

ALLAHABAD NEWS LETTER JANUARY-MARCH 2023



"You crown the year with your goodness and your path drip with abundance" Psalm 65:11

With this hope and trust in our hearts we welcomed the New Year 2023.All of us in 21 were excited about the upcoming solemn jubilee celebration of our sisters. The holy season of lent was observed with much devotion and prayer. Along with the community practices each one selected their own paths to prepare themselves for Easter. The 21 community has begun the study of the gospel of St. Mark with much enthusiasm and joy. The Letters of Instruction is also being studied. Sr.Jane who is well versed in these is our resource person.

Celebrations: The New Year was welcomed with much enthusiasm and joy. We had solemn Eucharistic celebration asking God's Blessings upon the whole year. The Institute Day was celebrated aptly. The celebration began with Solemn Eucharistic celebration wherein we joined our hands in prayer for all the members of our congregation. We had a Christmas gathering in St. Joseph's for the priest and religious. We got third prize in the crib making competition. Mary Ward week was celebrated with much love and devotion. Sisters conducted prayer each day adding their creativity and colour to the prayer. This gave each one a deeper knowledge about the day's theme. On the death anniversary of Mother Mary Ward we had a solemn Eucharistic celebration uniting our entire Mary Ward family in prayer.

February second is a special day for all of us. It was a red letter day in the life of our dear Srs. Florence, Tina, Christine, Claudine, Lynette,



Joselette, Janet and Roselette who celebrated their diamond, Golden and silver jubilees. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist. Fr.Louis Mascarenhas was the main celebrant. Many priests, religious, relatives of our sisters, friends and benefactors joined us in celebrating their lives. It was a joy filled and grace filled day for all our dear sisters. In honour of our sisters we had an organized recreation wherein all tapped their feat for our sisters. Diocesan women's day celebration was held in Sadhana Sadan. Many women from our diocese joined in celebrating their day. Sr.Daya was the coordinator of the event. Women's day was



celebrated in 21. Sr.Joselette brought women from the social work centres. It was a joyful



event for all. Our sisters from 32 and Rajapur joined us in the celebration.

Arrivals and departures: Sr.Jaya returned after the retreat renewed in spirit and mind. We bid a fitting farewell to our postulants who left for their novitiate.Sr.Manisha and postulants along with Sr.Daya left for Patna. Sr.Daya returned after visiting our sisters in Buxar and Dumraon.

Sr.Sharon left for Delhi to fly to Rome to attend the formators' course along with Sr.Manisha. Srs.Martha and Pushpa went to Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh and Srs. Bhavana and Arpita to Amritsar for vocation promotion. They came back visiting many young girls who have a desire to follow the path of Christ. Let us pray more earnestly for good and genuine vocations to our Institute. In the month of March Sr.Martha was in and out of the community going to different parishes to prepare the faithful spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Sr.Jane and Sr. Teresina left for Patna for the 'Becoming One 'gathering. They came back with enriching experiences. This year we had the Chrism Mass in the Naini Parish. Many of us joined in giving thanks for all the priests who serve the needs of the faithful.

<u>Rest in peace:</u> We were glad to hear that our Srs.Manisha and Sharon reached Rome safely. But we never knew that soon the joy would turn into sadness. On the same day of their arrival in Rome we received the sad news of the sudden demise of Sr.Sharon's dear father. The next day after her arrival she left for home for the funeral of her father. After a week of staying with her bereaved family she returned to Rome to resume her study. May his soul rest in peace.

School: The Mary Ward week was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm by our teachers and our little ones. They enacted the life of



Mother Mary Ward and brought out the values that we need to imbibe in our lives through a well conducted assembly by the students of LKG and UKG .

Every student and teacher is a member of JPIC. To create awareness among the students and parents that the earth is our common home, a few activities were conducted. The children recited the poem on save the earth and they also shared the stationery, food and clothes with the poor.

The annual exhibition was held on 17th February. All the items prepared by the students with the help of the teachers were displayed. The Chief Guest Rev. Fr. Vipin ' D'Souza inaugurated the event. It was appreciated by all especially the parents.



For the parents of UKG an orientation was conducted by the teachers to make them aware of their role in the all-round development of the child.

On 26th January, Republic Day we were honoured to have our MLA Hon'ble Harshvardhan Bajpai as the Chief Guest. Though it rained still there was great zest and enthusiasm among the students and teachers. He stressed in his message that we need to follow in our daily life, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, which will help us to become better human beings.

Darshna Special School: On Republic Day the flag hoisting was done by the Chief Guest Mr.Anil Agrawal the district Governor of Rotary Club. On the same day the sensory room was inaugurated by the chief guest. The sensory room equipment was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Allahabad. The initiative of the school and management was well appreciated by all.



The speech therapy for special children was begun in our school in February wherein the students are helped to improve their oral communication. A well-equipped physical exercise room is opened for our special children and they are benefitting from it. On the occasion of Down Syndrome Day a fancy dress competition was organized for the students. All our students participated in it. Frs.Vipin and Isidore were invited for judging the event. The parents appreciated the care we take of their children. The improvement we see in them gives us joy and contentment.



St. Mary's Convent 32

"Those who believe are never alone." (late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI uttered these words just before he breathed his last saying"Jesus, I love you," May his soul rest in peace!)

The Jovial January, 2023 has dawned with full of joys, the feast of Mary, Mother of God, to start with. It was a day to thank the Almighty for the past as **Graced**, present as **Presence** and future as a **Hope-filled** collaboration with God. So let us thank all who specially supported us, uplifted us and stood with us through good and bad, happy and sad times. The feast of the Institutethe Holy Name of Jesus was celebrated maintaining its sacredness and solemnity with High Mass, melodious singing and special prayers mainly for the amalgamation of the Loreto with the Congregation of Jesus. May the Good Lord expedite our union if it is His will.

The School had reopened as scheduled on 3rd as the Board Exam students were having their Pre-Boards, but classes up to 8 were strictly closed as per the D.M's order in view of the freezing cold those days. Sr. Jyoti had gone to Bangalore to attend the Anglo Indian Council Meetings. Sr. Vinaya, to Sadhana Sadan with the youth of the Diocese - a program called "Flesh and Bones" Prolife Training Program on 7th and on 8th Jan. Hope and pray that they benefit much from it, especially since the youth is facing numerous



challenges. 11th Jan. was a very significant day for our animator, Sr. Sumita and for the '32' community, as Sister touched 60 and another sexagenarian is added to our company. We celebrated in style, since it was a new milestone in her life. Her two elder sisters wished to greet her personally, but the Lord willed it otherwise. Her sisters could not make it, since their flight was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The school reopened in full swing when the biting cold came to an end. Sr. Marion left for Thirunelvelli, down south to attend an education conference and returned on 20th. The birthday of Mary Ward was remembered by the sisters, with a Solemn High Mass and melodious singing and a week- long special prayers. The students of class 12 were given a very memorable 'Farewell' by the students of class XI. They had a gala time in school till 4 p.m. and went back home carrying unforgettable memories.

The 74th Republic Day of India was disturbed by untimely rains. The weeklong practice of parade and other items had to be called off. Somehow we managed to unfurl the National Flag sans any activities.30th Jan. happened to be a holiday due to Municipal Elections. So Mahatma Gandhi and Mary ward were given rich tributes in the school the next day. The community concluded the weeklong prayers and Novena for Mary Ward's Beatification on the same day itself.

Fabulous February:- In everything, good or bad, great or small, give thanks to God for the good life we enjoy. The community celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Janet in the company of her siblings in the morning with High Mass, wishing, the ceremonial cake cutting and photo session. By 10a.m. all moved to '21' for the group celebration. As a grand finale, we had organized recreation with some cultural items and a few games. The customary 'honouring'of the guests with shawls was duly done during the recreation. Fr. Michael MCBS, the Priest brother of Sr.Janet thanked Sr. Sumita and the community on behalf of his sisters and brother, for the warm welcome and hospitality shown to them and Sr. Janet endorsed it with Amen. He offered Mass for us the next day and immediately after Breakfast they left for Varanasi to have ' GangaDarshan'.



Sr. Surabhi had gone to Kolkotta with some students and teachers to attend the JPIC 6th General Body meeting of the South Asian unit of IBVM, CJ- "Parivartan" and returned on 4th. Sister shared her experiences with the community vividly.



Sr. Celine had gone to NavSadhana, Varanasi to deliver a few lectures to an Inter-Congregational group on'Charism'.

Sr. Elsie's nun sister Beatrice, an Elizabethan sister from Germany, her brother and sister -in law paid her a visit. After spending three days with her, they returned. Sr.Roshni accompanied Sr. Sylvia to meet her relations, since they were not planning to go to Kanpur. Sr. Isabel stayed on with us after 2nd of Feb till 14th to be with them. We had a short organized recreation to honour our guests.



Sr. Marion was deputed to attend a meeting at Dibrughar by NAAC(National Assignment and Accreditation Council). She came back on 23rd after successfully completing it. The Ash Wednesday celebrations were held at St. Joseph's Regional Seminary hall, since the Cathedral is still under repair. Sr. Felicitas had four of her relations from Delhi for two days and returned on 24th.

The Marvelous March is beckoning us. The Education Commission under the leadership of Sr. Marion met at St. Mary's Lucknow to discuss and make necessary amendments in Teachers' Service Rules and returned after two days. Srs.Celine and Sybil underwent Cataract operations in one of their eyes and are recuperating fast.

Sr. Surabhi went to Kanpur to write her third Semester M. Ed exams. Holi festival and IMD (International Women's Day) coincided, hence in Allahabad Women's day would be celebrated later in the month. 11th and 12thof March were Spiritual Renewal Days in the Cathedral, Prayagraj. Fr. Rajesh and Fr. Anil Abrew were guiding the faithful.

Sr. Vinaya attended the ICYM-Allahabad-DEXCO- Coordinators' meet at Sadhana Sadan. Sr.Shweta came for visitation and closed it after 3 days with a community sharing and organized recreation. Sr. Celine left for Patna with the two representatives from '21' to facilitate the 'Becoming One' gathering at Atma Darshan, Patna and returned on 29th. On 26th the women's Organization had the Women's Day celebration at Sadhana Sadan with a few out-station speakers highlighting the theme of Women's role in a male dominated society. Sr. Marion is off to Muzzafarpur for the 'NAAC' meeting and returned on 31st.

The sudden demise of Fr. Varghese Alangaden on 26th March shocked us much. We watched the funeral Mass in the St. Francis Assisi Cathedral, Indore, online and prayed for the departed soul. Fr. Varghese was a good friend of the CJ family who through the instrumentality of Sr. Christina CJ initiated the USM Movement in St. Mary's, Allahabad and then it spread to other schools as well. May God grant him eternal reward for his role in bringing the youth closer to God. As we are preparing ourselves to celebrate the Holy week and Easter, let us pray to have eyes to see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that never loses faith in God.

Alleluia, Jesus is Risen! A very happy, Holy Easter!

Sr. Sumita and '32' Community.



NEWS IN BRIEF

New year 2023 was welcomed by invoking God's blessings through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist together with all the parishioners in St. Patrick's Church. It was followed by a fellowship meal and some fun time together.

The poor and the less privileged are always our concern. on 8th Jan. Srs. Prabha, Annies and Mrs. Suchita Shukla distributed blankets to the

poor on the pavements which was contributed by the "Friends of Mary Ward".

The Birthday of Mary Ward was celebrated both in the school and in the community. On 23rd January, a special assembly was conducted by the students under the able guidance of their class teacher Mrs. O. Saxena to celebrate the birth anniversary of our foundress. The prayer assembly imparted to the students the countless contributions made by our dear foundress towards the empowerment of women and upliftment of the society.

Various activities were conducted to celebrate the birth anniversary of Mother Mary Ward. The students prepared bookmarks on the maxims, calligraphy and sketches based on the life of our dear foundress and collages on the values taught by Mother Mary Ward were some of them.



THANKSGIVING CEREMONY

'Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good." - Maya Angelou. On 25th January, the students of class XII had their Thanksgiving Assembly. Students lit candles as a symbol of remembrance and offered flower stalks to seek the Almighty's blessings. The assembly began with a short introduction and a prayer initiated by our dear Principal, Sister Prabha. Hymns were sung by the students to create a serene environment. Students shared their experiences and expressed their gratitude for all that they have received from school. The



prayer service concluded with a few supplications and a final prayer. This assembly inculcated the 'attitude of gratitude' in each one of the students.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 26th January, the students assembled in the Basketball Court to celebrate the 74th Republic Day. Sr. Prabha unfurled the National flag and everyone saluted the 'Tricolour' with pride. Speeches and patriotic songs followed concluding with the national anthem. Sr. Prabha



also enlightened us with her inspiring words of patriotism --one nation, one vision, one identity.

On 30th January, the students conducted an assembly to honour Venerable Mother Mary Ward under the able guidance of their class teacher Mrs. J. Tiwari. The students extolled the virtues of our foundress as a visionary leader describing the noble mission undertaken by her to educate the girl child. Walking on the footsteps of our foundress, we should be humans of character, compassion, commitment, conscience and competence. A token of love was



given by our little St. Marians to the Mary Ward students on 31st January. The little angels of our school extended a helping hand to the underprivileged students with utmost love and warmth.

FAREWELL to class 12 Graduates

On 4th February 2023, the memorable school journey of Class XII students in St. Mary's Convent High School came to an end. The students of Class XI under the able guidance of their class teachers conducted a prayer service to invoke God's blessings on their seniors as they stood on the threshold of a new phase. The theme of the prayer service was "Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly". Their day ended on a happy note as they move ahead with abundance of memories imprinted in their hearts and plenty of aspirations for their future.

Diamond Jubilee of Sr.Sylvia

The diamond jubilee of Sr.Sylvia had to be cancelled due to the demise of her elder sister, Sr.Saula CMC, on 17th February 2023. The Jubilee was celebrated in a family atmosphere

along with her Priest nephew Fr.George MST and her other family members and sisters from cluster communities. We thanked God for the gift of Sr. Sylvia and her dedicated service in the vineyard of the Lord for sixty long years by praying for her through a solemn Holy Eucharist and fellowship meal.



Sr. Shweta made her presence felt in the community by being with the community for the visitation. Thank you dear sister for your benign presence and concern for us.

EAT RIGHT

The government of India in co-ordination with FSSAI has launched a campaign 'Eat Right School' under Eat Right India. It aims at creating awareness about the food safety, nutrition and



hygiene among school children and through them among the community. SMC Kanpur officially launched this movement in our school through which activities were carried out in different classes. The children participated in activities related to' adulteration in food' which were displayed through charts and live demonstrations.

YOUNG AUTHORS OF SMC KANPUR

Reading is dreaming with your eyes open". The students of SMC Kanpur got an opportunity to write and publish their books on global outlets through Bribooks, a leading children's creative writing platform. The students of classes VIII and IX exhibited their writing talent by writing



books on myriad genres like horror, sci-fi and fantasy such as books entitled 'Puppets to Culprits, A Scary Vacation, The Lost Destiny ' The Eleven Secrets, and The Days of Spring. Our young authors are fond of reading which inspires them to exploit their imaginative skills and weave works of fiction. They have used social media as an asset rather than an addiction.

NON-FIRE COOKING BY PRE PRIMARY STUDENTS

To develop the skill of non-flame dishes, a weekly activity "non fire cooking" was organized on 25th February. The aim of the activity was to provide a platform for the tiny tots to showcase their talent and explore new areas of interest. It was conducted with a view to create awareness about the nutritional value of food cooked without fire. Children prepared different dishes like sandwich, sprout chat, nacho chat, bhel puri, sweet corn salad and burger and served these dishes in an artistic way.



SR. PRABHA'S BIRTHDAY

On 28th March, the staff and the management of SMC Kanpur celebrated the birthday of our Principal, Sister Prabha by conducting a short prayer service comprising prayer and supplications, symbolic representation, prayer dance and a wishing song. Everyone conveyed their best wishes to Sister Prabha on this auspicious occasion.

The days have sped fast and now it is Easter Season. We wish each one of you a grace-filled



Easter! May the Risen Christ bring us new life, fresh hope and enthusiasm for the Mission! Wish you a very interesting and successful new school year!

St. Mary's convent Kanpur.



We welcomed the new year with the Holy Mass in the parish, asking God's blessings for the year 2023. On January 2nd the Diocese of Varanasi celebrated the 'Disabled Day'. We had taken our students to BLW for the programme. Our



students took active part in the sports and cultural events and 3 of ours were given scholarship from the Educational Society of the Diocese.

We had solemn mass on 3^{rd} January on the occasion of our Institute Feast. We joined the Kanudih community for the celebration.

We joined the entire Universal Church and prayed for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, on 5th January 2023 on his funeral day. A solemn concelebrated Holy Mass was offered for the pope in St. Mary's Cathedral, Varanasi at 3.00 p.m. in which many priests, sisters and faithful participated. After the mass floral tributes were paid by different religious leaders to honour the holy pope.

On 6^{th} January, Sr. Bhavana went for her annual retreat to Jhansi and came back on 16^{th} with renewed vigor and zeal.On 8^{th} January on the feast of the Epiphany, our parish celebrated the Christmas program. After the Solemn Mass we had sports and cultural program for all – children, youth, mothers, fathers and sisters -

winning many prizes. The program ended with a fellowship meal for all.

Asha Niketan Special School re-opened on 16th January. On 20^{th,} Jan. we welcomed Sr.Shweta who came for visitation. It was a joyful occasion for us and Sister was happy to see that each one is doing her best in her ministry. The next day Srs. Fabiola and Bhavana reached her to Ghazipur.

On 23rd we celebrated the birthday of Mother Mary Ward by offering a solemn High Mass in the morning. The whole week we had meaningfully conducted prayer service.

We celebrated the Republic Day with our students on 26th and Sr. Fabiola hoisted the flag and prayed for our country after which they were given sweets as a token of our love for our motherland and appreciation for the framers of our constitution.

Some of the family members of our Silver Jubilarians visited us and some of them stayed with us while they had the Varanasi darshan. We, the whole community went to '21' for the Jubilee celebration on 2^{nd} Feb.

We had 9 days Mass and novena for the feast of Mother Mary in St. Mary's Cathedral, different parishes taking responsibilities for each day. On 22nd Feb. Sr. Bhavana along with Sr. Arpita went for vocation promotion to Amritsar, visiting few parishes with the help of the Fathers who had invited us to their parish. A few girls have shown interest and given their names.

On 7th March, we had our Managing Committee Meeting and it went off well. On our request the Bishop obliged to provide financial help for making a sensory room for our Special School. On 12 March, Sr. Bhavana and Sr.Sylvia SAC went along with the Parish Mahila Sangh for the Lenten practice of visiting 7 Churches and praying for all.



On 24th March, the Regional Manager & team of Union Bank of India, came to visit our school and gave each student a school bag as a token gift.



On 30th March, Mr. Aditya Sudhir, gifted our students an Exercising Cycle. They are very happy and enthusiastic to use it.

We wish each one of you a Happy and Holy Easter!



New year 2023 was ushered in with great joy and hope. All of us participated in the meaningful liturgy in the parish and prayed for each other. The feast of the holy name of Jesus and the feast of our congregation was celebrated in a fitting manner. A meaningful liturgy was celebrated. The teachers from the hostel and Rev. Fr. Vincent prayed for us and wished us. On 12th we received the sad news of Rev. Fr. Thomas Serrao's death and on 14th, along with the parish priest the sisters went for the funeral of Fr. Thomas at Allahabad.

From 27th January Sr. Shweta spent some fruitful time with the community listening and speaking with the sisters. On 30th January closing of the Mary ward week and the death anniversary of Venerable mother Mary Ward was observed reflecting on her life and maxims. A meaningful liturgy offered by our parish priest marked the occasion.



On 2nd February sisters Manisha, Namita and Rosita went to Allahabad to join in the jubilee celebrations of our sisters. The Diocesan CRI was held in Allahabad Nazareth hospital. Sr. Manisha and Sr. Joan participated in it.

As a preparation for Easter, a charismatic prayer for the parishioners was arranged in the parish. The team from Allahabad, Fr. Vipin, Fr. Isidore and Sr. Martha led the prayers and it was a precious time for the whole parish community. Many people from Chunar and Adalpura parishes participated and profited from it.

Mr. Virendra one of our parishioners died on 28th February. Fathers, Sisters and many Catholics attended the funeral mass and burial rites. Mr. Virendra's death is a great loss for the parish as he was a model of immense faith that in spite of his ailments he never missed the church activities till he fell seriously ill.

Women's' day was celebrated in the school and parish. While in the school, the lady teachers and the co-workers from both our schools came together and celebrated the day, in the parish special prayers were offered during the Eucharistic celebration and the women were greeted with flowers. After the Mass all were served refreshments as part of women's day celebration.



In the months of February and March the students were busy with board and home examinations while the teachers were busy with preparing them for the board exams and the correction of answer scripts. We do our part and leave the rest to God.

As we wait for the great feast of Easter, Chunar community wishes each of our sisters a grace filled Easter. May the Risen Lord who strengthened his disciples strengthen each of us.

St. Mary's Convent, Chunar



Though most of us were in retreat yet we commenced the new year with the Holy Mass imploring God's blessings on us and our mission. We prayed earnestly for the Almighty's help to face the challenges, ups and downs that the year would bring .On 3^{rd} Jan. we concluded the retreat

and celebrated the Congregation feast with a special Holy Mass and delicious meal.

After the winter break we reopened the school on 4^{th} Jan. only for the students of classes 8 and above due to the severe cold. After five days the rest of the students were allowed to attend the school. Mary Ward week was kept up with special prayer services in the school as well as in the community.

After a gap of three years the school annual programme was held on 28th Jan. afternoon. Bishop James Athikulam – Bishop of Sagar



Diocese was the chief guest. The programme was a delight to the hearts and a feast to the eyes with a variety of cultural items presented by the students. The hard work of the sisters, teachers and students was duly appreciated and rewarded when the students in their colourful costumes, rhythmic steps and impeccable acting put in their best efforts and made the programme an unforgettable experience for the parents and well wishers. The beautifully decorated compound and the stage area exuded a warm welcome to the audience. In spite appreciative of our apprehensions about the success and the safety of the programme all went well with the blessings of God and the valuable prayers of our sisters.

On 31st Srs. Sarita and Roselette left for Allahabad to celebrate the latter's silver jubilee along with her companions. They returned on 3rd Feb. after the wonderful golden and silver jubilee celebrations of our sisters. Sr. Roselette's sister Jeslette too came along and spent a day with us before returning to her community in Chattisgadh.

Members of the local Minority Commission cell came to the school to conduct the inspection, the report of which is needed to get Minority Certificate for the school. Though the inspection went off well and the report was positive but the said report was not sent on time to Delhi, Ministry of Minorities for the hearing that took place in the beginning of March. We hope and pray that the report will reach Delhi before the next hearing that will take place in May. Kindly pray for this intention.

As per the wish of our jubilarian Sr. Roselette we had a simple community celebration on 18th Feb. The creatively conducted prayer service by Sr.



Sarita was a fitting tribute to all that Sr. Roselette is and for all her service to the Province in the past 25 years. We expressed our gratitude to God and prayed for greater blessings on sister during the special Holy Mass. To mark the occasion we enjoyed an outing to Bedhaghat in Jabalpur



which is famous for its marble rocks. We enjoyed the marvelous landscape from a boat cruise. We strolled in the adjacent market that displayed and sold many articles made from marble.

The ICSE Board Exams commenced on 27th Feb. Our first batch of 19 students have begun their exams well. The home exams started on 1st March. The teachers too were kept busy with the corrections.

We were glad to welcome Sr. Shweta who came on visitation on 18th March. The two days that Sister was with us were days of renewal, sharing, reflecting and finding solutions to various tricky situations that we face in our daily life and ministry. Sr. Sheela too paid us a flying visit to deal with the construction matters. On 21st March Srs. Shweta, Sheela and Evelyn left for Allahabad. Sr. Evelyn proceeded to Patna to attend the 'Becoming One' gathering. Sr. returned on 30th March enriched with the valuable experiences and meeting many of ours in Patna Province after many years.

As we prepare ourselves to begin the new academic session on 4th April we request you to include our Sagar Mission in your prayers for its various needs. We keep all our sisters and their ministries in our thoughts and prayers.

St. Mary's Convent, Sagar