



ALLAHABAD NEWS LETTER OCTOBER -DECEMBER 2022



“When you focus on being a blessing to others, God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance.” In the month of the Rosary, our Bl. Mother reminds us of this fact.

Sr. Vinaya went with the Diocesan Youth Director Fr. Joel and with some 18 youth of the Diocese to Ajmer –Rajasthan, to participate in the Regional Youth Convention and came back on 6th. It was indeed a fruitful gathering; to create awareness in the youth that “Many Christians grow up in church, but never grow in Christ. Sr. Janet with her batch-mates left for Darjeeling for her Silver Jubilee preparations cum retreat.

Sr. Marion who was delegated by the University, came back from Kerala after attending a high-level Education meeting on 3rd. The Zonal level Bible Festival was held in 32 St. Mary's. All below 60 were on duty; they were kept on their toes the whole day, a well-organized program. The collaboration and the co-operation among the Zonal Committee members were praise worthy.

Sr. Jyoti has completed the pre-submission of



her thesis. Hearty Congratulations dear Sister.

‘Friends of Mary Ward’ under the leadership of Sr. Jyoti & Sr. Rose is doing a yeomen service to the poor, the needy and the lonely people, by distributing school kits to the Asha Deep School children, midday meal to the hungry and spending time with the lonely in Mother Theresa's Orphanage. God bless their charitable work!

The Education Commission headed by Sr. Marion went to Kanpur to discuss and decide the implementation of the NEP (New Education Policy) and its modalities and came back after two days. 20th was a sad day for St. Mary's, for one of our teachers' husband passed away due to ‘Dengu fever.’ His funeral was the next day. Some of us went to their house to condone the loss and others to Muirabad cemetery for the last rites. R.I.P.



‘The festival of Lights’ was a reminder to us that we too are invited to be lights to dispel the darkness from those who are dwelling in it. We rejoiced with our Hindu brethren in honouring the light.

“Life comes around once, so do what make you happy and be with people who make you smile.” The month of November comes with this message-- All Souls’ Day. We remembered our dear departed by offering Holy Mass and other prayers and visiting their graves.

The Interschool Cultural Contest 2022 was held at St. Joseph’s College and St. Mary’s bagged the Second Runner up shield. Well Done, girls! This year it was more exciting because of the two year gap due to Corona closure.

GC sharing done in two batches helped one and all to get an idea of what transpired in the gathering in Rome. All felt it was worth it. After attending online retreats in the past two years, the province had a golden chance of a preached Spiritual Sadhana in four communities, Lucknow, Kanpur, St. Mary’s ‘21’ and St. Mary’s ‘32’. All were spiritually nourished and much enriched and energized by these.

Children’s Day took a delightful turn. The staff organized a mini fete to entertain the children. They in turn enjoyed all the eateries as well as other stalls, to their hearts content. From 8 to 12 noon the campus was vibrating with dance,

music, fun and laughter.

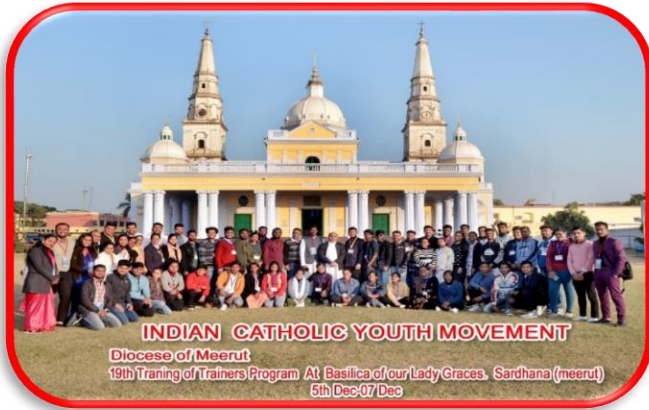
By 2 p.m the ground was well utilized by Fr. Babu and the slum children to celebrate the Children’s Day and on 15th afternoon Sr. Joselette utilised the playground for the children under her charge. All went away happy and radiant.



CHES (Catholic Higher Education Society) in a seminar at Nav Sadhana Kala Kendra Varanasi on ‘Social concerns in Higher Education’, honoured all the priests and religious who have completed their Doctoral Studies. A special feature was that Dr. Valsaraj from the Lucknow University and Dr. (Sr. Marion Mathew CJ) of SHUATS (Agricultural University) were honoured for their contribution in Higher Education and having completed guiding 15 Ph.D. Scholars under their supervision. C.J. presence in Higher Education was very well highlighted by the Chief Guest Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjali the Archbp. of Agra.



Sr. Vinaya attended a Youth Convention in Meerut, a well-organized and useful program for the Youth. May they come closer to Jesus by these seminars and workshops.



The Alumnae Association met to honour the 1972 and 1997 batches for their Golden and Silver Jubilees.



Our spiritual needs are not forgotten. There was a two days prayer and worship program by the team from Punjab to prepare the laity for Christmas.

We have one more 'Nonagenarian' in the community, Sr. Felicitas, besides Sr. Monica. And we did honour Sister fittingly. Congratulations Sister for your strength and faith in the Lord! May you hit a century. God bless you.



'Grand Parents' Day' was celebrated on 21st which culminated in the Nativity Play and closure of the school for winter vacation. 22nd and 23rd were two happy days wherein our teachers and workers exchanged Christmas greetings with all. On 24th evening the sisters met at the crib to welcome the Babe of Bethlehem and to disclose their Christmas friends. The next most exciting event was the Midnight Mass. Sunday being Christmas day, by 9 am the campus was flooded with people to meet and greet the sisters and each other. The 3-day Christmas Mela (fete) was an added charm to the festivity.

CRI Christmas get together, Penance Day, Dinner with the Seminary Fathers and a picnic to Dr. Neelam's farm house followed in succession. As the year comes to a close, it is a time for reflection – a time to cast away unhealthy thoughts and beliefs and forgive old hurts. Let us be thankful for the blessings of the past and the promise of the future. We wish you a very happy and fruitful New Year 2023!

Sr. Sumita C.J.
St. Mary's '32' community.





Mary Ward Convent, Unnao

Moments of Grace

The month of rosary brought blessings in abundance as the community unceasingly prayed together for various intentions of the world in the month of October. The annual retreat attended by the sisters rejuvenated them with the spirit of commitment to life and mission. Remembrance of the souls in purgatory was a special community devotion in the month of November. The GC sharing attended gave the community the clarity to set priority in the mission field. The advent season challenged each member to channelize her energy in fabricating her inner self. The regular faith sharing, penitential service and the confession groomed the community for the coming of the Lord. Christmas celebration instilled in the community the Joy of the Lord in its truer sense.

Flares of life

Srs. Marina, Alisha and Scholastica had a pleasant outing to Jaipur that refreshed and invigorated a new vitality in them.

An hour of scintillating programme by the sisters and teachers delighted the children on Children's Day. Applauds of the exuberant students expressed their gratitude towards the teachers for their hard work in arranging the programme.

The annual concert of the school was organized on the theme "Champions of Change". The concert gave a visual treat to the spectators as it showcased the evolutions occurred in various fields from the origin to till date. Keeping in mind that every child counts; the Pre-Primary Students were especially given a chance to exhibit their talents on their concert day themed as "Colours of Life".



Lawrentians committed themselves wholeheartedly to the preparation of Christmas. Even though the month of December began with unit tests, sisters, teachers and students teamed



up smartly to accomplish the desired target of an hour of Christmas programme, Inter school Carol competition and Christmas fete for the city of Unnao. It indeed was a wonderful experience for all. Srs. Rajini, Alisha and Scholastica attended the Christmas gathering of the diocese and it was an opportunity for them to be one with the many priests and religious of the Lucknow diocese.

Nav Jeevan Social Centre

The community extends its voluntary service to the social service centre unstintingly. Nearly two hundred students receive informal education regularly with the monitoring of the sisters and the untiring effort of the animator and the teachers.



Apart from the regular classes, every occasion is celebrated with the students at the centre.

A fun filled children's day celebration was organized by the sisters and the teachers, which elated the students. Various indoor and outdoor games were conducted and the prize winners



were awarded. Christmas joy was shared with the students at the centre with a Christmas message, the carols and the specially arranged snack. The community owes its gratitude to the generosity of the sisters of SMC Kanpur for gifting the students at the centre with a muffler on Christmas.



The year ended on a note of thanksgiving with an hour of adoration preceded by a solemn thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration.

Mary Ward Unnao community extends all our sisters, love and warm wishes of the New Year 2023. May it bring God's blessings, joy and

contentment in all our lives.

Mary Ward community

Unnao



The month of October was a hectic month of activities in the school, parish and community alike. The school was closed in the initial days of the month and so Srs. Rosita & Namita accompanied the co-workers to Agra for an outing. The renovation work of the kitchen, Verandah and the dining room began and most of our common activities were limited to a small makeshift kitchen cum dining room.

Sr. Joan went home to meet her brother who is sick and spent some time with him. He is better now and she thanks everyone for praying for him. Sr. Namita joined the retreat in 21 from 29th October and she returned on 6th November.

The month of November reminded us of our dear departed friends and we prayed for all of them especially on 2nd November. Children's day was celebrated with much enthusiasm and the kids were overjoyed on 14th November as the teachers staged various items for them in both of our schools. Many Competitions were held in the school and prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners.

Srs. Manisha and Rosita made their annual retreat in St. Mary's 32. On 30th Sr. Namita went to St. Mary's School Mirzapur to conduct an inter-school JAM (just a minute) competition.

28th November was a day to be remembered as the school held the Art & Sciece exhibition, to bring out the creative, innovative and scientific skills in the students.

Teachers and the students worked so hard and the result was well appreciated by thousands of



people who came to see the display. A large replica of Taj Mahal remained as the center of attraction.



The month of December kept us busy with preparations for Christmas. Christmas celebrations and assemblies were held in both the schools to share the Christmas joy with the students. The Church was aesthetically



decorated, a beautiful Crib was made and the whole compound was illuminated in preparation for Christmas. At 7.30 pm Christmas Carols were sung in the church and our parish priest Fr. Vincent offered Mass for the parishioners. We wished each other and shared coffee and Cake.

The people expressed their joy by dancing and singing. On 25th evening a great crowd gathered in the church premises to see the Crib and the illumination.

A heavenly ambiance created in the church and its premises was admired by all. A number of dignitaries from the city visited the place as well.

Renovation of the Convent. As a result of months of tireless effort, the renovation of the kitchen, dining room and its adjoining area was completed and it was blessed on 24th December. Many workers worked tirelessly to give a new look to the house.



Thanks to Fr. Vincent for his initiative and for the hours he has put in personally supervising the work that was in progress. We have now a well-furnished refectory, Kitchen, pantry, and Chapel.



Christmas Celebrations brought joy and peace to all of us. Though the weather is cold and no rays of the sun are seen outside still our hearts are joyful and happy.

May the good tidings Jesus gave us keep us all happy and peaceful. Chunar Community wish you all a grace filled New Year.



October month was a blessed month for all of us in Asha Niketan as we started the month walking



with our blessed Mother, praying the rosary. We also joined some of our neighbourhood families of our parish in praying the rosary. On October 2nd, we celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with our students and one of our teachers explained to our students the importance of Gandhi Jayanti.

We had the joy of meeting some of our sisters when we went for the G.C sharing. Sr. Maria Goretti had gone for the juniors meeting to Allahabad and she was back to the community rejuvenated in spirit. Sr. Bhavan's cousin, Fr. Shinoj T.O R paid a short visit to Asha Niketan. Sr. Fabiola went to Kanpur for her annual retreat and was back to the community renewed in mind and heart. We had a meaningful celebration of Diwali with our students and they had rangoli making competition among themselves.

We celebrated the 'Children's' Day' with our students; they had a few competitions such as dance, games and drawing



Sr. Maria Goretti had gone home to see her ailing father as he had a stroke and she was back after spending some time with her dear father. After her return from home, she went to SMC 32 to make her retreat and returned with great enthusiasm.

St. John's School Ledhipur, classes XI and XII along with Fr. Susai Raj and some teachers paid a visit to our school and had interaction with our students. Both the groups enjoyed each other's

company. They also conducted some games for our students and distributed gifts to them.

Our students had a chance to see the Art and Craft exhibition of St. Joseph's Primary School. The principal, Sr. Shyla O.L.P, gave them a



token gift each and the children enjoyed the outing. Sr.Sunita came for the national FORAM meeting and stayed with us two days and taught Srs. Bhavana and Maria Goretti how to make key rings. Sr. Fabiola left for home to visit her ailing brother. 20th Dec. brought much joy as we celebrated Christmas with our students and parents. Fr. Ronald D'Souza, our manager was the Chief Guest for the program and gave a meaningful Christmas message. He gave a token gift to all our students.



Sr. Bhavana's sister Anu and her family were with us for Christmas celebration and had an enjoyable time together. Along with the Kanudhi community we visited our sisters at Buxur, Chirag, Dumraon and Jethuly which gave much joy to all of us. Our chaplain, Fr.V. Sebastian took us to Badohi one of the mission stations of



Varanasi. In the Parish we had an hour of adoration followed by the Holy Eucharist to welcome the New Year 2023.

**Asha Niketan Community,
Bhavanipur**



St. Mary's Convent, Kanpur

News In Capsules

The past three months have been months of hectic activity and hard work, of events both big and small that touched and shaped our lives and mission. We share with you those events and experiences in the hope that it will bring us closer together.

The month of October began with the weather becoming cooler and many of us thought of taking a break from the usual routine of life and enjoy a different scene, a different atmosphere. Four of our sisters – Srs. Annies, Prabha, Renu and Kiran – went on a trip to Punjab- Amritsar, visiting the Golden temple, the Waga Border and Chandigarh.

Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti.

The students of class IX – A conducted a special assembly on the occasion of the birth anniversaries of two of the most iconic leaders in the history of mankind, Mohandas Karamchand



Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. They paid homage to the leaders by displaying and discussing their life events through enactments, speech and songs. A floral tribute was paid to them and Sr. Prabha motivated the students to transform themselves by quoting Gandhiji's maxim: "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Sr. Pratima on her way home to spend a few days with her dear ones before taking up her new mission in Rome took a detour and came for a short visit. That gave us the opportunity to wish her God's blessings in her mission. 9th Oct. was an exciting as well as hectic day, for the zonal Bible Festival was being held in St. Patrick's Parish. All our young sisters were fully involved in organizing and conducting the various activities assigned to them.

Silver Jubilee Celebration

Mrs. Mona Shukla, one of our teachers completed 25 years of her life as a teacher and the school celebrated the event on 14th Oct. The coordinated efforts of the Management, teachers and students resulted in a superb cultural programme, paying tribute



to the versatile as well as very committed teacher.

SMC Fiesta:

A platform was provided for children of all classes to showcase their skills in dance, songs, speeches etc. Two days were set aside to give them the opportunity to display their talents and





abilities and they made good use of the chance to impress the audience with their skills.

Deewali, Festival of Lights, was another occasion which brought much joy and delight to all in the SMC family as children participated in various events organized to celebrate the fiesta. Middle School students prepared colourful rangolis, beautiful bandhanwars and lanterns that represent happiness, positivity and liveliness of a



household and are intended to welcome wealth and good luck.

The Core Team of the Province Education Committee held a meeting here in Kanpur. They spent two busy days in discussion and redrafting of the Service Rules for Employees. We were glad to have them with us and witness the hard work put in by the team and look forward to its publication.

In the last week of October, the community had its annual retreat in peace and silence. The whole House plunged into deep silence and prayer in the ensuing days; there were about 20 sisters, many from other communities, taking part in the retreat. Fr. Robin SJ from Jalandhar was the

director who guided the sisters expertly through the Ignatian spiritual retreat. Srs Roshni and Sr. Annies stayed back to take care of the needs of the retreatants. The retreat got over on 30th Oct. and all dispersed to their destinations that very day or next day.

All Saints' and All Souls' days were duly celebrated. Our Parish priest and his team put in a lot of labour to get the grave yard properly cleaned for the occasion. The community visited the grave yard especially the little corner where our sisters are buried and attended the Holy Mass celebrated in the cemetery.

One day in Nov Mrs. Mona Shukla, feeling truly grateful for the splendid Silver Jubilee celebrations in school, hosted a grand 'return party' for the sisters, staff and class IV employees. A small gift, carefully selected and lovingly wrapped up was presented by the jubilarian to each one, to share her joy and thanks.

Our students took part in the National CISCE Athletic Meet held in Pune and won a number of prizes:

We spent a happy evening with the Sisters of UMI of St. Patrick's Convent, enjoying their company over a cup of tea. The first GC Sharing by the delegates of GC 2022 was attended by Srs. Roshni and two others and the input by the delegates was quite enriching and well-presented which motivated the others to look forward to the second sharing.

Children's Day Celebration: Great was the excitement as the children trooped into school in their beautiful, colourful dresses for they knew their teachers had been preparing something special for them for Children's Day. They were not at all disappointed. The staff entertained them with a scintillating programme. Following the programme and distribution of sweets, they



had picnics in their separate groups within the school campus. After that they danced merrily to



the tune of their favourite songs.

Sr. Sheela came back from Trivandrum after her long renewal course, well refreshed and renewed both spiritually and physically. Her absence from the community had left a void and her return was a joyful moment.

Junior school P.T. Display

The SMC Junior & Mary Ward School Sports and P. T. Display was the main public function of the year 2022. The hard work and thorough practice given to the children by the teachers resulted in a wonderful display of children's



skills, which were presented with precision, creativity and energy. Kudos to the mentors and children! The Chief Guest, Brigadier Nand Kumar lauded the efforts of teachers and children

and his wife, Mrs. Ambili Nand Kumar gave away the prizes.

In December, we were delighted to welcome Sr. Sumita and her two nephews and a niece who came sight-seeing. Sister took them to the Blue World, a Water Park/ Dry Park where they enjoyed themselves and in the evening the community joined them at Jheel Park and had a sumptuous dinner there. On 12th December our Provincial, Sr. Shweta and Neeta dropped in to pick up Sr. Sheela to go to Sagar on business.

Alumni Meet: A group of young, energetic past



students gathered in SMC to meet one another and reminisce their student days. The organizers ensured that all had a good time by enjoying some fun time, playing games, dancing together and partaking of a tastefully prepared meal. They also had some serious discussions regarding how best to provide relief to children deprived of basic things.

Christmas Celebrations

‘Rejoice! The Lord is born for us!’ announced our Mary Ward Children as they initiated this year's Christmas celebration with a beautifully depicted Nativity play. The dances and songs they staged were charmingly executed.

Charity begins at home:

On 12th December, 2022, a few students of our



school along with their teachers went to a slum area near Jaipuria crossing, to distribute shawls and sanitary napkins to the mothers of the students of the Mary Ward School. It was a joint activity conducted by the JPIC Club, Friends of



Mary Ward and the Alumni Association of SMC. After distributing the shawls and sanitary napkins, Aindvi Gupta and Alankrita Pandey of class XI spoke to the women there and tried to spread the awareness of the 'Importance of Menstrual Hygiene'.

The Christmas celebrations by children took the form of prayer assemblies in various groups during which they depicted the Nativity scene, meaning of Christmas and how to celebrate the event meaningfully in the present scenario. An air of festivity and gaiety marked the Teachers' Christmas get-together on 22nd in the tastefully decorated auditorium. A prayer service, soulfully conducted in the beginning, set the tone for the day. All enjoyed singing the age-old Christmas Carols. Srs. Roshni and Sr. Prabha greeted the teachers giving them the Christmas message and giving away the Christmas gifts to them. The celebrations concluded with a hearty meal hosted by the staff.

The Co-workers & their families had their get-together the next day. The celebrations included a very inspiring Christmas prayer service conducted by Sr. Sheela, some enjoyable games for all of them and presentation of Christmas gifts. The day concluded with a tasty lunch for

all- the co-workers and the sisters.

In a spirit of joy and thanksgiving we joined the parish community in celebrating Holy Mass in the evening on 24th Dec. Christmas day was spent in meeting friends and exchanging greetings. Christmas celebrations were all the more joyful considering we had survived the great scourge- Covid 19!

We had some visitors too during the last days of the month – Sr. Carola's nephew and family from Delhi came for a quick visit and left the very next day. Fr. Anand IMS was the last visitor of the year.

This year the Christmas gathering of Sisters and Fathers of Kanpur zone was in our house, SMC. This annual meet gives the sisters of various communities of Kanpur and the priests of the area a chance to meet together and have some fun time, playing games, chit-chat and share the joy and happiness of Christmas and the New Year.

As we step into the New Year 2023, all of us at Kanpur wish you, dear sisters, a very joyous and blessed New Year! May the Lord bless you with His abundant graces and may His presence guide you throughout the coming year!



The month of October opened the door of heaven, to intercede for our world. A world broken in different measures, it was a great opportunity for all of us to remember and pray for our world through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. We as a community gathered every day in the evening to pray the Rosary.



On 1st October we celebrated Gandhi Jayanti, to mark the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and his selfless contribution for India's freedom struggle.



We had a very meaningful prayer service, speech and drama based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, capturing the young minds to follow and imitate the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, that is truth, honesty and non-violence. The program ended with the prize distribution for the previously decided events.

“We are a country of great diversity, yet we have shown that unity is the only way forward.”
Shri Ram Nath Govind (former president of India)

On 21st October we celebrated the festival of Diwali in our school. Giving importance to the **“unity in Diversity”** a short and meaningful cultural program was conducted and appreciated the richness of each festival. A message was delivered to the students to learn and practise the following values in their life, that is, discipline, goodness, divinity, humility, tolerance, togetherness and kindness.

2nd November being ‘All souls day’ we remembered with gratitude all those who have gone for their eternal reward. A special mass was offered for them and in the afternoon, some of us had gone to the common graveyard to pray and participate in the Holy Mass offered there.

The school celebrated children's day in a solemn way. The teachers conducted a meaningful

prayer service, praying for the students of our school and children all over the world. The teachers put up a short cultural program which



was well appreciated by the students, after which games were conducted for each class. The students were specially honoured by giving them chances to distribute prizes, lighting the lamps and offering bouquets to Chacha Nehru.

On 26th November a spelling competition was conducted by the school management for the four houses as well as the individual spelling competition. The students were honored with prizes, encouraged and appreciated for their whole-hearted participation and dedication in learning the new words.

On 10th December the students of class 10 went for a study tour to Saranath where, they learned about Gautum Buddha and his teachings. The students also visited the Saranath Archaeological Museum, which has the famous “four – headed lion” from the 3rd century BC that was once on



top of the Ashoka Pillar. On the way back they visited the Jeevan Jyoti School, for the blind



children. It was a great opportunity for them to enhance their knowledge by visiting these places.

On 17th December the students had a carol singing competition among the four houses. All



the four houses sang the Carols well and creativity was seen in their performance.

A star making competition was held in the school on 19th December. The students were asked to make the star from home and submit in the school office by 19th. It was beautiful to see the different kinds of stars in the office, on 19th morning.



The prize winners were honoured on 22nd as we celebrated Christmas in the school, marking the occasion of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ 's love, joy and peace was shared among the children by conducting a meaningful prayer service and a Christmas play.



We had an enriching Christmas night Vigil Mass in the Ashram. We were touched by the multitude of faithful gathered there to celebrate the birthday of our saviour. We were happy to be with our sisters from Asha Niketan and Ghazipur as the cluster community gathered together in the season of Christmas on 26th. We had lunch together after which we left for Christmas mela in the Cathedral.

We visited our sisters in Chirag, Itari and Dumraon on 29th December. Some of us were happy to return to our old community and recollect the old and sweet memories of the place and for some it was their maiden visit to the place. We enjoyed the company of our sisters over there.

31st December, being the last day of the year, we spend extra hours of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. It was a time to become aware of the marvelous ways of God's presence in our life during the year 2022. We had special holy hour from 9p.m to 10 p.m. to conclude the year and to welcome the New Year 2023. May God bless us all with His choicest blessings.



The month of October began on a happy note with the Feast Day (Principal's Day)celebration of Sr. Lissy on 1st October.

On 7th Oct.2022, SMC Lucknow welcomed our



Golden Jubilarians, Srs. Antonette, Asha & Margret Mary from Nepal and Sr. Alma from Bangalore. It was a joyful reunion of old friends. A grand celebration awaited them on 8th Oct. morning with solemn High Mass followed by singing and wishing them on this holy and auspicious occasion.

15th October, 2022 was a Red Letter Day for SMC, Lucknow as we celebrated the Golden



Jubilee of Sr. Mariette C.J. our Superior, along with her companion, Sr. Fabiola C.J. Our sisters from Allahabad, Kanpur, Unnao and Fatehpur graced the occasion by their presence. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Naresh Lobbo, the Vicar General of Lucknow Diocese. The melodious singing by the teachers enthralled everyone. In the evening a variety entertainment program was staged in honour of the Golden Jubilarians, organized by our sisters from Lucknow & Unnao Communities.

Our Community was on a spiritual journey for eight days from 21st to 29th October, 2022, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Joe Koottinal S.J. It was much appreciated by all.

On 31st October, 2022, Sr. Divya left for Delhi to attend the Batch Meeting (1980 –'83 batches)..



Fr. Joe Koottinal was the resource person for the first two days at NRC, Delhi. It was a wonderful experience of reunion after the division of the provinces. Thanks to the Provincials for giving them this chance.

Inter-House Self-composed Hindi Poem Recitation for Classes 9 to 12 and Mathematics Quiz for Classes IV to X were held in which our students' performance was commendable. **Daksha Singh** (under 14 Category) brought laurels to the school by securing **Third Position** in the **ICSE /ISC National Level Chess Competition held at Amritsar**. Classes 9 & 10



along with the Friends of Mary Ward (Teachers) visited Adarsh Kushtha Ashram to celebrate Diwali with them. The inmates of the Ashram were overjoyed with such an expression of love and concern.

Seven of us went to SMC, '21' to attend the GC sharing sessions on 12th & 13th and 19th & 20th November. It was a wonderful experience of meeting a good number of sisters from other communities as well as coming to know about the proceedings and deliberations of the GC - 2022.

On 24th Nov. Sr. Anupa left for Atma Darshan in Patna, to attend a course for the Accountants. She returned on 19th November, equipped with more knowledge and confidence to handle intricate problems of accountancy.

Children's Day was celebrated with Solo Dance Competition and Campus Picnic. They danced to the tune of DJ songs and had a gala time enjoying the picnic. Classes 6 & 7 along with the



Friends of Mary Ward (Teachers) visited Paul Mercy Home as part of their out-reach program and distributed warm clothes to the inmates. Science Quiz was conducted for Classes 6 to 9, which was a great success.

On 29th November, the students of Classes XI & XII along with a few teachers went for a picnic to the 'Blue World Theme Park' in Kanpur. The excitement and eagerness of the students about the long-awaited outing cannot be expressed in words. It was indeed a memorable day for them, worth recalling for years to come. They enjoyed thoroughly and returned late in the evening.



The month of December began with the Unit Assignments which kept the staff and the students very busy. Classes 9 to 12 had a workshop on 'Indian Navy' conducted by one of our ex-students besides having an orientation program for Classes 6 to 12 on 'Cyber Crime & Mobile Addiction,' by Mr.Sanjeev Arora. It was very informative and helpful and the students appreciated the same. As part of the exposure activities, Classes 8 & 9 visited Karunalaya and St. Mother Theresa Leprosy Centre and distributed some essential items of daily-use which brought happiness to the inmates.

On 10th December, 2022, the roof casting of the ground floor of the new building was successfully completed.

On 14th & 15th December, Primary School - Parents' Day was celebrated. The mesmerizing



program staged by the students enthralled the parents. Hats off to Sr.Lissy & the teachers who worked tirelessly to bring it to perfection.

Healthy Competitions bring out the best in an individual. **SMCIC won the Gold Medal for the ICSE/ISC National Level Taekwondo Competition held in Lucknow.** We had Debate Competition for Classes 9 to 12, and Carol Singing Competition for classes 6 to 8 which conveyed the message of Love, Peace & Joy through the melodious singing. In the Inter – School Carol Singing Competition organized by the Loreto Convent, our students won the Second Position. St. Francis' School, Lucknow organized Carol Singing Competition for the Inter-School Teachers in which our teachers secured the Third Position. Congrats to all the participants.

The return of the ex-students to their Alma Mater is something that every Principal/sister/teacher looks forward to. One such occasion was created



on 18th December through the Alumni Meet. About 190 young ladies & gents walked into the



portals of St. Mary's, with sparkling eyes, a smile on their lips and hearts full of love and gratitude for all that they have received from this 'Temple of Learning'. A stroll down the memory lane brought alive happy memories of wonderful learning experiences and fruitful and effective social relationships of yester-years. The presence of a good number of their mentors – sisters and ex-teachers, added to their joy. It was indeed a re-union after many years. The senior most ex-student who came was from the 1971 batch. They stayed on, for the whole day, sharing their vast and rich experiences with each other, looking at every corner of the school and re-living their past memories. Thanks to Sr.Lissy for making it possible to have such a wonderful meet.

On 21st December, the school celebrated Christmas with the students by staging a



wonderful Christmas Program for an hour. About 140 students participated in the program.

On 22nd December the Sisters and Teachers gathered in the Chapel for the Christmas Prayer Service followed by Christmas Celebration in the Auditorium with some carols and a few Games. The icing of the celebration was a sumptuous lunch hosted by the teachers. The school closed for winter vacation on 22nd December, 2022.

After a gap of two years, we had a lot of people coming in on Christmas Day to greet the sisters. It was indeed a joyful occasion of meeting and greeting friends and well-wishers. Teachers, students, old students and friends who paid us

visit, kept us busy the whole day. Once again Christmas brought to the world the message of Peace, Joy & Love. On 28th we shared a meal with the construction workers. The last day of the year, 31st December, was observed with a 'Thanksgiving Prayer' guided by Sr. Amala in the morning and a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration at noon.

We wish you a very Happy New Year 2023.

St. Mary's Convent Lucknow



As the pandemic phobia has receded, life in 21 has returned to normalcy and joyful voices of children and friends alike vibrate once again.

The senior-most- Srs. Alphonsa, Marietta, Florence (octogenarians) keeps spreading blessings by their joyful presence and prayerful support. The junior-most -Srs. Arpita, Pushpa and Delna (students) walk the extra mile to reach out to wherever the need is greater.

The Provincial & team members- Srs. Shweta, Martha, Neeta and Sharon are involved and engaged in the general wellbeing of the members, attending meetings and conferences too. The Local superior-Sr. Jaya, makes sure that all who visit '21 community' feel welcomed and that adequate arrangements are made for the official meetings held here.

Srs. Sales and Tina with their open hearts and caring hands add a little more love and taste to the food we eat. Sr. Daya, the compassionate nurse sees to the overall health of the community so that medicine companies do not take undue advantage of us.



Sr.Manisha, the postulant mistress and Sr.Cecilia, the candidate mistress are helped by the junior mistress, Sr.Teresina & Sr.Jane in teaching the formees.

Meetings and Celebrations:

A Prelude to the Golden Jubilee: After the spiritual preparation at the Jesuit retreat centre, the Coin golden jubilarians - Srs.Crispina, Tina, Christine, Asha, Antoinette, Claudine, Sudha, Andrea, Alma and Margaret Mary, had a get-



together at 21 to retell their nostalgic experiences of early formative years. The reminiscences of their foundational experiences in 21, the solemn Jubilee mass offered, the delicious food, and recreation that followed in their honour stirred their emotions and brought forth tears of gratitude and joy.

Formators and Formees Meet: The formators - Srs. Teresina, Vinita, Chetna, Manju, Manisha, Cecilia, Remya and Harshita met to discuss and plan out their ministry of formation.



Thereafter the juniors meeting was conducted by Fr. Robin SJ. It was a welcome get-together of the formators and formees with a Jesuit spiritual resource person.



General Congregation 2022- Province programme arranged in two batches:



The entire Province got a deeper insight into the matter and manner of the CJ General Congregation part1 and part 2 from the sessions



conducted by the GC delegates -Srs. Shweta, Sumita and Jane.

The online presentation of the closing liturgy of IBVM GC 2022 held in Manresa moved our hearts as we heard the news that IBVM GC 2022 voted unanimously on 14th^{Oct} in favour of **becoming one** Mary Ward Institute with the CJ.

Feast day/ Birthday celebrations: (Pushpa -2nd Oct.; Teresina-15th Oct., Daya 3rd Nov., Sr.Florence,-10th Nov. Jaya & Cecilia 22nd Nov, Sr. Shweta -8th Dec.) were occasions to express our esteem and love for each of our sisters and thank God for the precious gift of their presence in which we are called to live, love and find joy. A Solemn celebration of the Eucharist, special Prayer service, tasty food to eat, organised recreation to relax, visits from 32 and Rajapur communities with greetings were some of the features that added to the joy of the 'feastday/birthday celebrants'.



A group of SMC Alumni paid us a visit to renew their cherished childhood memories in the primary school here. They were delighted by our hospitality.

The grace of the annual Ignatian retreat under the direction of Fr. Binoy S.J and the spiritual orientation given by Fr.Thomas OFM Cap. and his team through preaching and singing and selected verses from the Bible gave added energy for our journey through advent and Christmas season and beyond.

Christmas Celebrations 2022: Sisters, postulants, candidates, staff, students, and supportive staff all put in their mite to bring Christ -the Babe in the manger, to the center of our celebrations of Christmas. The carols sung by our sisters and formees at the diocesan Christmas fair was truly angelic.

Under the direction of Sr. Martha the staff and children of the Nursery school send out Christmas message through stage performance and prayer assemblies. Darshana School too shared Christmas joy by staging a Christmas scene along with the nursery school children. Our co-workers enthusiastically helped our young sisters to prepare an awe-inspiring crib and to give a Christmas touch to the entire campus to welcome anyone who entered the campus in the name of Christmas.

Achievements

Sr. Neeta achieved a gold medal in M.Ed. Congratulations dear sister on your great success.



The postulants and the candidates won the overall second position in the Allahabad diocesan Bible festival and bagged 1st prize in three events: speech in English and speech in Hindi- skit competition and a 3rd prize in Dance competition. Well done!



Departures for Courses and Meetings

Srs. Daya, Pushpa and Delna made retreat in Kanpur. Sr. Shweta attended the coin meeting in Nepal and the CRI major superiors meet in Varanasi. Sr. Martha attended a four-day workshop on school leadership and management in Athma Darshan, Patna.

Sr. Daya attended the National Conference organized by the National Women's Commission CCBI on the theme "Chosen to be a Missionary in the Synodal Path" at Lucknow. After Christmas Sr. Jaya made her annual retreat in Sagar.

Picnic and outing: Our candidates and postulants had a day out with Srs. Manisha and Cecilia. Srs. Martha and Cecilia along with the candidates visited the school exhibition in Chunar.

The tiny tots of the Nursery school display their skill and taste in unison at various occasions

They enjoyed decorating the diyas (lamps) with their little fingers. On Children's Day the students and the teachers together rocked the stage with their items. Then the students enjoyed class wise picnic in the campus.



Darshana School

Darshana special school have got 25 students. We are updating our school with a speech

therapy room, physical exercise room, sensory room, yoga and meditation rooms, dance and Music therapy rooms and children friendly classrooms.

Outing – The students enjoyed the outing to Varanasi and Company Bagh accompanied by their parents, sisters and teachers. We give orientation and counselling to our parents. Darshana children are slowly and steadily making progress which really motivates the parents and the staff.

May the Blessings of the Babe in the manger continue to draw us closer to Him and one another in the grace filled new year 2023.



News in Brief

A month of festivals, celebrations, activities and above all days dedicated to the Holy Rosary saw us busy doing our best in every area. Srs. Punam and Alma attended the Juniors' meeting in Allahabad and were very happy with all their experiences. Sr. Roselette who had gone to Kurseong with her companions for their silver jubilee preparations returned with a wealth of



experiences. Sr. Sarita attended a two-day CJ Principals' meeting at Kanpur.

In the school a number of class-- wise and inter house activities were held especially for Diwali. The teachers too enjoyed a get together with a prayer service, a few games and refreshments. The Deori Postal Department conducted a few competitions for our students in our school in which they excelled and won prizes.

On 25th Oct. we had a community outing to our closest CJ communities in Jhansi. We spent lovely time with our sisters in SFC and Nirmala Convents whose warm hospitality and togetherness we appreciated. Since those were Novena days at St. Jude's Shrine we joined in an hour of adoration and felt much blessed by St. Jude.

On the last day of the month of Rosary we had a procession in our compound praying the rosary for various intentions with our Parishioners. The devotion ended with a Holy Mass.

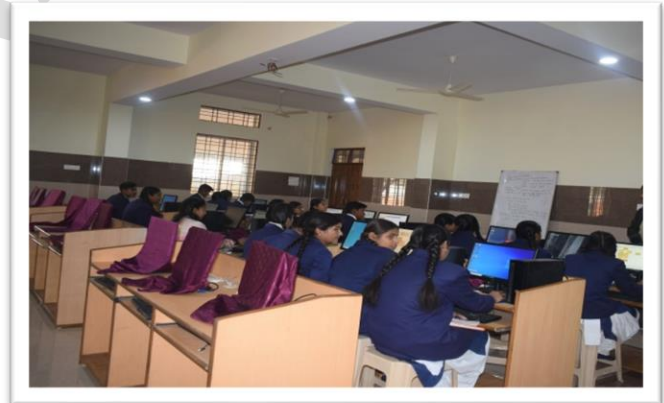
On 8th Nov. Sr. Sarita left for ICSE Heads Meeting at Thiruvananthapuram and returned on 13th after being enlightened with a lot of Council matters. We were happy to attend the province gathering in Allahabad for the G.C. sharing. Indeed, we were very much enriched with the proceedings of the sharing as well as getting a chance to meet our sisters from various communities which happened after a considerable gap due to the corona virus.

Children's day was lively, colourful and enjoyable as the teachers made it special with prayer service, cultural items and games for the students. On the same day the casting of the roof of the 1st floor above the science block was started which continued for two full days.

Sr. Benita went for her well-earned home leave on 22nd Nov.

On 24th we were delighted to welcome Srs. Elsy, Mary and Poonam from Jhansi and enjoyed each other's company.

On 30th the eagerly awaited day arrived when our newly constructed science and computer labs were blessed and inaugurated in the presence of our senior students and teachers, the contractor and the workers. After a short and inspiring prayer service and a few words of welcome and gratitude by Sr. Sarita our Parish Priest blessed the labs and prayed for our school. The students and the teachers are happy to use the brand-new labs for their computer and science practicals.



On 5th Dec. Sr. Punam left for home to be near her seriously ill nephew (14 yrs. old) and on 11th we got the sad news that he expired. Please keep this family in your prayers.

On 13th Srs. Shweta, Sheela and Neeta arrived to deal with some official matters concerning the construction work that is already completed and





some yet to be constructed. They spent a hectic day holding meetings and visiting the various sites in the compound. On the 15th in the early morning, they returned. Thank you, Sisters, for your valuable time spent here and the keen interest shown in our mission.

On 22nd Dec. we held simple Christmas celebrations for our students which delighted them. In the afternoon the teachers and co-workers gathered around the beautiful crib for a prayer service which was followed by a few games. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal prepared in our campus. All were happy to receive useful Christmas gifts on this special day. Thus, we began the winter break in the school. Sr. Benita who was on home leave returned together with Sr. Alma who came from Bhopal. Our community was complete when Sr. Punam returned on 24th evening.

We had Christmas Mass at 7.30 pm. Though the congregation consisted of only the 6 of us and a family yet it became a special and sacred time for us as we welcomed the baby Jesus into our midst and in our hearts and prayed for everyone near and far.

Our Priest in Charge Fr. John Patrick made the occasion prayerful and solemn. After the service we enjoyed tea and a piece of cake each. On 25th we welcomed a few well-wishers, teachers and students who came to greet us.

As a community we bonded with each other sharing our experiences as we were coming together as a community after a gap of over one month. Everyone lent a helping hand in decorating, cooking, cleaning, shopping, visiting the institutions with Christmas cakes and greetings etc.

On 26th evening Srs. Jaya and Sunita arrived from Allahabad to join us in our community retreat which we began on the same evening. 5 of us (3 from our community) were indeed glad to immerse ourselves deep into the Spiritual Exercises for 8 days ably guided and directed by Sr. Roselette. So, we bid a silent goodbye to 2022 and welcomed the year 2023 with great hopes and optimism.

We recommend our Sagar mission to your continued prayers as we face the challenges that each day brings in the uncertain and unforeseen situations of this area. Our first batch of 19 students will be writing the class 10 board exams in Feb- March this year. Kindly keep them also in your prayers.

As the year 2022 ends we extend our warm greetings to each one of you for a grace filled year 2023.

**St. Mary's Convent
Deori, Sagar community.**

