



**VOL: 5 / 1 FMW ALLAHABAD NEWS BULLETIN JANUARY – JUNE 2025**

## **ST. MARY'S CONVENT INTER COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ**

**“Work with great tranquillity, joy and magnanimity, for what is not done in one year can be done in another”. MW 1629**

Mary Ward’s vision for a world of peace stemmed out from her attitude of compassion and empathy. Her compassion extended to all who suffer from hardships of life- from persecution, poverty, illness, spiritual dryness, alienation etc. She believed that responding with kindness and generosity, even in small ways, could transform the world.

Do we care to be mindful of our own actions and the world around us, to look beyond our own needs and consider the struggles of others, see what happens around us, see what our actions result in, feel the difference that our small actions of mindful care, compassion and kindness, make in the world? Do we challenge the complacency of privilege and remind ourselves that true humanity lies in compassion and solidarity?

Holy Father Pope Francis dedicated his life to deep empathy and compassion. Pope Francis frequently connected compassion with God, describing God as a God of compassion whose strength lies in His mercy and ability to empathize with humanity's suffering. He urged people to journey together in compassion with the suffering.

Towards this endeavour, we, the FMW members, inspired by our Foundress Mother Mary Ward, forge ahead for the well-being of all people, to create a just and peaceful world. Let us therefore draw strength and inspiration from the words of our Foundress, Venerable Mother Mary Ward – “Work with great tranquillity, joy and magnanimity, for what is not done in one year can be done in another” MW 1629



## **A New Season of Hope – Mary Ward Week Celebrations**

The month of January holds deep significance for all of us, the Mary Wardians, as we commemorate the life and legacy of our Foundress, Mother Mary Ward, from the

23rd of January to the 30th of January, each year. In preparation for this special week-long celebration, the Friends of Mary Ward from St. Mary's Convent Inter College, Allahabad, made a humble effort to present a series of reflections based on the 'Painted Life of Mary Ward'. The main purpose of preparing these reflections were to deepen the understanding of our Foundress and her spiritual journey as well as to inspire all to grow into compassionate individuals, committed to building God's family of peace, love, justice, and reconciliation—wherever they are.

'The Painted Life' is a series of fifty beautiful paintings that portray key moments in Mary Ward's life. With heartfelt enthusiasm, teachers and students meditated on these paintings and brought them to life through meaningful reflections applicable to realities of life. The atmosphere was one of positivity and fulfilment, with each day offering new inspiration for deeper commitment and selfless service.



To commemorate the life and legacy of Venerable Mother Mary Ward, we celebrated her birthday with great zeal and devotion on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025. The event paid a vibrant tribute to her courage, faith, and dedication to empowering women through education and spirituality.

The program highlighted Mary Ward's vision of a Just Soul imbued with Freedom, Justice, and Sincerity. Elegant dances reflected her values and teachings, evoking the joy and harmony, she inspired. A powerful

skit vividly portrayed her life, from her early years, her struggles in championing education and justice for women, her courage and faith. The week-long celebration, which commenced on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, concluded on January 30<sup>th</sup>, which marked Mother Mary Ward's Death Anniversary. A solemn prayer assembly was conducted by the students, where they staged the concluding phase of her life. This was an endeavour to help children understand her journey through life and be inspired by her life and works.

## Giving Hands, Grateful Hearts

Every twelve years, a sacred tide of devotion sweeps through the heart of India, as millions of pilgrims' journey to the Maha Kumbh Mela at Sangam, Prayagraj; true evidence of their faith and spiritual longing. This year, as waves of devotees passed by St. Mary's School, they discovered not just a pathway, but a sanctuary of care and compassion.







With humility and grace, St. Mary's opened its doors to pilgrims, embodying the true spirit of service. Under the thoughtful guidance of dedicated sisters, teachers and FMW members, a whole network of kindness unfolded.

For hours, and across countless kilometers, these silent guardians of goodwill ensured that no pilgrim went thirsty or hungry. Pilgrims were deeply moved as they gratefully received fresh buns, biscuits, and bottled water—a simple gesture that brought immense satisfaction. This was more than an act of charity; it was a living lesson in humanity. This beautiful act of giving will remain etched in our hearts.

## Service before Self–Mother Teresa

On March 31st, 2025, the FMW members of St. Mary's Nursery School, accompanied by their Headmistress Sr. Martha, visited the Mother Teresa Orphanage. It was a truly memorable and touching experience. The members were warmly welcomed by the children, with open hearts and smiles, as they carried essential items, lovingly contributed by the students of Playgroup, LKG,



and UKG. Their joy, enthusiasm, and gratitude reminded us of the transformative power of love and care.

Returning from the orphanage, the FMW members were filled with renewed purpose, determined to spread kindness and compassion wherever they went.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our dear parents for their generous contributions—their unwavering support made this moment joyous.



## A Journey of Love, Service, and Connection

Inspired by the enduring legacy of Venerable Mary Ward—whose life was a testament to love, courage, and compassion—the members of the Friends of Mary Ward (FMW) embarked on a heartfelt mission to Raj Andh Vidyalaya, at Elgin Road on May 6, 2025. The gracious presence of Rev. Sr. Rose and Rev. Sr. Josita, brought an added sense of spiritual



warmth and encouragement, gently guiding the group in their service, making the visit not just meaningful, but truly sacred. In an atmosphere filled with joy and tenderness, food grains, groceries, essential items, and refreshments were offered to the visually impaired students. It was a thoughtful expression of empathy, respect, and heartfelt connection. What unfolded that day was not just an act of charity, but a soul-stirring reminder of how love can be felt even without sight, and how kindness can speak louder than words.



For the members of FMW, this visit was deeply humbling and enriching. It reminded them that service is not simply about giving, but about being present—with an open heart and a willing spirit. It was a day where the invisible threads of compassion bound them ever closer to those they served. In that sacred space of giving and receiving, the spirit of Mary Ward smiled—and so did every heart that beat with the rhythm of love.

**Mrs. Rumela Neogy**

### **My Personal Experience**

**“Do not bury your talents, which God lent you to be spent in service”. - Mother Mary Ward**

As I sit down to pen my thoughts, I'm overwhelmed with emotions, reflecting on the four incredible years I've spent with the Friends of Mary Ward. From the nervous excitement of joining as a young member to standing tall as the President in my fourth year, every moment has been a proof to the power of compassion, camaraderie, and community spirit.

I still remember the day I joined FMW, inspired by the selfless dedication of our Foundress Mother Mary Ward. We shared a common goal – to make a difference, to serve, and to uplift. Little did I know that this group would become my greatest source of inspiration, shaping me in ways I never thought possible.

Through FMW, I've had the privilege of working on numerous charity initiatives, each one a reminder of the impact we can have when we come together. This group gave me a chance to collaborate with like-minded individuals who share a vision for creating a positive change. I've seen the smiles on faces, experienced the joy in hearts, heard the stories of hope, and felt the warmth of human connection. Every step, every initiative, and every challenge, made us familiar with the harsh realities of the society.





Over the enthralling years, I've learned to lead with empathy, to listen with an open heart, and to offer a helping hand even if it makes no difference. I've discovered that true leadership isn't about titles or positions; it's about the positive impact we have on those around us. FMW has taught me to be a better version of myself, to serve with humility, and to inspire others to do the same. I've also gained valuable experience in problem- solving, decision-making and leading a team towards a common goal.

FMW has given me a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose. It is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there are people who care, who listen and who support. As I look around at the faces of my fellow members, I am reminded of the strength of unity and the impact it can have on the society.

Mother Mary Ward's maxim "**Strive more to merit the praise and love of others than to receive it.**" has been an inspiration in all that I do. Looking back on my journey with FMW, I'm filled with gratitude and immense happiness. This transformative experience has been a privilege, and I'm excited to see the incredible things the future holds for FMW. I'll carry the lessons, memories, and love with me forever. As I conclude, I offer my sincere gratitude to St. Mary's Convent Inter College for providing me a platform to serve and grow.

**Esha Bhattacharya ( FMW President)**

## **ST. MARY' S CONVENT INTER COLLEGE, RDSO, LUCKNOW**

### **Mary Ward Week Celebration**

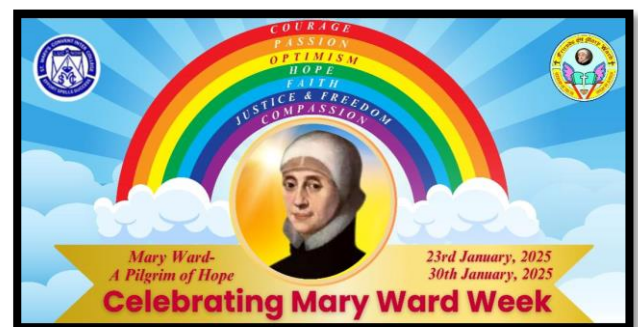
In the month of January, we celebrated the Mary Ward Week with great enthusiasm, based on the inspiring theme "Rainbow." Each colour of the rainbow spectrum symbolized a specific virtue, which was meaningfully discussed and practised throughout the week.

Students participated wholeheartedly in a variety of engaging activities such as maxim writing, bookmark making, value tree drawings, and collage making. These creative expressions not only deepened their understanding of each virtue but also kept them connected to the life and legacy of our beloved foundress, Mary Ward.

It was truly a vibrant and value-enriched tribute, reflecting the spirit and teachings of Mary Ward in a colourful and memorable way.

### **Living the Rainbow: Mary Ward's Vision in Action**

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, the Friends of Mary Ward organized a vibrant exhibition to celebrate the enduring legacy of Mother Mary Ward. Centred around the theme "Living the Rainbow," the event beautifully showcased how her vision continues to inspire values and virtues in





today's world.

The exhibits, thoughtfully prepared by FMW students, reflected creativity, dedication, and a deep understanding of Mary Ward's teachings. Their efforts were widely appreciated by all, making the exhibition a fitting tribute to a visionary foundress whose spirit continues to shine through every colour of the rainbow.

- **Jasmine 9A (FMW member)**

## A Mission of Service to Shekhpur Village

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, student representatives of the FMW group and teachers undertook a noble mission to Shekhpur village, guided by a spirit of service and solidarity. The visit was marked by a warm welcome by the village Pradhan, Mr. Dharmendra Yadav, whose gracious hospitality set the tone for a meaningful day.

Essential provisions, thoughtfully packed with nutritive staples, were distributed among the villagers to support their daily sustenance. This act of kindness was more than just a gesture—it was a lesson in empathy, responsibility, and community engagement.

The visit not only brought a sense of relief to the villagers but also offered students a valuable opportunity to witness and understand the social challenges faced by many. It was a heart-warming experience that fostered compassion and a strong sense of civic duty among all participants.

**Varunavi 8C (FMW member)**



## Nurturing Nature : One Sapling at a time



“A tree planted is a life granted”. ‘A Plantation Drive’ plays a crucial role in today's world by offering environmental sustainability and making the ecosystem better. Plantation Drive not only has a positive impact on the environment but also on the mental and physical state of individuals. Just as Nature offers guidance and beauty, Mother Mary Ward's life exemplifies the power of discernment and faith. Her virtues can be linked to nature, through her focus on finding God in all

aspects of life, even in the simplest everyday experiences.

Inspired by the vision of Mary Ward, on 22nd April, the FMW members took the initiative to safe-guard the ecosystem by





planting medicinal and aromatic plants. The members not just planted a sapling but gave a impetus to in the form of these saplings. The objective of this Plantation Drive was to raise an awareness about Environmental Conservation and to take a step toward building a greener tomorrow, for the future generations.

- Yashasvi Pant 8C (FMW member)

## In the light of Mary Ward

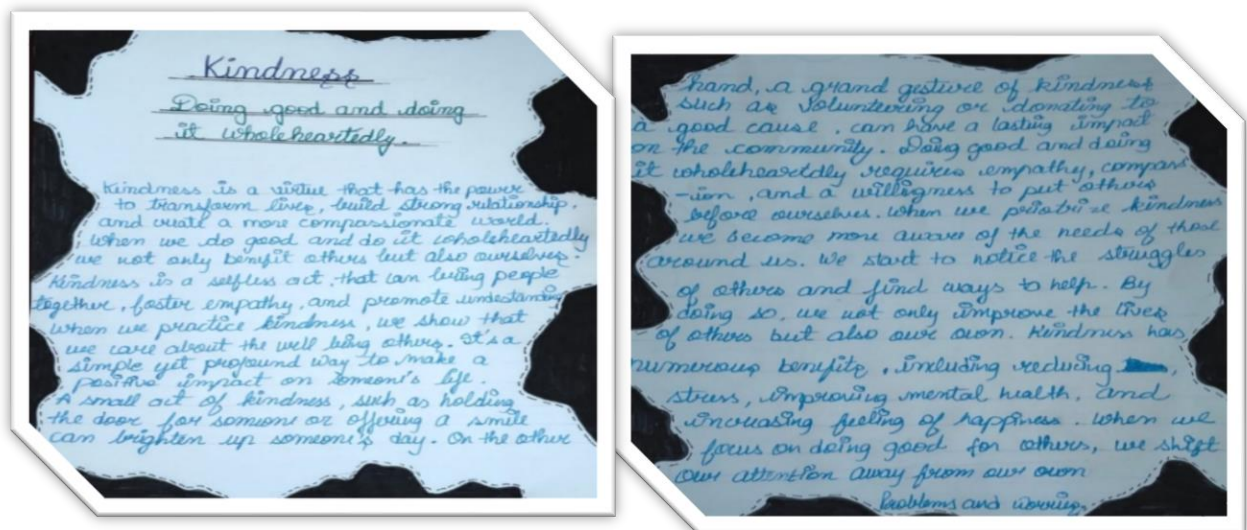
The recent meeting of the Friends of Mary Ward (FMW) members marked a significant moment of reflection and renewal. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025, a review of the year's activities was conducted, celebrating the efforts and achievements of the group. In a spirit of continuity and commitment, new members were elected for various positions, ensuring that the journey inspired by Mary Ward's vision moves ahead with fresh enthusiasm.

Simultaneously, the junior FMW group held its first meeting of the session on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The event was highlighted by a heartfelt note of gratitude extended to the outgoing office bearers for their dedicated service. A thoughtful reflection on one of Mother Mary Ward's maxims served as a source of inspiration, rekindling hope and vigour in the hearts of all the members as they stepped into a new chapter of service and growth.

With faith, courage, and unity, we the friends of Mary Ward continue to walk in the light of Mary Ward's legacy.

(Ms. Swati Mukherjee)

## Essay Writing Competition on the Virtues of Mother Mary Ward



As part of the ongoing efforts to nurture values and strengthen the bond with our foundress, the Friends of Mary Ward members were invited to participate in an Essay Writing Competition during the summer vacation. The theme of the competition centred around the **Virtues of Mother Mary Ward**, encouraging students to reflect on the life and legacy of this courageous and visionary woman. Through their thoughtful and heartfelt essays, the participants expressed their deep love, respect, and

homage to our dear friend and foundress. Many essays beautifully captured how these virtues continue to inspire and guide young hearts even today.

This activity not only provided an opportunity for creative expression but also helped strengthen the spiritual connection with Mary Ward's vision and values. The competition served as a reminder that her legacy lives on through every young person who chooses to walk the path of truth, courage, justice and compassion.

- Nakshatra Dubey (Class 10)

## ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, KANPUR

The life of Mother Mary Ward is one of courage, faith, and the empowerment of all, especially women. She believed in the power of education, equality, and living a life of service to God and humanity. She defied the societal norms of her time, encouraging people to trust in God and serve others even in the face of adversity.

As Friends of Mother Mary Ward, we are inspired by a woman who dared to dream beyond her time. Her words, "Women in time to come will do much," have proven true, as her legacy continues to grow.



Rooted in her vision, we walk together as educators, leaders, and friends—committed not only to shaping minds but also to nurturing spirits. We uphold her maxim, "Do good and do it well," and challenge ourselves to pursue excellence with integrity, humility, and joy. In every lesson, every act of kindness, and every moment of courage, we echo her mission.

As companions on this journey, we are not just teachers or friends—we are torchbearers of her legacy. Together, we build a future where faith meets action, and where the light of Mother Mary Ward shines in every corner of the world.

### Mary Ward Week Celebrations

Every year, the SMC family celebrates Mary Ward Week from 23rd January to 30th January, paying tribute to our foundress, Venerable Mother Mary Ward. We honour her not only for her extraordinary perseverance in working for the upliftment of women in society but also for her deep compassion. To continue her legacy and to spread awareness among the students, Class VII created collages depicting the maxims of Mary Ward. The students participated enthusiastically, expressing their creativity and values through their work.



As part of the celebration, the students of Class VI A, B, C, and D conducted a morning assembly, elaborating on some of the maxims of Mary Ward through role plays, storytelling, and poems. These included: "It is an honour to work for God," "Do good and do it well," "Be diligent to root out thy vices and not to hide them," and "Do your best and



God will help.” They also participated in a Poster Making Activity on 28th January, 2025. The students creatively illustrated important events from the life of Mother Mary Ward. On 30th January, students of Class IX-B presented the core values and teachings of Venerable Mother Mary Ward. Their presentation highlighted her commitment to education, empowerment, and her unwavering belief in the potential of every individual.

Through her vision, we are reminded of the significance of compassion, service, and integrity in our daily lives. As we move forward, let us take inspiration from her legacy and strive to build a community rooted in justice, respect, and love for one another.

The Mary Ward Week celebrations concluded with a Long Assembly conducted on 30th January by the students of Class VII A, commemorating the life and teachings of our Foundress, Venerable Mary Ward, and Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, whose death anniversary is also observed on the same day.



Mary Ward's life teaches us courage, determination and the importance of standing up for what we believe in. Students of Class VI, prepared paper bags, which were then distributed among shopkeepers and street vendors, for their use.

**Almighty God Loves a Cheerful Giver-** On 15th May, Class XII students, accompanied by their class teachers Mrs Seth, Mrs Dey and Mrs Arif visited an old age home, ‘Snehalaya’, near Chandari.

The elderly residents warmly welcomed the students and were overjoyed by their presence. The students conducted a prayer service, sang songs and engaged in heartfelt interactions. They experienced a deep sense of fulfilment and happiness in seeing the residents’ smiles.



**All for the Greater Honour and Glory of God!!!**