



ALLAHABAD NEWS LETTER JANUARY- MARCH 2022

S M C 21

We welcomed the New Year by participating in the Holy Mass and asking God' blessings for the Year 2022. A virtual pilgrimage based on the mind and maxims of Venerable Mary Ward with a short reflection by the Friends of Mary Ward for every day of the month was enriching and inspiring.

Two of our second year Novices had to come back from Patna earlier than planned because of the lockdown. Accordingly, they reached Allahabad on 15/01/2022. After a couple of days quarantine, they began their preparation for the first profession. Later on 18/01/2022, two of our tertians Srs. Ruby and Tara too came back from Calcutta.

Two of our Postulants Sneha and Priyanka along with others from Patna entered the Novitiate on 20th January, at St. Joseph's Convent, Patna. The Provincial of Patna Province, Sr. Kiran CJ received them as Novices. Congratulations dear Novices.

On 29th January, Sr. Bharati along with Sr. Rosenila from Patna Province renewed their vows during a well-prepared Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Thomas Kumar and Fr. Vijaya Ekka, the uncle of Sr. Scholastica. It was also a great day for two of our Novices Srs. Scholastica and Eva as they received their Religious Dress.

30th January was a memorable day for our brides, Sr. Tara as she made her Final Commitment and Srs. Scholastica and Eva as they made their First Commitment. It was also a great day for our Silver Jubilarians Srs. Neetika & Regina and Sr. Sybil the Golden Jubilarian. Though the brides missed the presence of their dear ones for the



celebration, the live - streaming of the ceremony made it possible for their families to be virtually present for the sacred occasion. The Solemn thanksgiving Eucharist offered by Rev. Fr. Louise Mascarenhas and concelebrated by a few priests were enriching. The felicitation of the brides was followed by a delicious festal meal prepared by the '21' community.



On 9th, 10th and 11th February we had the interaction with the Parents and students for the new admissions to the academic year 2022-23. Our Sisters and teachers from St. Mary's 32 helped us. We appreciate their help and co-operation.

On 17th February with much joy we welcomed our LKG and UKG students after a gap of two years. All were happy to be in the school. The silence was broken and there was a lot of joy and laughter though the parents were a bit anxious about their wards safety in the class room. After a few days the parents were very happy seeing their children enjoying in the school and also making improvements in their studies especially in their hand writing.

On 28th March the International Women's Day was celebrated in our lower hall organized by the Mary Ward Social Centre Rajapur. Our Nursery Staff prepared a few items based on the women's rights and gender equality. One of our teachers also stressed on the life of venerable Mary Ward, especially on her saying, "That women in time to come will do much", and appreciated the work done by the CJ sisters among the poor, marginalized and in the slums.





During the Lenten Season the Diocesan Charismatic Team went to different parishes for the Spiritual Renewal. Sr. Martha being part of the team also went. She says, “I experienced great joy in proclaiming the Word of God. As 2 Timothy 4: 2 says, “Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable”. The simple faith of the people helps me to grow in my faith and prayer life. It has also increased in me a thirst for the Word of God and to spend more time to be in dialogue with the Lord”.

Sr. Martha being the province coordinator for Social Action went to Unnao On 14th March for The International Women’s Day celebration. It was well organized by Sr. Marina and the community.

After a gap of two years, on 27th March around 50 Sisters and three Fathers gathered in SMC’21’ for the CRI meeting. We were privileged to have our dear Sr. Celine CJ as our resource person. The theme for the day was: participation in the Synodal Journey from a Woman’s Perspective. Right from the start the session was participatory and interspersed with suitable videos, thus doing justice to the theme by inspiring the participants.

Community Service at Rajapur Cemetery during Lent: As our Rajapur Cemetery was getting a face lift, such as repairing the roads, making walls, painting etc. we were also asked to contribute our mite. Hence, some of us spent a few hours of voluntary service in cleaning the graves of our dear departed.



Youth activities

Sr. Cecilia was in and out of the community with the youth for the last two months. The RYC Cross – Regional Youth Convention Cross was received by Allahabad Diocese from Varanasi Diocese. This is in preparation for the youth convention which is to be held in October. The youth of the parish came together in a particular parish and special prayer services were organized. In some places we had the Holy Mass, Adoration & Veneration of the Cross, while at other places ‘Taizi prayer’ was conducted.



Parichai Milan: We also had a three days parichai Milan which is organized by the ICYM Agra Region. It is a new initiative to find a life partner from within the catholic community. It was the third Parichai Milan held in Sadhana Sadan Allahabad from 17th to 19th March 2022.



Darshana Special School

After the lockdown Darshana School is slowly reviving. Now we have 13 children coming to the school and having different activities. Please keep these special children in your prayers.



Women's Day Celebration in different parishes:

Women's day was celebrated in many parishes on March 6th 13th and 20th in different parishes with the United Nations theme for International Women's Day, 2022 **"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow."** It was also a day to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of women and girls around the world, who bring changes in the society for women to lead a life of dignity. We need to take note of this huge contribution which is amazing and must be respected and valued.



Women's Day Celebration in different Parishes

S M C LUCKNOW

The 1st January, 2022 marked the beginning of a month-long pilgrimage of the Friends of Mary Ward, CJs and IBVM India, based on the Mind and Maxims of Venerable Mother Mary Ward. This pilgrimage had a transforming influence on all the Friends of Mary Ward by helping us to imbibe the indomitable spirit of our Venerable Foundress in a deeper and more challenging way.

On 3rd January, we celebrated the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus with a creatively conducted Holy Hour in the morning and a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the evening. With a strong determination to walk in the footsteps of Jesus bearing witness to his life and mission, we concluded this day.

On 16th January, we had the pastoral visit of our bishop Most. Rev. Gerald John Mathias to our Parish. As part of our involvement in the Pastoral Ministry in our Parish, Sr. Mahima had been instructing the catholic children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. By putting in her best efforts Sr. Mahima rendered her service effectively to make this event a graceful and memorable one



for our Parish.

The theme for Mary Ward Week celebration this year – “Reaching out and Beyond,” so that “Some other thing” can become embodied in our time, challenged all of us. On 23rd Jan. the celebration of the Birth anniversary of our Venerable Foundress Mary Ward began with an inspiring digital

assembly by the students of class IV. They depicted significant events from the life of Mary Ward focusing on her quest to work for the greater honour and glory of God. A number of activities like Maxim writing, Maxim speaking, Poster making and speech competitions were organised so that our students would come to know more about the exemplary life of our Foundress and imbibe her spirit.



On 24th January the JPIC members observed the National Girl Child Day by organising a session open for the teachers, students and the management which brought to the forefront issues like female foeticide, female infanticide, female genital mutilation and acid attacks. It also consisted of an interactive brain storming segment on the ways in which young generation can end gender discrimination and provide a safe environment for women and girls.

To motivate all the participants and to reaffirm the fact that together “We can make a change,” the session ended with the JPIC Anthem.

On 26th Jan. we celebrated the 73rd Republic Day in the presence of all the sisters and the co-workers. After the unfurling of the National Flag by sr. Mariette, we prayed for the wellbeing of each citizen of our great country and pledged to uphold the values enshrined in our Constitution. The inspiring message given by Sr. Lissy awakened within us our responsibility of safeguarding the pluralistic and secular nature of our country and urged us to move forward on the path of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Justice. Through a creatively presented digital assembly, class 7 C reminded us of the contribution made by the great leaders who framed the Indian Constitution and filled our hearts with pride and joy.



On 30th January, we paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our nation and Venerable Mother Mary Ward, our foundress on their Death Anniversary, through a solemn prayer assembly conducted by class 7 B in which the focus was on the virtues of these two great leaders who worked relentlessly, suffered and laid down their lives for fulfilling God’s plan.





A very creatively conducted Quiz based on the booklet for Mary Ward Week this year formed a unique part of our celebration on 30th January, the 377th Death Anniversary of Mother Mary Ward. All the sisters participated in it whole heartedly and were honoured for their excellent performance.

We entered the month of February praying for Religious Sisters and Consecrated Women that we may find strength and courage to bear the sufferings that come on our way and creatively respond to the challenges of our times. To help us to enrich, strengthen and renew our consecrated life, the Province Leadership arranged for a series of thought provoking, insightful and challenging talks given by Rev. Fr. Jossie D'Mello SJ. The webinar on Synodality by Rev. Fr. Ronald Tellis also gave us a new insight into living our religious life in the Synodal way. Saddened by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, causing much suffering to people who are innocent and vulnerable, we prayed that the war may end soon.

On 9th February, the JPIC group conducted 'Naming the Plants' activity for the students of classes IV and V. The students came in contact with Mother Nature and felt connected as they observed and named various plants.

On 2nd March, we began our Lenten Journey. By listening to Pope Francis' message for the Season of Lent 2022 – the Call to Sow Goodness – challenging us to be awake, alert and generous in sowing seeds of goodness in the community where we are placed together on mission.



From 7th to 17th March Hobby Classes were organised for the students of classes prep to IX. A large number of students enthusiastically joined the classes for art and craft, instrumental music, table tennis and dance. The closing ceremony of these classes was a grand display of the children's talents.



On 21st March the students of class XII presented a short assembly to thank the management, teachers and co-workers. As a token of their love and gratitude they gifted a sum of Rs. 20000 to the school which will be given as scholarship to deserving students.



The farewell programme organised by Class XI for the outgoing students was very touching and meaningful. The class 12 students were given a souvenir each with the inscription – “Be a Peace Messenger”, reminding them of their responsibility to make the world a better place to live in. The Empowering words of Sr. Lissy the Principal motivated the students to strive to be the Best Version of themselves.



The evening stay organised for the outgoing students on the same day with sharing of treasured memories, dancing and a sumptuous meal deepened and strengthened their “We” feeling. The presence of the sisters and teachers added to the grace and dignity of the occasion. Having spent a joyful and colourful evening together, the students left the sacred portals of their school with smiles, tears and heaps of precious memories to be Messengers of Peace in our world.



On 23rd March our teachers along with Sr. Lissy, Sr. Anupa and Sr. Renu had an enjoyable day away from the school campus, at Blue World Water Park, a picnic spot near Kanpur. Having had a rejuvenating experience and a well-deserved break, they returned to school by the same evening.



On 28th March we welcomed our dear Sr. Shweta to our community for visitation. Her stay with us was a grace filled time for all of us, empowering us to be to be focused on mission at all times.

On 1st April the New academic session began with the meeting of the teachers under the able guidance of Sr. Lissy supported by Sr. Anupa, Sr. Mahima and Sr. Renu. Team effort always leads to Greater Effectiveness in Mission.



After the staff meeting, at a very meaningful and inspiring function organised by our teachers, we welcomed Sr. Shweta in school and hosted a high tea for all present. Having completed her mission with us Sr. Shweta left for Allahabad on 2nd April.



“God’s love has no limit, God’s grace has no measure, God’s power knows no boundaries”. As we enter into this Sacred season of Easter, we pray that the Lord fills our Hearts with His unconditional love and peace.....



S J C RIHAND NAGAR

After a long period of fear and struggle due to the Pandemic, the community and school began to function normally. Yet a lot of things are to be revived and revitalized.

On 1st March we were indeed very happy to welcome our sisters from Chunar



along with Fr. Vincent for a short get together. It was really a pleasant and relaxed time for all of us as we spent the day together in sharing and exchanging our joys and happiness with one another.

With the help of the Parish priest and the sisters, the parishioners of St. Joseph's church actively participated in the Synodal meetings. We were divided into four groups and they were happy to be part of the discussions and report writing. Our community spent quality time in reading and listening to the talk on synodal process by different experts, especially the article written by Sr. Celine CJ was very informative.

The International woman's day was celebrated in the parish for the first time. All the women of the parish were honored by the men. They prepared a



meaningful liturgy beginning with a lighted candle procession and at the end appreciated their irreplaceable presence and power that vibrate in the family and in the world at large.



Our parish celebrated the feast of St. Joseph our patron saint. It was a triple celebration for the parishioners. After a long gap of six years, 11 of our little ones received first Holy Communion and six of them received Confirmation. Credit goes to Sr. Savita for preparing them and getting them ready for the big

event in their lives. Our Diocesan Administrator Fr. Louis Mascarenhas was the main celebrant and along with him seven other priests from close by parishes also joined in concelebrating the Holy Mass. A short cultural programme was arranged to add colour to the celebrations.



Four of our senior teachers who had been with us from the inception of St. Joseph's school took leave of us after completing their dedicated service to the school. We can never forget their commitment and loyalty to the Institution.

Srs. Prerita, and Punam went on vocation promotion to Jharkhand, their native state. They met and talked to the young girls of their parish and the neighboring parishes. After having spent a few days visiting and meeting the girls they came back happily with some positive response. Let us continue to pray for good vocations.

After two years of gap, 22 sisters from 9 communities of Sonbhadra Zone gathered at Renukot Nirmala School for the C R I meeting. Fr. Vincent Pereira from Chunar was the resource person. The main topic was 'We are called to holiness'. It was well prepared and appreciated by all. After the pandemic, once again we began our regular family visits along with our parish priest Fr. Baptist. We meet the sick and have prayers and conduct family rosary in different houses.

As we are approaching Easter, we wish you all a grace filled Easter Season.



S M C KANPUR

NEWS IN CAPSULES:

We welcomed the New Year with gratitude to God who had protected all of us especially from the pandemic that afflicted the world nearly two years. On 1st January the three religious Communities of St. Patrick's Parish - UMI, MC, and CJ – were invited by Fathers K.K. Anthony and Fr. Walter D' Silva to a dinner. This was by way of acknowledging the services of the sisters specially the MC sisters who were forced to give up their house and property to the military and bid goodbye to the people and place. Though a sense of sorrow filled our hearts at this unexpected and heart-breaking episode in the life of the MC Congregation yet we were also edified at their courage and submission to God's will. The next day the MC Sisters invited us to their house for a last meal with them. It was sad to see the whole house bare as they had already packed up the belongings that could be taken; even the garden and the surroundings bore a bleak, desolate look as if weeping at the departure of those dear sisters. With heavy hearts we bade goodbye to them. On 3rd January the sisters left Kanpur.

As the icy hands of winter began to tighten its grip schools had to be closed at the order of the administration. So once again we had to switch to on-line classes. Then for a few days we had continuous rain adding to the discomfort and severity of winter.

Bored by the continuous stay inside, the younger members of the community had a day out, window shopping at some of the well-known shopping centres of Kanpur. January 23rd being a Sunday we celebrated Mary Ward's birthday with the whole parish. We made good use of the opportunity to tell the people about our Foundress' life, teachings and work.

Braino brain International Fest that was held on-line in January, gave 23, 500 children from all over the world the opportunity to compete with one another. We are proud and happy that Kanishka Verma of Class V won the Championship award and Sanskriti Mehrotra of Class V was the Silver Topper. We congratulate them on their splendid performance.





WINNERS OF BRAINO BRAIN FEST -- KANUSHKA AND SANSKRITI

29th Jan. was a recollection day and we prepared ourselves by silence, reflection and prayer to celebrate the next day – Death Anniversary of Mary Ward. Once again it was a Sunday and the parish priest during his sermon spoke of our beloved Foundress.

2nd February: We remembered our day of Consecration and celebrated the day with a Holy mass and special prayers. An organized recreation in the evening gave us the opportunity to play together, relax, laugh and enjoy each other's company.

On 14th Feb. School reopened for classes VI to XII but once again school had to remain closed on 20th and 21st on account of election days in Kanpur. A section of our school was taken as polling booth for the first time in the history of SMC Kanpur. Fortunately, it was only for one day and despite all our apprehensions the polling went off smoothly with no untoward events happening

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Celebrations bring much joy and positive energy into the community. In February, we had a reason for celebration – the diamond jubilee of our Sr. Milly. February 26th was the auspicious day chosen for the celebration. It was a simple family affair with only our parish priests, our sisters from Unnao, Lucknow and Fatehpur.



The news of war between Ukraine and Russia had created a lot concern and worry.

Therefore, 2nd March was declared as a day of Prayer for peace in the world especially in Ukraine.

We too along with the rest of the Catholic community spent the day, taking turns to pray earnestly for the end of war between Ukraine and Russia and for the restoration of Peace.

At the beginning of Lenten season, the community had resolved to visit all the Christian families of the parish. This was a part of synodal activities of our parish. Sr. Roshni took the lead and was accompanied by one or the other.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

This Women's Day, students of SMC Kanpur, got the opportunity to meet some of the strongest women of our city who work tirelessly to maintain law and order in the city. The Police officers at the Civil Lines Mahila Thana, they found, are fearless women and extremely kind individuals who engaged in a heart-to-heart conversation with the students. The welcoming atmosphere at the police station and their words of motivation were an inspiration for young girls. It was indeed a special day that made them feel that there is no job that a woman can't excel in.

EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO NATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY



Realizing that knowledge acquired through practical and personal experience has lasting and more effective impact on students Sr. Prabha planned an educational trip to the National Sugar Industry (NSI) for students of Class X on 14th March. On reaching the Institute the students were taken on a tour to the different manufacturing units where they were given clear understanding of how sugar is produced and processed..



FAREWELL TO CLASS XII



On 15th March there was a simple Farewell programme for Class XII, the outgoing Class. A short prayer service was conducted asking God to bless their efforts with success and his continued accompaniment all through their lives. A lively and heartwarming entertainment followed.

PICNIC TO BLUE WORLD

Class IV employees of SMC went on a picnic to the Blue World. Some of the



Sisters accompanied them. Great was their delight when the bus carrying them turned to the direction of the Blue World for until then they were not informed of the destination to which they were going. It was a day of great joy. The Water Park was a feast to the eyes and other senses. The ride on the swings, the merry-go-round, the various games and the fabulous sights and the

delicious food all of which gave them a thrill, perhaps a greater thrill than what children experience at such places of entertainment.

On 21st we were happy to welcome Sr. Shweta who came on visitation. As it was her first visit to the school a short welcome programme was held by children and teachers in her honour. We had a delightful evening in 'Nature's Scoup' a small restaurant to celebrate our togetherness. It was all the more delightful as the whole community – young and old – were present. The next day Sr. Shweta returned to Allahabad at the completion of the visitation.

PRINCIPAL'S DAY

The staff and students anticipated the Principal's Day on 25th March as on 28th March, the real birth day of Sr. Prabha, the School would remain closed. In a short but sweet programme they greeted sister, offering bouquets and flowers and wishing her a happy and graced day.



On the last day of the school year, class VII hosted a farewell for the out-going class, (Class VIII) of Mary Ward School. The sisters and their teachers blessed the children and prayed for them. Sr. Shilpa and their teachers spoke encouraging words to them, reminding them to work hard and fulfill their dreams and become successful in life.

27th March was the day of Result declaration after which the school closed for a short break before reopening for the next School year on 4th April.



S M C DEORI

Month of January brought abundant blessings and joy to all at SMC community because we received the Provisional Affiliation Certificate for the ICSE Board. We thank Sr. Shweta for her prayerful support for Sagar Mission. We thank all our communities for their valuable prayers especially during the inspection. We express our gratitude to all our sisters who came here in person and got everything ready to complete the process. The community at Sagar thanks to Sr. Marion and the Team for their cooperation and availability at the time of inspection.

Mary Ward week prayer was conducted meaningfully in the community as well in the school. Each day's prayer was prepared by different groups of teachers with a short reflection and fitting songs. Indeed, it was enriching and even the new teachers had a chance of learning about Mary Ward. Though the students were not present in the school due to the pandemic, the staff and the sisters celebrated the Republic Day meaningfully with a short prayer service followed by a few cultural items.

We were happy that the bishop of Sagar, Mar James Athikalam MST offered Mass on our dedication day. Swamiji in his homily prayed for us and encouraged us to continue the good works for God's Glory.

S M C 32

“Looking behind, I am filled with gratitude, looking forward I am filled with vision, looking upward, I am filled with strength and looking within I discover peace.” With this rejuvenating thought, let us welcome the journey of another, uncertain Year 2022.

After a lapse of almost 2 years due to Corona Pandemic, the CRI get-together was organized by the President Sr. Sumita CJ. Seventy members joined in the merry making and fun. It proved that this get together was a very welcome one and exceptionally unique too.

Rev. Fr. Louis Mascarenhas, the Diocesan Administrator willingly agreed to deliver the New Year message to the gathering. It started with a short prayer service and then we plunged headlong into various games and fun, conducted by different congregations and the winners were amply rewarded with big and small gifts contributed by the respective communities. Finally, consolation prizes were given to all the participants by the CRI. A special feature of this gathering was that the snacks and tea were provided by various communities. It was a new venture and all were full of

appreciation for the “walking together of the Synodal Church.” By 6.00 p.m., after spending 2 solid hours, all returned to their respective communities, exuberant with joy written all over their faces.

It was indeed a landmark achievement that our School at Deori, Sagar obtained the affiliation certificate which needs to be renewed after 5 years. Congratulations to all those who worked tirelessly for it, namely Srs. Sharon, Josita, Benita, Sarita- the community members and Srs. Marion, Jyoti and other outside helpers. We pray that the Good Lord may continue to bless our efforts in Sagar.

A very fruitful zoom meeting was attended by Sr. Sumita and all the other vocation promoters conducted by Rev. Fr. Joy Crasta S.J. from St. Aloysius College, Mangalore. The sudden death of Rev. Fr. Apoline Lobo brought shock waves to all of us reminding us of the shortness of life and the readiness for the Lord’s call.

We kept up the Mary Ward week in a very solemn way, the highlight was special prayers for the union of CJs and IBVMs. On 30th was the combined celebrations of the first and final professions and silver and golden Jubilees at 21, the Mother house. To be filled with the Spirit, we must be emptied of self. Sometimes prayer is the only Gift we can give to the people we love. 2nd Feb. the presentation of our Lord in the Temple, though celebrated, lost its splendor and gaiety, since the commitment day was shifted to 30th Jan. All sincerely wished the previous joy and glory would return by reestablishing 2nd Feb as our Special Day, The Commitment Day. It was such a meaningful, appropriate day.

Monthly Recollection was directed by sister Celine. The topic was” Seeing anew with the eyes of Jesus for a life of happiness and holiness.

Classes 9 to 12 opened today after a long gap of almost 2 years. 9th ,10th and 11th Feb. were ‘Interaction Days’ for the LKG students. Some of our sisters went to ‘21’ to help them out. What a joy and relief to see and hear children in the campus after the normal school days resumed for classes 6 to 12.! ‘Deo Gratias!’

Free vaccination camps were held in the school mainly for children above 15 along with booster doses too. Some sisters too got the benefit of it. Another trip to Sagar was made by Srs. Shweta, Marion, Sharon and Neeta to help out in obtaining the Minority Certificate. “All’s well that ends well”.

The sad news was that Sr. Celine’s younger brother Jose had an accident and was admitted in the ICU with serious breathing problems due to some broken ribs. Sr. Freda brought two of the first batch of boys of the Bal Vikas Ashram, with their families for Allahabad Darshan. They were child laborers rescued from the carpet weaving sector.

Shoolini University of Himachal Pradesh conferred the 'Shiksha Bhushan' Award on Sr. Jyoti for motivating her team and leading the Institution to success during the pandemic through her visionary leadership. Congratulations to you, Sister. Some of us whose names appeared in the Voters' list cast their votes in Prayag Mahila Vidya Peeth. Sr. Isabel CJ marched in to make the month of March merry. She with her vibrant presence stayed with us for 3 days which provided ample time for us to celebrate her Diamond years. Holy Mass, Lunch and organized recreation gave to the day a festive 'aura'. Sister was extremely happy with these unexpected expressions of joy.

We have begun the Holy Season of Lent with the ashes smeared on our foreheads. It is time to say 'No' to the pollution caused by Indifference, selfishness..... Lord, may my life praise you and by the power of your breath of life may I pass on life to others.



Sr. Vinaya prepared the first Communicants and those for Confirmation for their Great Day on 19th March, Our Patron saint, St. Joseph's Day.

Amidst other Lenten practices, some of us went to the graveyard to clean up and maintain the graves. It was a community service and came back after praying for the dear departed.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. The ICSE and ISC students have started their final exams offline this time. The ex-students were generous enough to renovate the almost breaking down hall in the Leper Colony –a venture started by Sr. Elizabeth CJ. Friends of Mary Ward as they have christened themselves built a new hall with their own contribution and supervision. It was blessed and handed over to the inmates who thanked them profusely. May God reward you, Friends. "The asset of a person is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, with ears open to listen and hands willing to help."

The fear of war is looming in the air. Our problems might be as big as a ship, but God will give us solutions as wide as the ocean. Never stop believing in hope, because miracles happen every day.

Amidst all tensions, worries and other problems, the school is completing yet another academic year, report cards are distributed class wise, teachers' Orientation program under the able guidance of Sr. Celine C.J. is progressing and the school is getting ready for the new year of studies offline. Teachers and the taught are equally relieved at the thought of regular classes,

The Feast of the Annunciation was very happily celebrated with Pope Francis' Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "Bringing hope to someone's hopelessness is the most beautiful act of kindness. Sr. Regina concluded her M.A. second semester exams and

Sr. Surabhi begins her M.Ed. first year shortly. Wish them both God's blessings in abundance because they are working hard to make their mission more effective.

The CRI meeting was held on 27th March in '21' with Sr. Celine as the resource person who presented the topic, 'Participation in the synodal journey from a woman's perspective'. With audio-visuals, the input was excellent and the impact on the participants was par excellence.



“Everyone has inside them a piece of good news. The good news is you don't know how great you can be, what you can accomplish and what your potential is”. The students of Asha Deep School realized this good news and they put up an Exhibition-Science Exhibition with working models, charts on Solar system, anatomy of human body, the respiratory system etc. to name a few. The potentials they displayed made the visitors wonderstruck. In fact, these kids have realized that they can accomplish a lot if they put their heart and soul into the efforts. Well done students! You can work wonders.

Before the academic year ended, they school gave a fitting farewell to some of our teachers who either retired or resigned. All the best teachers and we are ever grateful to you for your dedicated service to SMC. Wishing you all another year of excellence in academics, co-curricular activities, sports and the like in the coming year 2022-23 and we assure you, whatever your goal, you can get there, if you are willing to work.

A very Happy, Fruitful and Rewarding Academic Year!

ASHA NIKETAN

We began our New Year with Holy Mass in the parish. The handicap day was celebrated by the Diocese of Varanasi on 2nd January 2022. Fifteen of our students participated in it. Since there was age-limit for participation, only ten years and above were allowed to take part. Three of our students were given scholarship for educational support. Ours took part in the cultural programme.





The school has started with the Vocational Training for the students, i.e., making useful items for sale. In this, the whole community is also involved. Sisters with new ideas and skills are most welcome to impart their skills to us.

We celebrated our Institute Feast with Kanudih community and Mary Ward Week was kept up as usual. We opened our school on 8th February. The School Management Committee Meeting was held on 27th March where it was decided to pay the staff their full salary from March 2022 and the arrears of the past year due to pandemic will be paid by September 2022. This was great news for all of us here at Asha Niketan and we rejoiced with our staff.

The Convent building is painted and polished inside and outside and looks elegant and glorious.

SMC CHUNAR

On the eve of the New Year, we had a solemn thanks giving Holy Eucharist in the parish church. We ended the year with joy and gratitude, for the bountiful blessings, we enjoyed, in spite of some worries and anxieties. At the dawn of New Year, we, along with the parishioners gathered for the Holy mass and also celebrated the Christmas tree, ending with a fellowship meal.

In the month of January, we closely walked with Mother Mary Ward by praying, meditating and listening to the talks on the WhatsApp. 23rd January being a Sunday we celebrated venerable Mary Ward's birthday in the parish church highlighting her life.

Much awaited day, 17th February rolled in. We were happy to welcome our Provincial Sr. Shweta CJ in our midst. Sister spent three fruitful days with us.

In the months of January, February and March we were fully engrossed in the spirit of the synodal journey. We attended meetings and listened to the talks. The parish had seminar on the synodal process by Fr. Joy Rodrigues.



On 6th March, Fathers Vipin, Isidore, George and sister Martha Prepared the Chunar parishioners for the Lenten observance.



On 8th March, all our lady teachers were honored and appreciated by Fr. Vincent for their role in the society especially in education.



The 'Youth Cross' was brought to the parish church by the youth animators on 14th March. The youth of Mirzapur, Teresapur and Chunar were gathered, along with all the parishioners. We had holy hour to respect and honor the cross. On the same day Women's Day was also celebrated in the parish.



ASHIRVAD CONVENT

We heartily welcomed the New Year 2022, entrusting our community and our mission into the hands of our Lord, through a meaningfully celebrated Holy Eucharist. The New Year saddened us with the death of Rinky, one of our class 10 students who suffered from Jaundice. May her soul rest in peace. 3rd January being our Institute Day, we invited all the IMS fathers nearby who are helping us in our spiritual needs, for a lunch. We were happy to have the presence of our sisters from Asha Niketan community and the SRA sisters from close by for the occasion.

We also celebrated the Mary Ward week in a very meaningful way. We took turn to conduct the prayers with the help of the booklet given by the province. It was a good experience of praying together and imbibing the spirit of our dear mother.

We were glad to welcome our new community member Sr. Ruby, who joined us on 5th February. On the same day we commemorated the 25th year of the blessing our Convent building. Holy mass was offered, praying for those who worked for this mission and for the people of the locality.

On 1st March we were happy to be present for the felicitation ceremony of the IMS new general team. 7th March was the voting day in Varanasi. All of us were very keen to cast our votes. Srs. Anupa and Jean Mary had come to give their votes.

Srs. Fernanda, Lynette and Ruby had participated in the peaceful gathering conducted by Fr. Anand IMS and his team to request the Russian and Ukraine Governments to stop the war, which has taken many innocent lives. We gave a memorable farewell to our class 10 students on 19th March. The students of class 9 prepared a short but sweet cultural programme followed by lunch prepared by the students themselves under the guidance of their class teacher. The month of March was very busy for all of us with home exams and board exams. May God bless our students with a good result.

