a fire. They also explained the causes of fire, various types of fire extinguishers, the process of how to react immediately when fire occurs in the kitchen while cooking, in an electric box, cable wire and switch box.

CHILDREN'S DAY PROGRAMME

Marialaya George Town had Children's Day Celebration on 21st November'20. The Special Chief Guest of the day was Mr. Vignesh Antony and Mr. Rajan, actors of a comedy show, Zee Tamil channel.. A Cultural programme was



performed by the staff of Marialaya made the children to enjoy the day. Mr. Rajan, the chief guest of the day spoke on how each child should use the opportunities given by the Sisters which recognize our talent and it will make us to upgrade our development, skill and knowledge in our life. Mr. Vignesh Antony gave us fun filled mimicry using various actor voices. The children enjoyed the day well, with much joy. Sr. Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya thanked all the invitees for their presence for the Children's Day Programme.

HIV AWARENESS PROGRAMME

HIV / AIDS prevention day was conducted in Bharathi Nagar our center. The programme was presided over by Dr. Thamizh Paavai and Nurses from the Municipal Corporation Harinarayanapuram Hospital. They spoke about HIV / AIDS its Causes and prevention methods.



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Human Rights Day took place in Marialaya on 10th December and all evening tuition center children and staff participated. Mr. Raja the advocates and Mr. Soundharprakash from Madras High Court and Sr. Arul Mary, Director of Marialaya presided over the day's events. The chief guests had a session Introducing History of

Human Rights, Current State, functions and the legislative structure of Human Rights Commission.

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION FOR COMMUNITY CHILDREN:

"The word became flesh." On 18th December 2020 with joy and full of cheerfulness we celebrated Christmas at the Marialaya. Rev. Fr. James, Sr. Arul Mary and Ms. Sridevi were the guests of the day. Our Community children performed cultural events like dance and drama with morals. The Chief Guest Rev. Fr. James gave a short Christmas message for everyone and conveyed his Christmas and New Year wishes for all. Ms. Sridevi motivated the children and encouraged them to shine in future by working hard and being honest in life. The children and staff had a delicious lunch then they left happily.



SIRUDUR - MADURAI YOUTH TOWARDS JESUS



The people around the globe confined themselves to their homes for nearly a year because of the widespread Corona Virus. Amidst the pandemic situation, Sr. Susai Marian Pushpam from the community at Madurai carried out an excellent work of evangelization introducing few youth into catholic faith and prepared them for the reception of the Sacraments. Two of them were non catholic and one from the catholic faith. She spent more than a week with them and taught them the basic elements of our faith to accept Jesus through the reception of the Sacraments. 30th December, 2020 was a red letter day in the lives of those two as they received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy

Communion and Confirmation and one received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. They participated well in the Holy Eucharist involving them in reading, taking part in the offertory procession. They thanked the Lord for the opportunity of receiving Jesus through the Sacraments. We appreciate Sr. Susai Marian Pushpam for her spirit of evangelization and interest to bring young to Christ.

AUXILIUM COLLEGE REGUNATHAPURAM

Here few of our activities that kept us closer to young to understand need and thirst to grow to face the future with great confidence.

- Prayers raised for the needs of the people, rendered help to those in need
- Semester fees paid for the poor students by staff and past pupils
- Seasons of creation – prepared – home gardens, motivated to cultivate herbal garden, recycling the waste.



- Motivational videos uploaded in the you tube and college website
- Regular staff meetings were conducted online
- Online classes were conducted
- Online University Examinations were conducted
- Evening coaching classes were conducted in the places possible



- Staff kept themselves busy with the work of **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** preparation

- Adopted villages were visited by the student volunteers and staff for its further development with the help of ASSIST, our Province development office.\



- The classes for online teachings I year students were inaugurated the for this year.

- Adopted villages were visited by the student volunteers and staff for its further development with the help of ASSIST, our Province development office.



PULIYADITHAMMAM

CELEBRATING OUR MISSIONARY ARRIVAL:

“Go into the entire world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole Creation (Mark: 16:15)

It was an auspicious occasion to celebrate the arrival of six pioneers to India specially in Tamil Nadu. We the sisters of Arunodhaya community celebrated the arrival of six pioneers on 22nd November 2020 along with our Catechism children. Ninety eight years ago these pioneers dared to be different and went against the current to give life to the youth and the people. We gathered around 50 children. Our hearts were bubbling with joy when our children entered into our Arunodaya campus. We commenced the celebration with the introductory talk about the Pioneers by Sr. Antony Regina Mary the animator of the house. The prayer service was meaningfully animated by Sr. Joseph Juli Nirmala. During the prayer service each sister shared about the pioneers, their prayer life, struggles to accomplish their mission. We distributed juice and biscuits. The children returned to their home happily.



THANJAVUR ONLINE ROSARY

“Where the Rosary is recited there will be days of peace and tranquillity” said our father and founder St. John Bosco.

To mark the lovely month of the Rosary and to let the love for our Blessed Mother sprout and grow in the young hearts of our Boarders, we the sisters of Auxilium Centre



of Thanjavur decided to conduct the online Rosary amidst the lockdown imposed by the pandemic. Each sister of the community took charge of the class they were catechizing in school and contacted them through whatsapp and connected in Google Meet. The children participated fervently in all the classes and in good numbers. The boarders themselves came up with creative initiatives and brought the various issues and intentions to pray for. It was interesting to note some parents, siblings and neighbouring friends too joined in for prayer along with the students in some of the families.



And at the close of the month of October, we also had the joy of praying the Rosary along with the some of our hostellers. We had a procession with lighted candles, carrying the decorated statue of Our Mother Mary to every corner of our campus. May our blessed Lady continue to guide our way and enlighten us in our journey of life. Let us spread this devotion in and around and cover the whole world with her mantle.

*Sr. Peter Arockia Mary
Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur*

CHRISTMAS CHARITY 2020

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." – Mt 25:40



Christmas, the season of joy and love was celebrated in our community in a unique manner this year, amidst the pandemic. The season brought us closer to the poor, the needy and the marginalised. As a practice every year, the needy who are the face of the Incarnate Lord, are welcomed into our campus on Christmas day. This year, with the experience of the pandemic

taking a relatively more painful toll on the poor, we witnessed an increased number of people seeking assistance than usual. However, hasn't the Lord promised us, that the more we give, the more we receive? A great number of benefactors came to our aid this year, offering us the means to extend our service of charity in these crucial times. A sense of joy and gratitude emanated from the hearts of everyone gathered, as a moment of prayer was organised with them, with the Superior Sr. Magnificat Soosai imparting the message of Christmas love to all who gathered here.



A DAY WITH TRANSGENDER:

We also heard a special call this year, as we encountered a transgender who came forward to receive the gifts offered. It opened our minds to the newer vistas of getting to know them more and to reach out to them. Following this inspiration, we welcomed two of these persons to our campus again and had a friendly chat with them, in order to get to know more about them and gave them further gifts in cash and kind. Thanks to the goodness of all our benefactors, Christmas 2020 was indeed a meaningful celebration of God's Incarnate Love, in our campus.

DOMESTIC STAFF'S GESTURES OF GRATITUDE

The Covid-19 pandemic had taken its toll on the poor, daily wagers, migrant workers and the marginalised. All the domestic staff stayed back at home and had not stepped into the campus for almost two months. But by the gratuitous grace of God and the generosity of our Superior Sr. Soosai Magnificat, all the workers were paid in full for those months and all were permitted to work again in our campus from June for full salary. The workers were very appreciative and grateful and they expressed their ability to sustain their family only by their sole income.



The month of October reminds our community of the celebration of Gratitude day which is marked with great significance. With only the domestic staff being a part of our family in our campus, they took up an initiative to cook special lunch together in our campus with the contribution of their own and to give a pleasant surprise to the community sisters by inviting them for lunch. It was a pleasant moment of great joy and remembrance during the pandemic.

*Sr. Mariannan Fatima
Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur.*

RENEWAL OF PROMISE BY SALESIAN COOPERATORS

The co-operators of Auxilium Thanjavur, gathered at Anna Nagar Parish Church, Thanjavur on the 8th of December 2020 for the renewal of their promise remembering Mamma Margaret. It was an apt day for them to renew their promise, as it was also the



feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady. 17 of them renewed their promise joyfully and 4 Aspirants also participated in the Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Sr. Soosai Magnificat, the animator of the community and Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, the local coordinator for the Salesian Co-operators were also present to share their joy. Everyone offered their special contribution in cash during the offertory.

*Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani
Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur*

DIVYADHANAM - NOVITIATE CLASS ON FUNDAMENTAL OF MORAL THEOLOGY AND FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE

*“Your conscience is the measure of the honesty of your selfishness
Listen to it carefully.”*

We had an opportunity to have four days of enlightenment on Fundamental of Moral theology and Formation of Conscience from 25th – 28th November 2020. It was clearly and meaningfully explained by Rev. Fr. Norbert Thomas DCC Chancellor and juridical Vicar- Tuticorin. He explained about “**Conscience is a 'judgment of reason'** [act of the intellect] whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act.. [Emotional acts are not of conscience: instantaneous acts: thrashing, beating...] (CCC 1778).



We learnt that our conscience is like a clock or watch that has to be wound every day. Moreover, the clock has to be regulated; otherwise it will go either fast or slow. So also our conscience has to be regulated according to the Word of God authentically interpreted by the Magisterium of the Church. A clock may also be used to wake us up from sleep. A conscience that is well-trained can wake one up from the sleep of sin and tepidity. It serves as an alarm clock if only one listens to its voice.

We are grateful to our provincials and Mother Mistress who gave us this wonderful chance to learn about ourselves and to alter our attitudes and actions.

*Sr. Jeyaseelan Jasmine
Sr. Arokkiya Raj EbseebaLourdemary*



FEAST OF PURITY - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*“Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed.
Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.”*

The world is locked down, but our hearts are not locked instead it is wide open with love and gratitude to God and to our Blessed Mother. We were glad to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception which is very dear to each Fma. On the day of the celebration we had an enhancing vigil service and Morning Prayer and a meaningful Eucharistic sacrifice. In all the



prayer moments we had highlighted the virtue of our Blessed Mother. To add rich experience in the evening, as a community we animated the holy rosary and prayed for various intentions of the world and of the Institute. We can say gloriously that we had walked with our Blessed Lady more closely and are proud to say that we are her daughters. We love you dear mother, continue to be with us in the path of sanctity.

*Sr.Arockia Samy Ancy Jenifer
Sr.Beniston Sushmitha*

MY GAZE TOWARDS OUR SAINTLY MOTHER MAZZARELLO:

Dear Sisters, When We can look at Mother Mazzarello either from Nizza Monferrato or from Valponasca. From where you look conditions your perspectives and your learning. If we look at Mother Mazzarello from Nizza Monferrato, where the congregation was already established and she was co-founder, etc., but if we look at MM from Valponasca, a peasant family, a hardworking woman, the daily struggles of life, etc will help us to grow better.



I would like to look at Mother Mazzarello from Valponasca. Immediately when we think of Valponasca, We know the history: where she lived her early years, etc.,



INTENSIVE JUNIORATE
24th July - 30th Sep 2020





Spending valuable time and space to listen to the cry of the nature.

SEASON OF
(1ST SEP -



Living the Spirituality of stewardship of creation.





CREATION - 2020 4TH OCT)

*Firm resolve to
achieve sustainability
for justice and peace and
joyful celebration of life*



*To be grateful to the
creator and safeguard
His Creations.*





Sr. Susaimanickam Josephine



three things I remember very strongly (they can be seen, touched and felt even today): Window, Well and steam. I shall share with you on the first thing, namely Window:

- Window is important for any house. Can you imagine a house without windows? They will suffer in darkness without air. That is why, when fixing the windows, they will study well that light and air come easily and always.
- In the house of Valponasca, there is a window, in the first floor. This is a special window. We know from the history, for MM, apart from giving light and fresh air, it was through which she could see the church, tabernacle, through wish she could communicate with God and grow in relationship with him.
- For us, we too need windows, to get light, to get fresh air, to see the world, to see the poor and the suffering, to see the nature and to see God's presence in all of them.
- Very often, instead of windows, we have mirrors in front of us. In the mirror, we see only ourselves. We do makeup standing in front of the mirror.
- Mirror is the symbol of selfishness, self-love and self-centeredness.
- Instead window is the symbol of out-going. Look outside oneself, being open, accepting new ideas and new ways of seeing things, etc.
- We, the daughters of Mary Help of Christians are not born to spend our life in front of the mirror. Rather, we are born to learn through wide-opened windows and grow to the maximum according to the plan of God.
- Mother Mazzarello did it. Don Bosco did it. Now it is our turn. Let us relive our life in the foot step of our founders.

Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha

CHRISTMAS FRATERNITY

“Love draws us out of ourselves into ones we love into ourselves”

*Says **Pope Francis** in his encyclical - **Fratelli Tutti***

The first to receive the good news of the divine birth were the shepherds, the poor, the neglected and the needy. We, the sisters of Divyadhanam Novitiate community set out to a remotest and unseen place called Sheela Nagar on 21st December. We were just struck



by the indigenous people, very simple, guideless, innocent, ignorant, deprived of help and opportunities and unexposed to the world. The most pitiable situation of the people is that they were not rendered any help by anyone during this pandemic.

Our superior Sr. Michaela Cruz Anthoni addressed and gave them guidelines on how to live a better and happy life, awareness of their rights and importance of education. She concluded with a message of Christmas saying, “God is born for everyone and hope is reborn”. It was indeed an awe-inspiring time for us at that moment. Having stretched our hands out to the needy by offering them the needful groceries for their daily living.

Sr. Mahimai Raj - Jeya Sharmila

OUR EXPERIENCES DURING THE CHRISTMAS SHARING...

“Life is not all about seeking beautiful things; it's about making what you have got beautiful”

Christmas was a great and memorable day for us. The whole world was inside the house and people remained in their homes. But we the novices thank the Almighty who gave us the wonderful opportunities to meet our Oratorians on the previous day of Christ's birth, sharing the joy, happiness and love of the birth of Jesus. Every Christmas reaffirms that God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son to redeem the world. Accompanied by Sr. Wilson Anitha Arockiam and Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, the novices went to Ambedkar nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Manikandam oratories and gave them the message on Christmas: 'Let us be a hope filled person wherever we are'. We were happy to meet the children after a long time. We distributed cakes and buns which added more joy to the children.



*Sr. AnthonySamy Mary Abisha
Sr. Anthonysamy Dayana Roselin*



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT NOVITIATE:

Every year is new, and it brings new experiences. This Covid-19 year gave us new experiences and joy in our journey at the Novitiate. The Savior was born to give hope to all creation. With overflowing joy in our hearts, we celebrated the midnight mass intoning many Christmas carols in different languages and meaningful liturgy at the mass. All these amplified the joy and energy in us and helped us to live this spirit in our daily life and pass this spirit on to the others.



*Sr.Arockia Samy Ancy Jenifer
Sr.Beniston Sushmitha*

TIRUPPUR - MARIALAYA

GIRL CHILD DAY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Girl child day was celebrated on 11th October 2020 to empower the public and address issues related to the girl child in the society and it was organized at Avinashi bus stand. The main invitees for the programme were Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam the Director of Marialaya, Mr. Baskaran District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Arul the inspector of Law and order and Mrs. Saraswathi the inspector of the all women police station Avinashi. The enthusiastic participants were at their best focusing on the importance of girl children. A street play was performed to enhance the contribution of the girls in the decision making processes through the active support of the parents, police department and NGOs.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION FOR THE EVENING COACHING CHILDREN:

Children's day was celebrated with fun and sports at Marialaya for the evening coaching children on 14.11.2020 the children felt excited and happy. The highlight of the day was the edifying speech delivered by Mr. Lion J. Vincent from Lions club of Tirupur and Mr. Pannari VO, Pothampalayam Panchayath. We had also the celebration of Diwali the festival of light. The holy mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Lawrence SDB and Rev. Fr. Daniel SDB from Don Bosco Nest, Tirupur. Children took an active part in the sports and the winners were awarded with prizes.



ARRIVAL OF SIX PIONEERS:

To mark the inauguration of the 2nd Triennial year in preparation for centennial celebration FMA India got every FMA Community and each sister and all the participants with lighted candles committing to pass



on the light on to the next generation. With grateful hearts, FMA India with all the members of the Salesian family, our collaborators, young people and all those who are connected with us in one way or another rendered thanks to God for the marvels He has accomplished. The hard work and the authentic spiritual journey of our sisters moved the community sisters and the beneficiaries to celebrate the holy Eucharist more meaningfully accompanied by the first pioneers and implored God's blessings on each one.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Human Rights Day was celebrated on 10th December. Nearly one hundred and fifty of the village children, youth and parents participated in this awareness programme in Avinashilinkam palayam. Our Marialaya young girls enacted a street play with theme of “Human Rights”.



WOMEN SELF HELP GROUP MEET

In order to help the women in our villages to grow in their economical level a meeting was organized with the theme “Government Schemes for women”. Ms. Manimagalai our staff explained all the schemes which are available for the women. The women were happy and asked us to help them to get the benefits from all those government plans as much as possible.



INAUGURATION OF NEW SANITARY NAPKIN MACHINE

Inauguration of Sanitary Napkin Manufacturing Machines project undertaken by Ladies Circle of India and Round table of India was inaugurated on 12th Decemder 2020 by Mrs. Rogini our leader and other responsible persons, Mrs. Kosala Arun, the Project Convener of Ladies Circle of Tiruppur and Mrs. Hiral Cheds. Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam the animator of the community explained about our work and thanked everyone for their great support.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The celebration of christmas with our inmates started with Holy Mass and was followed by colourful dance programmes. The significance of the festival was explained to them by Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam the animator of the community. We wished them by giving them new dresses and sweets.



THERESPURAM

PARISH FEAST

We celebrated the feast of St. Teresa of Jesus the patron of our parish on 6th October 2020. Though it was the season of partial lockdown, the catholic people wanted to have the ten days of celebration in honor of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus. The Holy masses were well animated by the Anbiamms guided by Sr. Josephine Fernando and the 5th day was given to our schools teachers and children in our institute. We animated the liturgy well and the theme was “Family and the sacrifice”. The people of the parish really appreciated our school children for their creative way of animating.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH STAFF AND WORKERS



On 22nd of December 2020 the teachers of all three schools gathered for the Christmas celebration. Each group sang a carol followed by Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya the correspondent who gave the Christmas message. She said that though Jesus was born in a stable the joy, the birth brought was never wanting. Hence the external factors need not decide one's happiness but what matters truly is our interior disposition. All greeted each other with joy and shared conversations over a cup of tea and returned home with Christmas joy.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH THE SALESIAN FAMILY

“Coming together is a beginning and working together is success” says Henry Ford. Yes. it was the first time the Salesian sisters and Fathers came together for Christmas carols in all the anbiyams at Therespuram. People were very happy to see and hear us all singing. Fr. Amalraj Soosai, the parish priest of Therespuram animated the Christmas celebration.



PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

It is the customary to prepare the children of our parish for the sacrament of Holy Communion in the month of May. This time the Parish Priest arranged for a week of intense preparation in our campus. Sr. Arockiam Santhana Mary with the help of Fr. Antony Samy and the Sunday catechism teachers of the parish prepared more than 100 children for First Holy Communion. We gave our supportive and friendly presence to Mrs. Poovizhli our helper in the midday meals section as her son received the first Holy Communion on 20th December 2020.



ASSIST, the Social Development Office of the Salesian Sisters of Our Lady of Snow, Tiruchirapalli Province was engaged in a series of activities and animation from 1st September to 2nd October 2020 in preparation for the celebration of the stewardship of creation on 3rd October 2020. The students of 45 evening study centres were given awareness on the fundamental rights and entitlement of every person to enjoy the benefits of nature and their bounded duty to conserve it through online talks, circulation of video clippings and posters.

On 3rd October representatives of the evening study centre children in Trichy along with the Staff of ASSIST were present for the celebration in the village. The students took a pledge to appreciate, respect and conserve nature and its resources at all times. They sowed the seed balls which they had earlier prepared on the banks of the lake. They dedicated each seed ball for an environmental cause and sowed it.

The representatives of Mother's group headed by Mrs. Poongodhai, the Local Ward member of the village and Sr. Arokia Mary Selvi, the Directress of ASSIST and the team of Staff marched towards the lake and performed an act of worship and honour to God Almighty, the nurturer of life and invoked His bountiful blessings upon each one of us and upon nature. As a symbol of our token of respect we let the leaves with light float on the water and pledged ourselves to respect nature, honour it with proper utilization and conserve it as its stewards.

The awareness programmes had also explained the danger we face in the near future and they decided to continue their service of promoting stewardship to nature.

*Together, we pledge our commitment to raising awareness
about the stewardship of creation - Pope Francis*



CELEBRATION OF 'WORLD SOIL DAY'

World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th December, 2020 at 11pm in the name of “Let's honour Mother Earth”. Mr.PasumaiThangasamy, organic farmer Trichy, Mr. Lenin, (Agaveli) Pattukottai, Rev. Sister Amalanathan Mary Margaret,the Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Snow, Tiruchirapalli, participated as the special guests. Mr. K. S. Sundaram, Panchayat President, Kallakudi, Mr. Vellaichami, Panchayat President, Nagamangalam, Rev. Sr. Michael- Animator of Divyadhanam Novitiate, Sr. Anjela, Provincial Economer, Mr. Thangavel, Director FPO, Manikandam, Mrs. Subhashini, Environmentalist, Mr.Rajinikanth from Ambedkar Nagar and Mrs. Jayalitha Shanmugam, Ward Members Ambedkar Nagar, Mrs. Poongothai, Ward Member, Manikandam, along with farmers from the locality participated as special invitees.

The activities of ASSIST were explained with the help of a video.Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret the Provincial gave a speech which was followed by a group song regarding the social change that was sung by our Novices.

Mr. Pasumai Thangasamy, spoke on “Alcohol Bottles and Agricultural Land” and Mr.Lenin gave a special speech on “How to market the products of the Farmers”.

Sr. Arokia Mary Selvi, Directress of ASSIST thanked the guests and participants for their meaningful participation. Seeds, Saplings and plant bags were distributed to children and families in Manikandam and Ambedkar Nagar. The inauguration of a Vocation Training centre in Gandhi nagar marked the achievement of our long struggle to transform the lives of the inhabitants of the village. The celebration concluded with agape and thanksgiving.

Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies, aimed at implementing culture of care and integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and the same time protecting nature - Pope Francis





“Education is the key to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it for today”, says Mahatma Gandhi. But unfortunately today's education has become a challenge both for teachers and students. Among the many casualties of the corona virus crisis is the traditional classroom. The lockdown has made online classrooms the primary source of education for students of all ages. With all the disputes, here are a few shared opinions and experiences from our students, teachers and parents who are fighting with this new and challenging situation of pandemic 2020.

I needed to be self motivated

In the beginning it was very difficult to adjust and adapt with this new mode of learning especially with one mobile phone and many siblings at home. I was new to the features of Zoom, Google classroom and so on. Yet, thanks to our teachers who were so kind and helpful that they were even ready to clear my doubts personally over phone calls.

Lack of self-motivation, interaction and establishing routine in me continued to be the primary reasons why I found online classes difficult. Thanks to these online class platforms, that helped us to finish this year's academic studies perfectly on time with the support of tirelessly working teachers and the school management.



Ninia, Std IX

Learnt to be self disciplined



One of the most valuable skills that I learnt is effective time management. The online classes taught me to be punctual and self disciplined since it was very time bound. Without the camaraderie of a class to motivate me or having a set time where I need to be on campus, effective time management is crucial to staying focused.

Nirjala, College Student, Marialaya

Very hard to handle students with gadgets than gadgets itself

I used to face more than 50 students in a classroom. But in online I could view a maximum of 25 screens at a time, that too mostly black and blank. It was great irritation that while asking questions either their network will be weak or low battery, and the app not being connected. It was a great surprise to see slow



learners becoming toppers in the online tests. They could even answer problems which I didn't ask (copying from the net). Usually children get sick if I give tests from Organic chemistry. But while conducting online tests I got sick with the reactions with absolute mechanism.

Mrs.Anita Grace- Science teacher

It is a teacher who makes the difference



The proverb "Action speaks louder than words" was mismatched, because words were expressed louder, bolder than actions. Preparation for class became more challenging than delivering it to the children. I was able to make my classes, more attractive, more economical and lot of time saving. I made my lessons engaging by replacing the chalkboard with PowerPoint presentations. As a teacher I am happy that in the darkness of covid 19 the light of knowledge was more brighter stronger against all barriers. *Of course, it is not the class room that makes differences instead it is me a teacher.*

Mrs. Salomi- language Teacher

Fight between survival and learning

Working parents like me were more likely to miss work when schools close in order to take care of my children, incurring wage loss in many instances. We were crushed and smashed with all the problems that left the entire family to the core of sufferings. So survival was more important than Android mobile and to use it for the online classes was a nightmare.



Mr. Jaleel - Parent

Moved by hope



As a student sister (religious) I have encountered great difficulties even though I am provided with all the facilities for online classes. It was really sad to think of the poor children who have to share their device with their own siblings, and have lost many classes. Many who do not even have the opportunity to attend any classes but have wasted most of this year. I feel that it is my duty to reawaken the world with hope especially the young girls in my class. I am convinced that my words and deeds will give hope to others to have new dreams with renewed energy.

Sr. Infanta - student sister



Recalling the words of our Holy Father to care for the nature in celebrating the year of “Laudato Si” each community in the province of our Lady of snow Tiruchirapalli, renowned “Season of Creation - a week of celebration honoring our mother earth. We renewed our relationship with our Creator and all creation through conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, It was a great time of prayer, contemplation and, increasingly a call for concrete action for change.

With the following specific topic framed for each day from the 2020 Celebration Guide, every community along with the educating community members made this initiative memorable and creative.

1. *The Greatest Commandment, Love your Neighbour*
2. *Protecting the Common Home*
3. *There is enough for our Need, not for Our Greed*
4. *The Gift of Water*

THIRUVOTTIYUR, CHENNAI

To enter a time of restoration and hope, a Jubilee for our Earth, the season of creation was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm in Our Lady's School, Thiruvottiyur, Chennai on 3rd October 2020. The four School teachers, few students representing each School and the Educating Community along with the Past pupils came to School dressed in pretty green attires with a plant in their hands and looked so eco-friendly. The Community Sisters welcomed them warmly in their beautifully decorated campus.

The day started with the procession, in which the students headed and accompanied by the teachers and Sisters, holding plants in their hands. They took a pledge and offered the plants to the creator and occupied their seats. To thank the Lord, a mellifluous Prayer service was conducted by Our Lady's Higher



Secondary School teachers. Rev. Sr. Margaret Sebastian the Correspondent and Animator of the Community addressed the gathering and explained the celebration of “Season of creation” which is a time to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. Following her speech the gathering was divided into six groups and given a medicinal plant to find out their medicinal usages of each part and to compose a song for it. After the discussion each group submitted their report. Two teachers from each School explained the Covid 19 drink recipe and shared their preparation to everyone. Few teachers shared the terrace garden experience and their benefits.

Sprouted pulses' salad and Amla with ginger and honey was served to raise awareness of the health, nutrition and sustainability benefits of natural products.

As a memento, the gathering was gifted with a plant to remember the day. The Correspondent Sr. Margaret Sebastian thanked all the participants for their presence and support and invited everyone to take care and love the creation.

CELEBRATING CREATION MARIALAYA - POTHUR

The community of Marialaya, Pothur celebrated the season of creation along with the shelter children, drawing nature and its benefits, speech on natural resources, meditating on the beauty of creation. On 1st October we had a solemn Eucharistic celebration by Fr. John Peter SDB the Rector of Don Bosco Wisdom Town and spoke on the importance of Nature and its purpose in the lives of human beings. After Mass the children gave a cultural based on creation in the form of dance, speech, drama and singing. We concluded the day with the Rosary in the company of Mary the co-creator, thanking and praising God for the Universe.



Sr.Tamil Selvi, Pothur

*Let us seek out others and embrace the world as it is,
without fear or pain or a sense of inadequacy. Because
there, we will discover all the goodness that God has
planted in human hearts.*



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CONVENT BROADWAY

The sisters had a meaningful celebration of season of creation as they were regularly motivated by the videos presented by Fr. Praveen D' souza OFM. We had four weeks of celebration initiated by creative prayer moments with different themes those were given by Sr. Punita Bergia the youth Pastoral coordinator from the centre.



We joined our staff, students, parents and the entire educating community members through online prayer moments and motivational talks during this season of creation. The check list was prepared and given to the students to follow during the month which contained many activities to promote life and love to people and nature. They were asked to grow plants and cultivate terrace gardens. Their videos were shared and different competitions were conducted in both schools which brought great impact on both children and their parents. The community sisters also were interested to bring up kitchen and terrace garden that gave them remarkable experience.

AUXILIUM COLLEGE REGUNATHAPURAM

"We are the beloved creatures of God, who in His goodness calls us to love life and live it in communion with the rest of creation". For this reason, the Auxilium Educating Community strongly encouraged the faithful to pray for the protection of our common Home.



Educating Community – Co-operators, Vides, Past pupils, Auxilium College Arts and Science and Auxilium College of Education, owning up the duty as citizens to assume our rights and responsibilities towards this nature's gift, we produced videos on various titles like terrace Gardening, Herbal Gardening, Avoid plastics, Tree



plantation, Biodegradable waste recycling, Vessel washing water recycling which are practically done by the students, staff and parents at home in their villages. It was not only an awareness creating event but it made ways and means even to produce earnings and interest in manual work and maintain healthy and ambient living.

Activities done

- ✓ Herbal garden is created
- ✓ Tree saplings (coconut and banana) are planted in the campus
- ✓ Air-purifier plants are planted at the entrance of the house
- ✓ Campus cleaning is done
- ✓ Paddy field is tended
- ✓ Nature meditation is made



Sr. Peter Selva Rani.

AUXILIUM GIRLS' HR. SEC. SCHOOL THANJAVUR

It was a great pleasure for us to celebrate the season of creation with our students and teachers. The headmistress of the School Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani met the staff of the Higher Secondary School online through Google Meet and the PowerPoint on the season of creation was projected on the screen. Two weeks time was given to the students to enjoy nature and they were asked to prepare a video or audio programme. Nearly 35 students from standard VI to standard XII sent videos on their creative initiatives for the season of creation.

The parents co-operated well and they too in turn became nature lovers. Many of them cultivated vegetable gardens at home and also learnt to prepare paper bags. The staff, students and parents appreciated and continued to enjoy the season of nature.

Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani - Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur

AUXILIUM NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL, THANJAVUR

It was time to renew our unique relationship with our Creator, creation and all creatures. The students were also encouraged to grow a sapling at home, photograph the growth of the sapling and share their joyful experience through a video and photo. They were also stimulated to discover innovative ways to protect our common home, the planet Earth. It was fascinating and heartwarming to see the initiatives taken by children to create a video. It was indeed a learning experience for them to ascertain that they are beloved creatures of God

Sr. Abraham Epsibai - Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur



VADAKU PAGANUR -TIRUCHY

The message on “Season of Creation” reached the evening coaching class students by Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary and she spoke to them on the “Destruction due to Faith”.

Sr. Pushpanathan M. Virginia showed video on Protecting the Earth”. This encouraged the children and their

parents to take care of nature. Children were asked to share their experience and their response was good. We had the celebration of the day where Fr. Jayam Joseph SDB explained about “Laudato si” of Pope Francis. Father appreciated the children as they answered the questions promptly.



On 4th October the youth in our parish animated the liturgy creatively and they offered many natural products generously which they were able to get from their fields. Fr. Bernard in his sermon enlightened the people about the responsibility of everyone in the world to safeguard and to protect the earth. A plant was given to each child to grow at home and they were instructed to take care of the plant and as well as to respect nature. It was an enriching experience for everyone.

Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary

DIVYADHANAM NOVITIATE MANIKANDAM, TRICHY

“Words give life to poem; Flowers give life to seeds; Seeds give life to trees”

With the motive of generating life for the future joining with our Pope Francis in this season of Creation, we the novitiate community together as a family have joined to reconnect and recharge ourselves with our Mother Earth. Our minds and hearts were enlightened by various animations and activities during this **SEASON OF CREATION**.

- We had a great opportunity to reach out to the people with the awareness program on protecting the environment. We composed songs and short videos and circulated among the oratories.



- A puppet show was screened to the oratory children through online, based on the preciousness of water and the ways to save them.
- We shared many sprouted saplings (any fruit trees) from our campus with the people of nearby village thereby we work towards maintaining and sustaining a conducive environment for all.
- “Each one, plant one”- On feast days and birthdays, instead of sharing sweets and gifts as a sign of sharing our joy, we share oxygen by planting saplings as a remembrance of that person.
- The novices had a remarkable experience as they prepared natural manure and pesticides out of the waste vegetables peels, cow dung, neem leaves and other herbs.

As pope Francis says, *“The environment is the part of the logic of receptivity, it is on loan to each generation which must then hand it on to the next.”* As we imprint these words in our hearts let us work together to pass on these natural resources to next generation safely.

*By, Novices of Divyadhanam community
Manikandam , Trichy*

TIRUPPUR - MARIALAYA

The Season of Creation was celebrated more meaningfully by the Sisters, Staff, Children and Women at Marialaya Tirupur. The Prayer moments were animated creatively. With the Practical Suggestions to respect nature and the human being, various competitions like drawing, poem recitation, rangoli, skit and dance on the importance of nature were



organized for the beneficiaries both in the campus and in the villages we reach out. Apart from this, the inmates were divided into four groups to maintain the garden and to plant trees. Nature meditation was organized. Everyone was happy to be part of this celebration and our hearts overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to God for his abundance of graces and benefits received through Nature.

AUXILIUM CONVENT THERESPURAM - TUTICORIN

To celebrate the season of creation and to protect the common home, the Auxilium family at Therespuram had taken the following initiatives.

- ❖ The Sisters of Auxilium spent some time with nature, making meditation. Meditation leads to a stress free and refreshed mind & heart.
- ❖ On Sep 22nd the teaching, non teaching and supportive staff were gathered to celebrate the season of creation and each one received a sapling.
- ❖ The Auxilium students were encouraged to plant saplings in their homes and asked to spend some quality time in the garden. The students of various classes uploaded their photos while they were gardening. It made them realize the beauty of nature. Further they were given cognizant about 'Laudato si' through some videos and every day Good Morning thoughts. Few of them came together to take part in sea shore meditation which made them to be connected with nature and enjoy calm & serene minds
- ❖ The Education community members promised that they would not use bottle drinks, minimize the use of electricity and not to use harmful words to destroy others.



VIDES - THERESPURAM

Members of VIDES at Therespuram celebrated 'Season of Creation' in a very meaningful way. Rev. Sr. Jeyarani Devaraj the Co-ordinator of VIDES-Therespuram gathered all the VIDES members in the campus and motivated them to care for the nature around us. The vibrant VIDES planted 25 neem tree saplings at a nearby canal and interacted with the people to make them to realize that they really need a clean environment as the canal is practically filled with only sewage and dirty stagnated water, polluting the air. The locals were instructed to protect the tree saplings and water them every day. Both the members in our vides group and people of the locality were happy that they have made an effort in preserving nature.

Sr. Jeya Rani





On 11th September 2020 Sixty-five Headmistresses, sisters teaching in schools and lay teaching, staff from all the school of the province participated in the meeting. Mr. Eronimus the Educationist from Tiruchirapalli animated the zoom Meeting on “**How to Enhance the Capacity for Concentration among the Students**”.

MEDIA COORDINATORS' MEET -

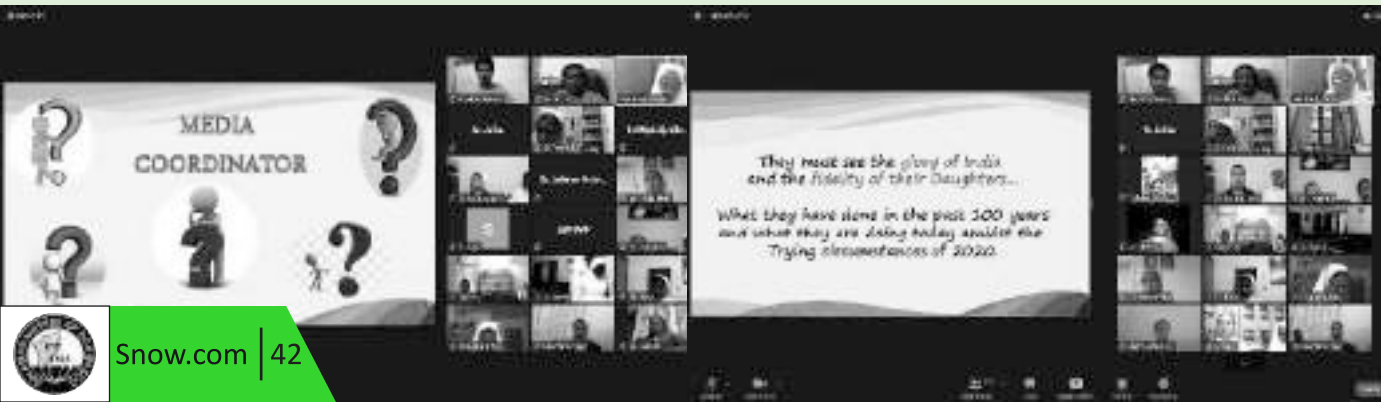
FMA INDIA MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT AMONG THE YOUNG THROUGH THE MEDIA:

The online media meeting was commenced on 29th September 2020 with an inaugural prayer animated by ING province, wherein the participants invoked the assistance of the Holy Spirit to attain more knowledge of media and its impact which can be communicated to our beneficiaries. There were 120 participants from seven provinces in India, among them fifteen sisters participated from our province of our Lady of snows. The inaugural message was given by Sr. Margaret Amalanathan, PCI President.

We had an interesting session titled “Healthy Use of Media and Technology - Post Covid 19” by Mr. Rahul and Mrs. Miracle D' Costa. The session was really an eye opener to all of us where we had more of sharing and interaction. Then one representative from each province shared their journey as Media coordinators through PPT and short videos, where many of us were inspired and motivated to learn new ideas and thinking from each province. Finally the first day came to an end with a message by Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the visiting General Councilor where she focused more on the process of rapid changes and transformation in the digital world and digital era.

The second day started with prayer moments animated by Sr. Teresa Vedamuthu from INT. Sr. Jennifer Samson from INT who compered the day's events introduced the resource persons of the day Fr. C M Paul SDB, who spoke on “Report Writing”. Sr. Alice Chacko from INK Province spoke on the topic “Media Coordinators towards the FMA India Centenary”. The day came to an end with the message of Sr. Phyllis Neves - visiting General Councilor where she inspired everyone to transmit what is good and life-giving.

Sr. Teresa Vedamuthu



CELEBRATING THE MEMORIES OF OUR PIONEERS

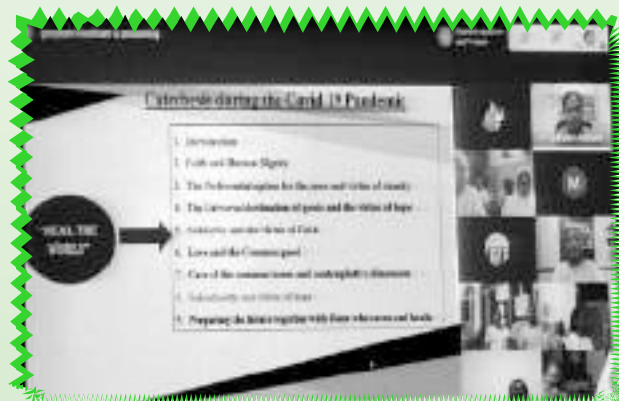
To mark the arrival of the first missionaries to India, twin initiatives were taken to reawaken the missionary zeal among the sisters. An Inter – Province Prayer Moment was animated on 21st November 2020 lead by Sr. D'Cunha Celine of Shillong Province on the theme: Accept the Mandate: “I entrust them to you.” reviving the Family Spirit and strengthening Community Communion.



There was a Zoom Meet to celebrate the Memories of our Pioneers with many Sisters, Teachers, Past Pupils, Family members and friends on Sunday, 22nd November 2020. This was organized by Sr. Hilda Braganza of the Bombay Province and the FMA India Media Team in collaboration with the 7 FMA Provinces. It was a pleasant surprise to have our beloved Mother General, Mother Yvonne Reungoat for Celebrating Memories of our Pioneers. And she invited us to renew our commitment of love and fidelity to the Institute and its mission, The creative presentation of the lives of our Pioneers - Sr. Teresa Balestra (INM), Sr. Maria Angeleri (ING), Sr. Caterina Marnetto (INT), Sr. Luigina Appiano (INB), Sr. Consiglia Tarricone (INK) and Sr. Teresa Merlo (INS) by all our Temporary Professed sisters encouraged us to relive and resolve to take forward their legacy and make known the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello to all people.

SEMINAR ON CATECHESIS OF POPE FRANCIS - 'HEAL THE WORLD'

In preparation for the general Chapter XXIV, the sisters of INT province had virtual seminar on Holy Father's Catechesis “To Heal the World” by Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani the Catechetical co-ordinator of the Province from 16th to 18th November 2020. In the light of COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis has given a new cycle of catechesis which highlighted the responsibility of the state, society and



individuals to tackle the social illnesses prevalent in our midst. She made us to reflect, to work together as followers of healing Jesus, to build a better world full of



hope for future generations. In the midst of this pandemic, as we are called to keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus and with this *faith* along with Pope Francis, we were encouraged to embrace the *hope* of the Kingdom of God and do works of *charity* that Jesus Himself offers us.

Sr. Arokiam Gracy Rani

SEMINAR ON FRATELLI TUTTI



The third encyclical of Pope Francis “Fratelli Tutti “ on fraternity and social friendship was presented by Fr. Godwin Rufus, the Principal of Arul Anandar College – Karumathur from 24th – 25th November 2020 for the entire Province virtually. He explained each chapter of

the document in a practical way, helping us to move from globalization, indifference and illusion communication to integral moral development and personal conviction for universal solidarity.

PAST PUPIL COORDINATORS MEET:

On 17th October 2020 the local Co-ordinators of past pupils unit from each community participated in Google meet organized by Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia, Province Past Pupil coordinator Fr. Magesh SDB was a resource person of the day who enlightened the participants on the theme - “Response of our Founders to the epidemic then and now”.

ANIMATORS AND ECONOMERS MEET

Thirty-six sisters sharing the responsibility of being the Animators, Economers, Finance Advisory Commission and Provincial Councilors participated in the Animators and Economers Meet held on 12th November 2020 in Auxilium Provincial House,



Manikandam. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss the Administrative and Finance Management Guidelines set by the Finance Advisory Commission.

The teacher asks the class : Where do apples grow?

Smart Samantha answers : On apple trees.

Teacher : Where do pears grow?

Clever Curtis answers : On Pear tree

Teacher : Where do dates grow?

The class is silent. Little Johnny says: On calendars?





Mathew 25: 34-40 says “What you do for the least among you, you do for Jesus”. Throughout the Bible, God's word teaches us that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us.

On the 5th of August, the feast of Our Lady of Snows, at table, Rev. Sr. Fernando Majella, the animator of St. Francis Xavier Convent was speaking to us about the workers of St. Francis Xavier's school and was saying that they were in dire need of food. The convent of St. Francis Xavier had helped the workers several times since March 24th – The day when the lockdown started in Tamilnadu. Now, they themselves were finding it difficult to cope with the situation. That was the real starting point of our sharing, my cousin Mr. David Antonio and I started to reach out to a few of our friends and to as many of our former students who are today in good positions with a request to help the workers in St. Francis Xavier's school, the workers in Our Lady's Centre Matriculation school, the Oratory children of St. Francis Xavier's school, the poor destitute old women, the residents of the slums in the vicinity, the marginalized workers of other schools and the poor around us. This joy of giving to the needy and the joy on the faces of the workers spurred in us an enthusiasm to continue this work. With the blessings of Sister Fernando Majella and the encouragement of all the sisters in the convent we decided to do this again. Armed only with hope and trust in Our Lord and in Mary Help of Christians, we made our prayer every single day to her. During this time, we had several doubts as to whether we would make a difference in people's lives or not. It was then that the animator and the other sisters in St. Francis Xavier Convent lent us their support and encouragement to go on.



At first, there was a trickle of funds from a few trusted friends, and then came a huge deluge of funds from all directions, therefore we were able to stand by the poor and support them during this pandemic from the month of August till December. Throughout this time, Sister Fernando Majella was the driving force for us. She stood beside us as a strong pillar of support and the community of sisters backed us too. This trust, joy, love and selfless service of this community of sisters we had never encountered before. We felt that we had become part of this Salesian





family. The warmth and the love and care shown to us by the community of sisters here made us to do more for this community. The love we experienced in this convent was awesome. We have never before experienced such love and kindness from anyone else.

All our genuine contributions for the poor were possible due to the kindness, gentleness, love, service, dedication and trust which the Animator, Sr. Fernando Majella and all the Rev. Sisters reposed in us. It was also due to the untiring efforts of my former students, our well wishers and our friends. Above all, this was made manifest in your presence due to the unfailing help of God Almighty and His Blessed Mother- Mary, the help of Christians.

During our regular visits to the Convent of St. Francis Xavier, we got an opportunity to render our loving service to Sr. Marie, the elderly sister in the community. It was indeed a blessing to us to express our care and concern for the elderly sister in that community. We are very happy in doing that. The compassion, gentleness, patience and kindness of the community of sisters at St. Francis Xavier Convent moved us to awe.

KEITH STEPHENSON
FRENCH TEACHER
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ANGLO INDIAN SCHOOL
BROADWAY, CHENNAI - 600 108

Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you. - (Laudato si')





- A RAY OF HOPE

MARIALAYA at George town is a Non-Governmental Organization run by the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco in the city of Chennai. Since its inception in the year 1990, Marialaya has been working for the rehabilitation of Street and Slum girls in the northern parts of Chennai city. It is registered under the Tamil Nadu societies Registration Act 147/1990. It works in restoring human dignity by creating a conducive atmosphere and offering the necessary opportunities and facilities for the street and destitute runaway girls. It works in 20 major locations of North Chennai, covering 800 street children in 17 centers within the age group between 6 and 18 years.

Marialaya renders its services with a plethora of groups like street children working as rag pickers, petty hawkers, orphan & street children, runaways, and children in difficult circumstances, beggars and unwedded adolescents. Marialaya felt the need to equip them socially and culturally and enable them to come into the mainstream of society. Marialaya works for the restoration, rehabilitation and empowerment of the target groups especially street dwellers, young girl children and young boys. For the past two decades, Marialaya works in promoting life with dignity through various programs like Children's Parliament, Skill training, Vocational training, Capacity building, Education assistance, Legal assistance, Shelter homes etc. Besides the services to the young children at risk, it has been also concentrating in empowering the slum based women in the northern part of Chennai city.

2. MISSION :

It is to focus on the integral growth of the marginalized children, adolescents and women by building resilience among them in upholding their rights, through which they get life in its fullness.

3. VISION :

Towards forming a well-versed society of children, women and youth active in social life, in the economic sectors, in the community's political administration; thereby leading to a strong cultural ethos of the society they live in, besides ensuring their rights.



4. TARGET GROUPS :

- Street and Working Children
- Rag pickers
- Petty hawkers
- Child beggars
- Destitute orphans
- Runaway children
- Girls from broken families
- Youth and Women in difficult circumstances
- Rescues from the street
- Child labourers

5. MAJOR INTERVENTION:

5.1 Residential programs :

- ❖ Running a home for the destitute children
- ❖ Open shelter & Short Stay Home for the street & working children
- ❖ Conducting motivation and orientation program
- ❖ Extending Formal and Non-Formal Education
- ❖ Special supplementary coaching

5.2 Non- Residential programs (Outreach activities) :

- ❖ Projects through National Child Labour forum
- ❖ Street Contact Centres
- ❖ Special Supplementary Coaching Centres
- ❖ Training on Non – Formal Education
- ❖ Training on Income Generation Programs
- ❖ Self Help Groups
- ❖ Vocational Training Centre
- ❖ Counselling and referral services
- ❖ Children's Parliament

6. MAJOR STRATEGY

- Restoration (Identify)
- Reform (Through motivation, orientation & counseling)
- Rehabilitate (Equip with formal & non-formal education and Income Generation Training)
- Re-integration (Re-uniting with family as well as society)





STRENNA 2021

of the Rector Major Fr. Angel Fernandez Arttime



MOVED BY HOPE

'SEE, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW' (REV 21:5)

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH 2021

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and
courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen

ST. JOSEPH PRAY FOR US

