

ALLAHABAD NEWS LETTER OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2021



SMC 21, ALLAHABAD

The month of October gave way to the intense heat of the summer months giving relief to man and nature. Earnestly praying the rosary daily, we sought blessing from Mary our Mother on the suffering humanity.

We had our online annual retreat, in two batches this year, under the able guidance of Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ. The first was from 19th to 26th October and the second from 4th to 11th November. The talks were very inspiring and the retreat fervour was visibly seen in each one of the retreatants.

On 30th evening we were invited to St. Mary's '32' for the Golden and silver jubilee celebrations of our Sisters from Patna, Allahabad and Nepal. After the Holy Mass and greetings we shared the fellowship meal with them.



Next day, in the afternoon, they were invited to SMC '21'. We had some fun time with them, sharing, laughing and reminiscing their formation days, as well as a beautiful dance and musical item on our foundress presented by our



candidates under the professional guidance of Sr. Jane.

A one day seminar on Youth leadership was conducted for the Sonebhadra Zone at Obra attended by almost 75 participants and Sr. Cecilia enlightened the youth with her talk on Christian Faith. The regional Training of Trainees programme for youth was held in Kathgodam. The Lady youth animator of the Diocese Sr. Cecilia accompanied the youth and attended the programme.



Sr.Jane conducted sessions on Mary Ward Spirituality for the teachers of St. Mary's Kanpur and '32' which was well appreciated by the teachers of both the Institutions.

Srs. Sharon and Janet went to Sagar in connection with the school inspection and affiliation work which is in its final stage. We hope and pray that our school may receive affiliation to the ICSE Board as early as possible.

The Mother House ('21' community) happily cared for a number of our sisters who needed medical attention. Sr.Christine underwent a cataract operation in the Nazareth hospital. After a month of rest and care she was given the green signal and returned to her community.

We had a combined celebration of Sr.Shweta's feast and our chaplain Rev.Fr.Thomas Kumar's Silver Jubilee, on 8th December. We invoked God's generous blessings on them in a meaningful Eucharistic celebration concelebrated by the 'Four Fathers' of St.Joseph's college,Allahabad.

Due to lockdown many of us could not go for home leave for the past two years. Since Corona has come down, many of our sisters took the chance to visit their families and were happy to be in the company of their loved ones for Christmas. Carol singers from different parishes came with their joyful melodies, announcing the coming of the babe of Bethlehem.

A three days training programme on Synodal Journey was organized by the diocese of



Allahabad for priests, superiors and principals of the diocese. Many of our sisters attended and profited from it.

Crib competition encouraged Institutions to do



their very best. The skill and creativity displayed was remarkable. Our crib with its unique theme 'Jesus Has Come to Repair the World' stood out and was selected as the **best crib** in the Zonal level. Congrats to Sr. Sharon and her team for the innovative ideas and the realistic display of the nativity of our saviour. Glory to God in the Highest!



With enthusiasm and happiness we prepared for Christmas. On 21st our co-workers had their Christmas get together. We

had a prayer service in front of the crib for them after which they moved to the sun lit lawn in front of the dining hall. A delicious lunch, games, dancing to the music and Christmas gifts followed thereafter. The co-workers returned to their homes with Christmas joy.



This year we were happy to celebrate and participate in the midnight Mass. The joyful

celebration made us forget the sorrow and fear corona brought, in and around us. We rejoiced with Sr. Sharon who represented our province in the provincial congregation of the Loreto Sisters in Calcutta.

We were saddened by the news of Sr. Joan's younger Sister Alice's death. She was a diabetic and was undergoing dialysis. May her soul rest in peace.

The New Year dawned with hope in the promises of God our Saviour. May Peace, Joy, and Love remain with everyone throughout the year 2022.



In the month of October we journeyed with our Blessed Mother, praying the rosary for the intentions of ourselves and for others. Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated with due respect, by planting a sapling in the kitchen garden. Sr. Seraphina's patron Saint St. Francis of Assisi - the Little Poverello was well honoured by the community with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist followed by wishing Sister in her room.

Sr. Celine was the Chief Guest in the Seminary, for their Theological Colloquium. Srs. Marion and Bridgit were requested to be in the final panel of Judges for the Fancy Dress and Tableaux Competitions in the Seminary. Sr. Marion CJ. Was honoured with an Award, "The Best Indo Asian Educationist 2021" in recognition of consistent excellent performance in Teacher Education. In an online Award Ceremony by IMRF on Teachers' Day, sister was awarded. Congratulations, Sr. Marion! We are proud of you. Nine of us joined the Online

retreat by Fr. Errol Fernandes S.J. the remaining trio will join the second group

Sr. Preeti's brother Joy and his wife paid us a surprise visit as they were finally bidding good bye to Lakhimpur Kheri, their 'Karma Bhoomi' and going back to their 'Janma Bhoomi'. They made Sr. Preeti very happy by spending two days with her.

An interim Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations of Srs. Neelu (from Nepal), Neetika and Regina- the silver brides and Srs. Joyce, Lucina and Pooja from Patna, Mariette, Fabiola and Sybil from Prayagraj, were held in advance, at 32 to everyone's delight. The Golden Brides had their retreat and preparations at Shanti Sadan



directed by Fr. Joy Pulikunnel S.J. while the silver Brides left for theirs in Mysore the same night. Fr. Wilfred Moras, the Rector of the Seminary was the one and only celebrant who enriched the brides with his insightful homily.

Month of November dedicated to the souls in purgatory gave us a number of death news on 1st and 2nd itself, the brother of one of our Mary Ward School teachers, one of our parishioners Mrs. Leelamma Saju- our ex-student Selan's

mother and Mrs. Carmel Mukherjee, one of our ex novices. R.I.P. They gave us ample reminders to pray for our near and dear ones too. They were interred in the Rajapur cemetery.

Srs. Marion and Jyoti went to Sagar to help out in the inspection of the school to get affiliated to the ICSE Board. After 4 days of tedious efforts and expertise, they returned to Allahabad with a feeling of 'Mission accomplished.' The Inspectors were very much satisfied with the infrastructure and the documentation. Please continue to pray that the Good Lord may be gracious to us in our endeavours of the Sagar mission –the first of the kind by us in M.P.

Children's day was celebrated in Ashadeep School with great fervor and enthusiasm. They



had put up a short entertainment, a few games and lunch was served for all by us. May God bless their sincere display of talents. When tapped gently, all the dormant talents will wake up and put forth good results. They have proved it.

Online classes, exams and PTM meetings are conducted with full vigour. Monthly recollection was directed by Sr. Celine on the topic 'Advent Season and Synodal Journey. Thank you, Sr.

Celine for helping us to relish the real spirit of prayer and silence.

The Covid-19 threat has come back in another form of 'Omicron' telling us, what we have seen and experienced is only the tip of the iceberg, the writing on the wall is clear, that greater tragedies are awaiting us. So let us intensify our prayers, for prayers can avert any disaster.

We have started the Synodal journey; hence the Diocesan level workshop and the zonal level meeting enriched the community. Annual Alumnae Meet was conducted in the Lower Hall. The 1995 batch along with the sisters and their teachers interacted with them and enjoyed their vibrant inputs and entertainment.

In Mid-December Sr. Seraphina Nambhimadathil CJ, having been bed-ridden for around five years, gently passed into eternity to meet her saviour and Lord. People always don't need an advice. Sometimes, all they really need is a hand to hold on to, an ear to listen to and a heart to understand them. This was what Sr. Seraphina was doing all through her life. May God reward



her richly. Five of her family members came to pay homage to her mortal remains and to attend the last rites of their loved one. Srs. Julitta, Pushpita and Shobha came from the Delhi

Province. Thank you sisters, for your gracious presence.



A two day Spiritual Renewal program in preparation for Christmas, was held in the Cathedral parish for all. It included talks, adoration, confessions

and Holy Eucharist. When others had online Christmas program, the Ashadeep School had a splendid Nativity Play, directed and choreographed by their teachers. Workers' prayer was on 22nd wherein the two senior most workers Mr. Mukesh and Mr. Damodhar, were given a fitting farewell, after more than 30 years of service. May God bless them abundantly for



their sincere and committed service to the Institution. The next day was teachers' get together, after which the School was closed for Christmas. Though some came to wish us, on the whole it was a calm, quiet and peaceful Christmas this time. Midnight Carol singing and Mass were most heart-warming. After almost two years, the gathering was simply overwhelming. Praise the Lord.

Unlike other years 21 and 32 communities had a combined 'Crib tour' visiting the cribs of the neighbouring parishes and Institutions, gathering ideas and forging new relationships which is one of the key purposes of the Synodal journey. Holy

Hour and special prayers were conducted in the cathedral for the year that was departing and the year that was arriving. Though the year 2021 had given us agonies and challenges, they have made us grow spiritually and psychologically too, enabling us to cope with many eventualities.

Let us welcome the New Year 2022 knowing not what it holds for us, but believing firmly in the Lord who is the master of our destiny. The Promise of the Lord, "I will carry you on Eagle's wings" is our strength and refuge. On 1st January is the feast of the mother of God! She reminds us, "My child, the sea is in turmoil and the weapons of prayer and penance can calm the turbulent sea." Mary, our Mother, place Jesus in the center of our lives.

A Happy new year, 2022!



October 2nd, is an auspicious day for every Indian as it is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. We honoured this day by distributing dry ration to 55 poor families with the help we received from BREAD NOIDA. Sr. Annies was away for a few weeks in Kanpur as Sr. Shilpa was undergoing treatment, to lend nursing care to Sr. Roshni who had a fall and had to undergo an operation to set her foot right. We are happy that Sr. Annies could be of service in their time of need.

We also attended the opening ceremony and the inaugural mass of the synod on synodality. Srs. Salesia and Joselette made a fruitful online retreat preached by Fr. Errol Fernandes S.J. Our golden Jubilarians of Patna and Allahabad province visited us and spend a few hours happy time with us.

On All Saints Day, Mrs Carmel Mukerjee who was a novice with us and a friend of ours left for her eternal reward. She was ailing since some time and we had been visiting her regularly which she eagerly looked forward to as it gave her solace and comfort.

As Christmas approached with enthusiasm and joy we decorated our chapel for the arrival of Baby Jesus and a small crib was put up outside our chapel. We shared the joy of Christmas with the students of our vocational training centre by organising a Christmas get together for them. It was indeed a joyful occasion for all. We wish everyone compliments of the season and a blessed new year.

Mary ward Social Service Centre started its new venture in to five slums in the neighbouring area. We began with Non Formal education Centres in Sanjai Nagar, 32 Chaithan Line, Jewaharlal Ganj, Dharhariya and Allahpur.

On 3rd November we celebrated Diwali in all our



5 centres. We started with a small prayer and a short explanation about the meaning of this celebration in our nation. We distributed biscuits, sweets, puffed rice, candles and match boxes to all the children in all the centres.

We celebrated the children's day on 13th November 2021 in 32 chaithan line slum. We gathered all 200 children from our 5 centres. There was a cultural program by our children. At the end of the program we distributed sweets and



gifts to all the children studying in our Non Formal Education Centres.

we visited the flood victims of Sanjainagar slum which was badly affected by the flood. Our presence made the people feel that we care for them.





We brought 50, very poor families from the slums to our centre and distributed dry ration for their families. Ration was provided by DDWS and the pastoral center Allahabad .



SMC 53, KANPUR

As the month of October began, the oppressive heat of summer gave way to pleasant weather and human beings as well as Nature seemed to become more alive and energetic. Schools that had been closed due to Covid 19 began to reopen slowly and tentatively; off line classes replaced on line classes partially and for the sake of those who dared not come to school, on line classes were held on Fridays and Saturdays which helped them at least to some extent to catch up with those attending regular classes in school. Primary school remained closed till the middle of October.

The months of October, November and December were very busy months as the community tried to cope with illnesses, lack of personnel and other activities. Towards the end of September Sr. Rajni, accompanied by Sr. Rose from Allahabad went to Mysore to attend a month's course on Psycho – Spirituality. Sr. Shilpa had not been keeping too well and as she developed high fever she went to Allahabad for treatment and after a few days' rest she returned on 9th October.

The community warmly welcomed Srs. Jane and Annes; the former came in response to our invitation to conduct sessions on Mary Ward Spirituality for the staff and the latter came to look after Sr. Roshni who had a fall and had fractured her leg.

The school office-bearers had their investiture ceremony on 9th October. The Head Girl, Captains and Vice



Captains all received their respective flags, sashes and badges, symbols of their office while their proud parents witnessed the whole event. A memorable day for those parents and their children!

Two of our students, Mahima Das and Sheena Weller did us proud by winning the first prize in the Diocesan Bible quiz competition.

Realizing the need for seeking a second opinion regarding her injury, Sr. Roshni, accompanied by Sr. Annes went to Lucknow to meet the orthopedic doctor there. The MRI showed that the Achilles tendon was torn and needed to be repaired through a surgery. After resting for a week, Sister had a successful surgery in the City Hospital, Lucknow and returned home on 26th with her leg on plaster.

On October 18th the school opened for children of Primary School after a gap of almost one and a half years. There was much joy among the teachers and children. One could not say who was happier, the teacher or the taught. Children of LKG and UKG were seeing the school for the first time!

From 19th to 26th Oct. five of us along with two from Unnao Community entered into retreat. Silence enveloped the entire house and one could

feel that each of the retreatants was quite serious about making a good retreat.

Our students of Mary Ward Tailoring and Fashion Designing Centre had the annual exhibition on 28th Oct. They displayed the many articles they had designed and sewn. The beautiful dresses they made showed their creative skill and imagination as well as the hard work and interest these young women and their teacher, Mrs. Renu Jaggi showed.



Covid 19 had imposed many restrictions on us; gathering together or partying was strictly forbidden. Now the virus began to make its exit. For the first time after the long gap teachers and sisters had

a small party to celebrate Diwali. On 1st Nov. the SMC children celebrated Diwali with the Mary Ward children; they shared small articles like sweets, cards and stationery items with Mary Ward children.

The second Retreat began on November 4th giving opportunity to the remaining four of us to spend the days in silence, reflection and prayer. Children's Day was celebrated on 15th Nov. with picnics in the school campus. They had an enjoyable time playing several games which the teachers conducted.

Our Mary Ward Computer Centre provides computer education to young women from poor sections of society at a nominal fee. This year two batches of about 40 students successfully completed the basic course in the subject and

were given certificates on 18th Dec. by the Manager, Sr. Roshni. The students of Mary Ward Tailoring Centre appeared for their final examination which is conducted by the ITI. The batch of 2019 – 2020, consisting of 22 students received the ITI Certificates from the ITI College in Nav Basta, Kanpur. They are qualified for well-paid jobs.

Sr. Elsy who had come to Allahabad, hearing of Sr. Roshni's fall and subsequent surgery, paid her a visit. On 22nd Nov. Students of classes X and XII began their semester examination conducted by the ICSE and ISC Board. The examiners had to remain in School after each paper to correct the answer scripts and to upload the marks. As often our net connection was down, they had to stay late into the night to get the connection and complete their work.

Our Athletes participated in the 6th Athletic Meet



on 27th and 28th Nov. at Kalyanpur and were proud to win all the first prizes and returned with

the trophy for Best School.

Once again Sr. Roshni went to Lucknow, this time with Sr. Shilpa, to get her plaster removed. Now she is able to walk although her leg still needs care as she is not yet able to walk properly.

The ex-students of 1971 had their reunion in



School on 7th December evening. They were full of joy and excitement to meet one another and to return to their Alma Mater. They gave one lakh rupees as scholarship to the toppers of Classes XI and XII. Besides, they also supplied Mary Ward Tailoring Centre with 6 sewing machines, and the poor children of M. Ward School with 3 cycles. About 250 sweaters were given to them by Class XII students. Friends of Mary Ward decided to include students of our School in their Association and they selected 18 children from Classes VI to VIII as members of Friends of Mary Ward. They also bought and distributed blankets to those who live on footpaths.



On 9th and 10th Dec. Sr. Rajni attended the training programme 'Synod on Synodality' and she returned full of the spirit of 'Communion, participation and mission.'

On 21st Dec. a grand Christmas Get-Together was organized by the teachers in the open air as the ICSE and ISC exams were being held in the auditorium. They decorated the open air stage in front of Class V very artistically; interesting games, in which all, including the sisters could take part, were conducted; the usually sober looking teachers danced to their hearts' content and the party was concluded with a delicious dinner. It was indeed a grand function.

Wishing each one of you a happy, healthier and Peaceful New Year filled with blessings from the Lord.



Greetings to all from Kanudih. Sr. Geeta suffered from severe giddiness which made us panic and anxious. We took her to Nityanad hospital and since she was not that well we took her to Nazareth hospital Allahabad for further investigation and treatment. As she improved, the following day she was discharged. Her sister and sister in-law came to meet her.

Mrs. Shanta Tigga served our school for 25 years as a dedicated and hard-working teacher. We are grateful to her for all her loving services. We honoured her in a function. We prayerfully remember one of our teachers Mrs. Madhuri who is sick and resigned from the job.

We had our retreat in two groups. Synodal preparations for different groups are going on. First for superiors and principals then for three representatives from each school (a Hindu, a catholic and a co-worker).

We have a sponsorship programme for 86 children, called 'Mothers Care.' This year the Coordinator Fr.Josen IMS and the team came to distribute the cheques for the children and to have on the spot inspection. They were pleased with our work.

As we said goodbye to Sr.Seraphina, who died on 15th December, her dear Kanudih Community and the village cherish fondly her memories. May God bless all her good works which she rendered to His people. May she rest in peace.

Mrs. Laveena a dedicated, young and energetic teacher bid us good bye and went for her eternal reward. She had a massive heart attack. Everyone who knew her had a lot of good things to share about her and her memories bring tears to our eyes. May the good Lord bless her soul with heavenly bliss.



We have started evening classes for the children who are not studying in our school especially for the ‘mushar’ and other backward classes.

We attended the Christmas Vigil Mass in the Ashram. We wish all our readers a new year filled with blessings.



Sr Mahima accompanied Mrs. Kanchan, one of our co-workers to Jeolikote to admit her daughter in St. Anthony’s School. Sr Mriette and Sr. Renu went to Allahabad to pay tribute to our dear Sr. Seraphina who passed away on 15th December. Sr. Anupa made a hurried trip to Varanasi to accompany the daughter of Mrs. Lavina who died suddenly due to a heart attack on 18th December.

Sr. Lissy, the Vice President of the CRI Lucknow unit arranged for a webinar on the topic ‘Reconfiguration of religious life in accordance with Fratelli Tutti and Synodal Church’. The inspiring thoughts and reflections shared by the resource person Rev. Fr. Sunny Jacob S.J. were appreciated by all those who attended it.

Two of our ex-students, Capt. Shivendra Tiwari and Shruti Srivastava visited their Alma Mater and conducted an interactive session for our senior students focused on exploring unconventional pathways for achieving greater heights. This session was indeed a source of



“The way to glorify God is to glorify Him in the place where we are and in the situations, we are in.”

The felicitation ceremony of the rank holders of the academic session 2019, 2020 - 2021 was held on 11th October. It was an impressive event with a creatively conducted prayer assembly during which the rank holders were honoured with mementoes and certificates. The challenging message shared by Sr. Lissy, our principal added grace and glory to this event.

inspiration and enthusiasm for our present students.



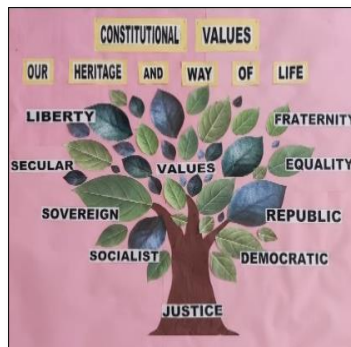
Rev. Fr. Varghese Allengaden visited us after a gap of more than two years. Though he suffered from the deadly Corona Virus, his passion for the mission keeps him enthusiastic and energetic. Father conducted sessions for the teachers and the students challenging them to review, reflect and realize their sacred mission of creating a moral revolution in our world.



Having made a thorough study of the 7 Goals of Laudato si', class assemblies, competitions and awareness programmes were held for the teachers, students and parents. Our little ones of class two created awareness among the students on climate change by making posters and displaying them on the bulletin boards. Students as well as teachers raised gardens by planting saplings. They also learnt the lessons on waste management by preparing natural compost for their garden.



To observe the **Constitution Day** meaningfully our students depicted creatively the values enshrined in our Constitution through soft bored decoration.



A **newspaper drive** was conducted to raise fund to help the needy. To help poor **Rickshaw-pullers** of our neighbourhood to celebrate Diwali, food-kits and decorated diyas (lamps) were distributed among them.



May the Blessing of Peace, the Beauty of Hope, The Spirit of Love and the Comfort of Faith, Be ours at this Christmas Season.

With joy and gratitude, we prepared ourselves and all our stakeholders for the celebration of Christmas. Through a creatively prepared online and offline assembly by the students, we shared the Christmas message of Peace and Goodwill with our teachers, students, parents and co-workers.

On 18th December a short prayer was conducted for the **teachers** in our convent chapel, after which we assembled in the beautifully decorated lower hall for a lively singing of Christmas Carols in three groups by the teachers. This was followed by gift giving by the management and finally all enjoyed the fellowship meal hosted by the teachers.



We shared our Christmas joy with our **co-workers** on 23rd December with a lovingly Prepared prayer service, sharing of Christmas message and gifts, after which all present, were invited to a high tea prepared in their honour.



Distributing a blanket each to every student of Mary Ward Junior High School, sharing of grocery and toiletries with the inmates of a government run orphanage, Karunalaya the home for the mentally challenged and Ashirwad Kushtashram were our **outreach activities among the deprived** that made our Christmas 2021 special.



In a world that is still under the deep shadow of the Pandemic, we are challenged to **walk together** in prayer, dialogue, listening and discernment to make God's dream for humanity come true. With the lessons learnt from the good experiences and mistakes of 2021, we enter the New Year 2022, ready to join hands with all people of Good will to build God's family of Love, Justice, Peace and Reconciliation in our world. **With deep faith, trust and hope let us glorify God in the place where we are by our joyful attitude and loving service.**

