



ALLAHABAD NEWS LETTER APRIL – JUNE 2024

SMC, Unnao

We began the new academic session on 1st April. The students of Class 12 prayed for God's blessings for the coming year. On 27th April, St. Lawrence School celebrated Earth Day by organizing an Inter- House Group Singing Competition. Theme for the competition was Mother Earth. All the four houses mesmerized the audience with their soulful singing, praising and glorifying Mother Earth.

On 10th April, the sisters visited Nav Jeevan Social Centre and encouraged children to do well in their studies. Due to heatwave we closed the school for two months and it will reopen in July.

On 1st May we celebrated The Labour Day. Class 10 students, under the guidance of Ms. Archana Trivedi, prepared a meaningful prayer assembly. Thereafter the students showcased a short and meaningful programme and entertained the co-workers. Rev. Fr. Alwyn, the Principal of our School thanked the co-workers for their contribution in the maintenance of our school.



Sr. Lata's birthday was celebrated on 6th May with a meaningful prayer assembly. The celebration concluded with cake cutting which was shared among all the staff members. Our

community also had the Holy Mass praying for the special intentions of Sr. Lata

The annual Inter-House English Declamation Competition was held on 8th May, in the school auditorium. Each participant delivered their declamation with confidence and enthusiasm, presenting a variety of speeches from eminent personalities ranging from global issues to personal experiences.

Sr. Alisha left for home leave on 31st May and came back after a well-deserved holiday spending 3 weeks at home with her dear ones. She feels refreshed, revived and ready to continue the work in His vineyard.

We had our 3-day Recollection from 26th to 28th June. 'Religious life- Integration of God's Mission and Our Ministry' by Rev. Fr. Benny G. Koottanal, gave us enough material to spend the days in reflection and prayer. Sr. Rajini who guided us in prayer stressed on the need to be grateful to God and to be faithful to Him at all times.



Our Srs. Sumita, Florine, Marion, Shilpa and Rose paid us a short visit on 28th evening. There was great joy in meeting our sisters and welcoming them.

Mary Ward, Unnao Community

St. John's Fatehpur

Excitement was all over as the new academic session 2024-25 commenced on 1st April. The school campus, once again burst in to life as children returned after the refreshing holidays. A special assembly to invoke the blessings of God upon us and to welcome new comers both teachers as well as the students was indeed a fitting beginning. This year the school has 18 new teachers. To help the teachers to begin the new school year with creative minds and well-disposed attitude, an orientation programme was conducted for the staff.

Diocesan Women's Commission



Sr. Shilpa along with 6 women representatives of the Fatehpur parish attended the Diocesan Women's Commission meeting held in St. Thomas School, Kidwai Nagar on 20th and 21st April. This was the 2nd ever women's conference in the Diocese with the theme "Let your Light shine". All the women who participated were happy to participate in the various activities and classes. This has helped them to understand the women's role in the family, church and in the society at large.

1st May- Workers Day Celebrated



Workers' Day was celebrated to honour the hard work rendered to our institution by our supportive staff. Class 12 students conducted a

meaningful assembly stressing on the importance of the services of our Supportive Staff and how they are an integral part of our institution. Tokens of gratitude were given to them by the students. After the programme, they enjoyed the refreshments which were served to them.

The long awaited ICSE and ISC results were declared on 6th May and the whole school rejoiced at the good results. The school achieved cent percent result. The topper of ISC, Sunkalp Umrao of Science stream secured 95%. Aradhana Verma of ICSE topped with 94.80%. Well done teachers and students! Congratulations to all!

1st Unit Test was held from 9th to 15th May after which the school was closed due to the parliamentary elections and rising temperature. During the election days our school campus had many army and police personnel staying in preparation for the elections. Classes 10 and 12 had extra classes up to 31st May.

Summer Camp: This year the summer camp was sponsored by Manv Sanstan, a charitable organization. This is an outreach programme by

FIFA to train the village children, in football. They provided football kits and served light refreshments daily. On the last day of the training we hosted a football match for the city schools of Fatehpur.



8th May: Mothers' Day: Mothers' Day was celebrated on 8th May. Special Mass was offered and all the mothers of the parish were felicitated by the youth soon after the mass. During Homily, father stressed upon the importance of bringing



up the children in the catholic faith. This was also indeed an occasion to thank our own mothers who sacrificed their entire life for us. The community prepared

ourselves for the celebration of the Pentecost individually as well as in the community, through novenas, recollection and special prayers.

Month of the Rosary: Throughout the Month of May, the community gathered daily in front of Our Lady to pray the rosary. The May month devotion concluded with rosary with few families who stayed back in the campus during holidays followed by refreshments.

The hottest Month of the year, June, was indeed a time of unbearable heat, unreliable power supply, swirling dust and sleepless nights. Yet in the midst of it all we found small joyous, surprises and tokens of God's care. He provided us with plenty of fruits in our Garden-Lychees, Mangoes, Jackfruits and Bananas which we were happy to share with all those who visited us.

In the month of June, Sr. Maria had her well-deserved home leave and she returned refreshed and renewed.

SMC , DEORI, SAGAR.

The hot months of April, May and June have given way to a pleasant July with the commencing of the monsoon season. The scorching heat drained our energy but a few joyful events kept us optimistic and cheerful.

On 13th April Sr. Sheela returned from her pilgrimage to the Holy Land and we were enriched by the sharing of all her experiences along with the relevant photographs. She came back just in time evading the warlike situation in Israel on the next day of her return.

People of Deori voted for their Lok Sabha candidate on 26th April. Since the school was closed for the election, we made good use of the day for our monthly recollection. We reflected and prayed over the theme 'Mission and Ministry.'

30th April being the last working day before we closed the school for summer vacation, the school community honoured our workers during a prayer service. A token gift was given to each one. On 1st May the community greeted the workers and treated them to a home cooked meal.

The summer holidays were made use of to catch up with the pending work, cleaning of the library and other areas and helping where the assistance was needed. On 6th May, the ICSE results were announced and we were delighted that all 41 students passed.



On 10th May, the final casting of the roof of the ramp took place. A stage has been built in front



of the school. The layout of the grounds with the approach roads and the leveling of the ground in front of the building have been completed which gives a neat and homely look to the entire campus.

On 24th May, Sr. Benita left for Allahabad for her annual retreat and returned on 3rd June. During the entire month of May we kept up the devotion of praying the Rosary, interceding for various needs. On 31st morning we gathered in

front of the grotto in our Parish for Rosary and Holy Mass, thus effectively concluding the special month.

On 6th June we began our 3 day recollection. Fr. Paul Chungath, the V.G of Sagar Diocese guided us during these three days sharing his experiences and reflections on community living, our mission, the world today and our response to what is happening around us.

We spent a few tensed days as a law was enacted in the state of M.P. to bring about control on the Private schools. On 12th June a team of three officials appointed by the Collector arrived in the afternoon and started questioning us on 26 points given in their checklist. They asked us to submit the checklist duly filled along with all the supporting documents within three days. The administration had opened an online portal in which we had to fill in the fee structure from 2020 – 2021 onwards supported by an affidavit and annexure. In M.P the schools are allowed to increase only 10% fees every year. Those schools that had increased the fees beyond the stipulated amount were penalized by imprisoning some of the principals and asking some other schools to refund the amount that was taken in excess.

From 18th June onwards classes have begun in right earnest. Though hot the school functioned normally. On 28th June once again the inspection team arrived to check all the documents and files which were prepared and kept ready as per the checklist. They asked a few students as to from where they bought their uniforms and books as they are not allowed to buy these from any particular shop recommended by the school. Our management and administrative staff seem to have satisfied the inspectors with their answers to all the queries supported by the documents and we hope that we will not have further problems from this department.

The Auditors arrived on 21st June and after having completed their auditing left for Jhansi on 24th. On 21st itself Sr. Sharon and Sr. Savita, arrived from Allahabad by train accompanied by Sr. Jaya and Sr. Neeta. After spending a day with us the latter two returned to Allahabad on 23rd.

Farewell and Welcome

24th June was a red letter day in the history of SMC Deori, as Sr. Sharon took over the office of Principal from Sr. Sarita.



The school family organized an impressive and touching, programme consisting of prayers, speeches, songs, dances etc. to bid farewell to the outgoing Principal Sr. Sarita and welcome the new Principal and Headmistress – Sr. Sharon and Sr. Savita respectively. The school community thanked Sr. Sarita for her immense contribution to the development and growth of the school in the past three years. Bringing up a fledgling school to its full potential was indeed a herculean task but Sr. Sarita facing all odds made it a reality. The whole SMC family wished and prayed for Sr. Sharon.



In the afternoon the teachers organized a get together and expressed their gratitude to Sr. Sarita through prayers, songs, speeches and a video show. Srs. Sharon

and Savita were accorded a warm welcome and prayed that they may have pleasant stay with us and that God may grant success in all their undertakings. The get together ended with a simple fellowship meal.

On 26th Srs. Sarita, Benita and Savita left for Kanpur by road. As a community we are grateful to Sr. Sarita for all that she has achieved in the school and community. By her hard work, ingenuity, creativity and clear vision for the school sister has made tremendous difference in the school. May God grant her a bright future in the new place.

Deori Community.

SMC Lucknow

Welcome April, filled with sunshine, warmth and good vibes. After a short break, the new

academic session began on 3rd April, 2024. Once again the school campus was bubbling with life and enthusiasm of the lively little children. With hope in their heart and renewed energy in their limbs, the students and teachers entered the portals of St. Mary's to continue their teaching-learning process of life.

On 20th April, 2024, Classes 1 – IV staged a variety entertainment programme to celebrate 'Parents' Day' in school. Enthusiastic parents flocked the auditorium to witness the mesmerizing performance of their wards, confidently doing their part on the stage. It was a great success as the parents appreciated and accoladed the efforts put in by the teachers and the management to train the little children so efficiently for stage performance.

'Earth Day' celebration is commitment to live in harmony with Nature and to protect our precious environment. On 22nd April, 2024, SMCIC, Lucknow celebrated the 'World Earth Day' by



conducting a very meaningful prayer assembly for the students and teachers and distributing hand-made paper bags, prepared by the students, to mark the occasion. Besides a 'Tree Plantation' drive was also organized on the same day.

The 'highlight' of the month of May was the Board Results on 6th May, 2024. Hearty Congratulations to our students and teachers of ICSE and ISC -2024 batch for their outstanding performance and excellent result. All passed. Pankhuri Singh topped the ISC Examination by scoring 98 % and Lavanya Saxena topped the ICSE Examination with 99.2 % in aggregate. 'Hats off' to you students.

It is rightly said, 'The goodbyes may be hard, but we only part to meet again.' It was on 11th May, 2024 that the school organized a short programme to bid goodbye to Sr. Mahima and Sr. Amala who were on transfer. Through the Prayer assembly based on the theme, 'The Architects of Holistic Growth', the students and

teachers appreciated and thanked them for the services they rendered and the way they have touched their lives. The school wished them 'All the Best' in their future endeavors.



Soaring temperatures and deadly heat waves forced the school administration to close the school for summer vacation on 15th May, 2024. Children got the holiday- home work from the school-website. They welcomed the early schedule for the long summer vacation happily. The rest of the month of May remained uneventful as it was a struggle to battle with the heat outside.

A picnic is a fun and relaxing way to build memories and enjoy the presence of others. It takes us out of the confines of work area and immerses us in a natural world. Our supportive staff, along with Sr. Anupa and Sr. Mahima went on a picnic to Gorakhpur on 27th May and returned on 29th May. One whole day in Gorakhpur enabled them to visit many places of interest. It was indeed a memorable picnic for them.



The month of June brought to us a few visitors. Mr.

Bobby, the grand nephew of Sr. Lucilla made a surprise visit on 8th June, 2024. Sr. Lucilla was beaming with joy to meet him after

about nine years. They spent a few hours together, sharing photos, videos and making calls to their dear ones at home. On 10th June, Fr. Jijo OFM, a cousin of Sr. Marina came to stay with us for a few days. A few of our sisters from other communities also paid us visits at different times, breaking the monotony of the hot days of summer.

From 14th to 16th June the community had Recollection, guided by Sr. Marina on themes

like 1) Called to Follow Christ – talk by Fr. Anil Dev IMS, 2) Consecrated Life & Evangelization for Religious Sisters – talk by Fr. Anil Dev IMS, and 3) 7 Qualities of a Missionary- talk by Fr. (Dr.) Benny Koottanal MSFS. It was much appreciated by all the sisters.

On 17th June, 2024, in the morning, we extended a hearty welcome to Sr. Janet, our new Superior, accompanied by Sr. Sumita, Sr. Joselette and Sr. Rose from Prayagraj, who stayed with us for a few hours and returned by 4 p.m. The community made an effort to make Sr. Janet feel at home here.

24th June, 2024 was a red- letter day for the inauguration of the ‘**Science Block**’ - the new SMCIC, Lucknow as we had the Blessing and extension of the school building by



Rev. Fr. Anup E. Lakra, our assistant Parish Priest, in the presence of Rev. Peter Castelino, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, the Architect, Mr. Pradeep, the Engineer, Mr. Shyam Kumar Verma, the Contractor, and all the sisters of the Community, Supportive Staff and some of the laborers of the building. After the Blessing at 6 p.m. the Priests, the Architect, Engineer, Contractor and the Head- employee of each department were honoured with a token gift of gratitude. Thereafter refreshments were served for all.

25th June was a day of ‘Fare Well Programme’



for our two sisters, Sr. Mahima and Sr. Amala who were on transfer. In the morning the community gathered in the Chapel praying for these two sisters. At noon we had prayer- service with the co-workers followed by lunch. In the evening there was a solemn Holy Mass offered for their intentions. All prayed for them and thanked them for their services to the community and the mission here. On 26th June, in the morning they left for Allahabad and Meja, accompanied by Sr. Janet and Sr. Anupa. We wish them ‘All the Best’ and God’s abundant blessings in their new place.

Two new members, Sr. Joan and Sr. Tara joined the community on 28th & 29th June, 2024, respectively. They were warmly welcomed by the community. We wish them a happy stay with us.

End of June is the end of summer vacation as well. The long-awaited rain arrived too late to give respite from the soaring temperatures. Fortunately, despite the extreme heat, all kept well.

SMC Lucknow

SMC 21

“There is a time for everything”.

[Ecclesiastes 3:1]

As the Word of God says, the time for summer was at hand. We felt the warmth of the nature after experiencing the good cold touch of winter. Summer reminds us of holidays. Many of the sisters in the community were out for meetings, homeleave, vocation promotion and so on. The number of the sisters and the candidates in the community decreased drastically.

Four of our candidates started to go to St. Antony’s college for their Inter. They are enjoying the college days giving witness to Christ in the midst of all. Our Sisters Sales, Joan, Melani, Jyoti, Naveena, Maria Goretti and candidates went home and spent quality time with their dear ones and joined back the community relaxed and refreshed.

Four of our candidates received confirmation along with other students in our Cathedral, once again experiencing the presence of Holy Spirit in their lives. After a long preparation finally, one day the sisters went for an outing to Rewa. Though they had short time they enjoyed thoroughly.



Having spent 10 days in God's own country Jerusalem, Srs. Daya and Neeta came back with full of energy and Spirit.

Our sister Nancy from Nepal underwent a knee replacement surgery. By the grace of God she is experiencing healing.

We the '21' community congratulated and thanked Sr. Shweta and her team for completing three years successfully leading and guiding our Province. Very specially we thanked Sr. Sharon for her dedicated service to the province and to each one of us and assured Sr. Jyoti our co-operation.



Sisters Cecilia and Maria Goretti went to Odisha to bring candidates. Meanwhile sisters Alma, Eva and Scholastica brought a few candidates. We got ten new candidates. Let us pray for their perseverance and ask Jesus to continue to be with them.

Srs. Maraia Goretti, Delna, Eva & Scholastica along with Sr. Jyoti went to Matridam Ashram – Varanasi for an inner healing retreat. Srs. Maraia Goretti, Pushpa and Delna soon after that left for Namchi for the tertianship. Wish you all the best dear sisters as you prepare yourself to say the final "YES" to the Lord.

Meetings

Sr. Shweta attended the national level CRI meeting in Bangalore for a week.

Sr. Daya, the Coordinator of CCBI Women's Commission of Allahabad Diocese organised a



training programme on 'Spirituality of family life' at St. Thomas School, Kanpur. Agra Region meeting of CCBI Women's Commission was attended by Sr. Daya at Sardhana Pilgrim Centre, Meerut.

Farewell and Welcome

We gave a fitting farewell to our dear Srs. Joan and Sharon who are on transfer to Lucknow and Sagar respectively. We are grateful to them for their selfless services rendered to the community. May God continue to be with you as you take up your new mission. We welcomed the new members of the community with much joy and enthusiasm.

Our Parish priest and assistant parish priest are on transfer. We bid goodbye and expressed our gratitude for their contributions to the parish.

We congratulated Bishop elect Msgr. Wilfrid as he is all set to be consecrated as bishop.



Sad Demise

We were shocked to hear about the passing away of Sr. Jaya's nephew-in-law who died of heart attack. Loosing of Sr. Sales' sister was another painful passing away. Later Sr. Jane lost her

nephew-in-law who was suffering from Cancer. May their souls rest in peace.

Tridium: We had our three days recollection under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Vipin D'Souza. First day father explained to us the importance of surrendering ourselves into the hands of the Lord. He shared his own experience that enriched each one of us. The community life was another topic he dealt with. It was a renewing and rejuvenating experience for all of us. The spirit of God was guiding and leading each one especially during those days.

Nursery School

"In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn".

On 1st April Sr. Jane very generously shared her experiences of teaching and education with our Pre- Primary Teachers. Sister began with saying that we need to be grateful for what we have received. The letter written by Abraham Lincon to his son's teachers and the story of Mrs. Thomson inspired the teachers to know their background and deal with every student very patiently and lovingly.

"A parent is a Teacher at home and a teacher is a parent in the school and the child is the centre of our universe". With this thought in mind on 2nd and on 6th April Orientation programme was organised for the parents of LKG and UKG students, by Sr. Martha and the Teachers.



The orientation began with the welcome note and lighting of the Lamp. Thereafter Sr. Martha gave a short reflection on a story 'Don't Compare Yourself To Anyone'. Sister stressed on the theme let the child grow as an individual. Sister

exhausted the parents to co-operate with the teachers to help the students to be shaped as fine human beings. The Teachers then briefed the parents about the rules and regulations of the school as well as the co-curricular activities. The parents were very appreciative about it and they thanked the teachers for their patience and hard work with the students.

The new Academic session for LKG and UKG students began on 3rd April. The children came in very enthusiastically.

On 26th April, the students of LKG and UKG took part in Earth day Activity. The LKG students painted the tree and the Earth and the UKG students had Hand and Circle cut out. The circle was painted as Earth and they painted the



hands with different colours and pasted it together. They ended their Activity with the slogans, such as; Plant more trees,

save trees, Keep the environment clean etc.

Laborers' Day.

To honour our Co-workers and to appreciate their hard work and service, the students put up an assembly. Through songs and skit the students appreciated all the co-workers for their service and the extra miles that they walk to keep the school clean and all up to the mark. Thank you dear Aunties and Uncles.

With the generous hands of some of our parents we were able to help few of our workers, such as in repairing the house and providing stationery and medical help for a boy who met with an accident. May God bless the generosity and willingness of our parents.

SMC 21

SMC, KANPUR

The saying "April hath put a spirit of youth in everything" by William Shakespeare is apt as the month began with celebrations, visitors, attending programmes and home visits.

2nd April, 2024, marked the beginning of the academic year 2024-25 and on this momentous occasion, the students of class XII conducted a special morning assembly on the topic, 'Honour the Past, Embrace the Present, and Co-create the Future'. Our journey doesn't end with reminiscing about the past; it extends to embracing the present with open arms and co-creating the future—a future that transcends boundaries and embraces possibilities.



Everyone was at their best in practicing the virtue of hospitality at the arrival of Srs. Isabel, Mary and Ramya from Jhansi and Sr. Shalini IBVM from Calcutta on her way to Lucknow IBVM community. Sr. Freda had the opportunity to take part in the Women's day programme organized in Kidwainagar parish along with 3 catholic women from St Patrick's parish. Sr. Bridgit had a relaxed time at home with her loved ones and returned when Sr. Annies took her turn to go home to be with her dear ones. Both of them had memorable and enjoyable time at home.

On 19th April, 2024 Pre-Primary Children had Earth Day Activity in the school. It was organised to remind them of their duties towards "Mother Land". Little angels took an oath to keep their environment clean, plant more trees and learn the importance of earth. They were indulged in craft activity in which they made tiny balls of clay and stuck them on the hand-made tree. The children were encouraged to save their environment and "Plant More Trees".



Floating and Sinking Activity was conducted for Pre primary students in the school. Through this activity, the teachers aimed to introduce young learners to the concept of how different objects interact with water. Through hands-on experiments, the children, observed which object floats and which one sinks. The children enjoyed this 'Float and Sink' activity. This activity promotes scientific thinking and encourages the children to explore, observe and experiment.



Honour to all the unsung heroes who keep our communities running smoothly as it is said, "**Without labour, nothing prospers.**"

A constant flow of gratitude and a spirit of thankfulness filled within our hearts as we celebrated International Laborers' Day on 1st May, 2024 to express our gratitude to our supportive staff. A prayer assembly was conducted by class 8th which portrayed the unwavering support of our helping staff towards our school. As a token our love and appreciation, gifts were presented to them. Our Principal Sr. Prabha C.J. thanked them and also prayed for their well being.



The zonal CRI meeting was attended by Srs Freda, Bridgit and Renu, in Fatima Convent Asokanagar on the topic, Relevance of Religious life and its effectiveness. The resource person was Fr Antony from the Catholic Arch Diocese of Agra.

“Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.” A mother's love is the most unconditional and purest form of love.

On 10th May, 2024 Pre-primary and primary children had **“Paper Roll Flower Painting”** in the school. It was organised for the children just to express their love for their mother and thank them for their unconditional love and kindness. Students of class 1 celebrated Mother's Day on Friday, 10th May, to express their love and gratitude towards their mothers. They made cards and wrote a beautiful message thanking their Mothers.



“The best colour in the whole world is the one that looks good on you.”

Children of pre-primary celebrated the ‘Red Colour Day’ on 10th May, 2024. All the little angels of pre-primary dressed up beautifully in red colour clothes won the hearts of all. The



celebration was a wonderful learning activity which helped children to sort and classify objects based on colours thereby reinforcing cognitive skills. It was a scintillating day with innocent faces gleaming and reflecting brightness, joy, love and happiness.

Hues of Blue, Gold, Green and Red have lit up the skies of St. Mary's, Kanpur for innumerable years. On 17th May, a solemn Investiture Ceremony was organised. The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp which was followed by a profound prayer assembly in which the qualities of a leader were enumerated and God's blessings were invoked on the newly appointed Cabinet. The new Student Council members were vested with badges and sashes by the respected Sisters, the House Moderators and the Games teachers. The school flag and the four House flags were handed over to the Head Girl and the Captains respectively. The hopes and delight of the students marked the momentous occasion with rhapsodies of joy.



Making cards for any occasion is a delightful activity that allows individuals to express their creativity while spreading joy to others. Card



making activity was conducted in the school on 16th May for the students of classes IX to XII.

Sr Renu received the shocking news of the sudden demise of her uncle Fr Prakash Gill. She left for home immediately to be present for the funeral of her uncle and to be with her people.

The May month devotion to our Blessed Mother was concluded on 31st May in the parish church with Holy Mass and Rosary which was attended by the community.

“Gratitude sweetens even the smallest moments”

The community gave a fitting farewell to Frs. K.K. Antony and Walter D’Silva with a solemn High mass, specially prepared dinner and gifts as they are on transfer after rendering dedicated and loving service in the school and church and very especially to the community by offering Holy Mass daily in the convent.

The community had a thanksgiving Holy Mass for Sr.Roshni for her dedicated service to the community as animator for the past three years. The sisters expressed their words of appreciation and gratitude on the occasion. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal prepared with love and gratitude.

“A soul receives spiritual enlightenment in silence and solitude.” Srs. Freda and Bridgit went to Allahabad Shanti sadan for an eight days retreat and returned spiritually enriched.

“Life takes you to unexpected places, Love brings you home”

A hearty and cheerful welcome was extended to Sr Sarita who joined the community on 26th June and Sr Marion the new animator of the community on 27th June. They were accompanied by Srs Benita and Savita and Srs Sumita and Rose respectively.

The three days recollection was conducted by Fr Suresh Mathew OFM which was an occasion for the sisters to recognize the prophetic role of the religious in the church. The talks were really soul searching and helpful to reflect and pray.

The community joined the parish for the farewell programme of Fr.K.K.Antony,Fr. Walter

D’Silva, the UMI sisters and Sr Roshni CJ. UMI sisters left the mission after 72 years of their service in the parish. Frs. Archibald and Anil were also welcomed during the programme. Everything was organized well under the guidance of Mr.Chotebhai along with the parish council members.

SMC. KATPUR

SMC 32, Prayagraj

The month of March marched out bringing the awesome April, with a message “Everyone may not be good, but there is something good in everyone.”

The new academic year 2024-25 was flagged off with the first staff meeting of the year, in which Sr. Sumita gave the Key Note Address highlighting the theme of the year, “Education for Universal Solidarity and Peace.”

Sr. Marion was invited to St. Xavier’s Patna as an External Examiner conducting Ph.D. Final Defense Viva-voce Examination for two Ph.D. Scholars on 4th and 5th April. Sr. Alma joined Sr. Scholastica to go to Rourkhela for Vocation Promotion and returned with Joy of fishing four ‘class 10’ students for us, after attending a vocation camp organized by the Diocese.

Srs. Lissy, Regina and Janet took a break to Shaktinagar to beat the heat and returned the next day refreshed after the hectic time of the year ending.

The B. Ed. Students, Srs. Alma and Grace - the first years and Sr. Tara – the second year, did well in their respective semesters. Keep up your efforts, sisters! Count on our prayers, for your finals too.



The long awaited ‘Transfer List’ is out on 20th April amidst mixed feelings. Sr. Marion was out

for a 2 day International Seminar on 26th and 27th April as a key-note speaker organized by Don Bosco College, Dimapur, Nagaland, on “Equity and Inclusivity in School Education with reference to NEP 2020”, sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research CSSR, New Delhi and came back on 30th.

The Quiz on Exodus ended with a Bumper Quiz and the third Book – Leviticus – has begun. A very good way of getting familiarized with the Holy Scriptures! Thanks to Fr. Anil Abrew the Assistant Parish Priest of the Cathedral. 26th April was the first death Anniversary of late Bishop Emeritus Isidore Fernandes. The Holy Eucharist was at 6.00 p.m. followed by ‘Agape’. How can any of us forget such a good, benevolent Soul! May God grant him Eternal Rest!

Month of May—Month of Mary: a time of sunshine, happiness and endless blessings through the intercession of Mary, our Mother. We surrendered our Nation at her feet as her people exercised their franchise for a stable Government.

Workers’ Day was kept up as usual. “Work is



worship,” said the Mahatma. We too are workers. Happy feast to all of us! The school honoured the supportive staff with prayers, wishing, some token gifts and the community served a delicious lunch. They were happy for this change from the daily humdrum of life.

In the school there was a combined celebration of Diamond, Silver Jubilees of our sisters Delphine, Rose and Surabhi, farewell of sisters who were on transfer and farewell of teachers who were retiring.

The group Mass for our Christian Children was revived with the co-operation of Fr. H. Tauro our P.P. They were given an opportunity to go for the Sacrament of Reconciliation too. After a period of almost three long years, it was a golden chance for them, for they were really missing the first Friday Mass. Two of our catholic girls were on the Key Board and the Guitar.

The holiday trip began with Srs. Delphine and Vincy on 4th May. Sr. Marion was off to Agra as a Resource Person to conduct a one-day session on “Feminist Psychology”, for the seminarians before they joined other seminaries for theological studies. Mr. Mishra, the gas dealer for us, though not well disposed, celebrated his Ruby Wedding Anniversary and some of us attended the ceremony. The couple and their family were overjoyed with our presence. May God bless their onward journey too. Sr. Sybil went to Kanpur to vote since her name was in the voter’s list there.

The next slot on the School Calendar was the Investiture ceremony. It went off well with the parents of the Student Council members returning exuberant with joy. “Patience, Persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for Success” was the message conveyed to them.



As the old adage goes, “*A simple life is a beautiful life. No regrets....just lessons, no worries....just acceptance. No expectations ...just gratitude.*” The above saying suits well with Fr. Wilfred Moras, the Rector of the Regional Seminary, Prayagraj who is announced as the Bishop Elect of the Jhansi Diocese. Congratulations, Fr. Wilfred. We are proud of you for your simplicity of life and humble acceptance of this Elevation.



In the absence of the brothers, Sr. Sumita and her team held the Choir in the Cathedral and did justice to the singing and reading during the Holy Eucharist on Sundays. Instead of 10th May, Mothers' day was kept up on 12th in the Church. At the organized recreation in the community, the 40+ honoured the 60+ for they regard the seniors as mothers. They did it with a flower to each and some fun and songs. Thank you, Young India, for your thoughtfulness!

“Three holy women Srs. Sumita, Marion and Regina who could not make the annual retreat with the community travelled to Bijnor for an Ashram experience, enjoying the scenic beauty of the Kumaon Hills and basking in the sunlight of God's Love and came back refreshed carrying an aura of God's grace around them.

Sr. Vinaya, the Lady Youth Animator, remained in Sadhana Sadan for the ADLOP (Allahabad Diocese Life Orientation Programme). May the youth imbibe the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit and come out vibrant, bubbling with new life.



Sr. Tara accompanied some 36 students with 3 staff to Indore for the Student Leadership Programme on 20th for a week. The Summer Camp for the students in various cultural and athletic activities were in progress. The campus was vibrant with a cacophony of noises for a fortnight.



Prayagraj was part of the 5th phase of the Lok Sabha elections held on 25th May. All those who were eligible and whose names were on the list, exercised their franchise, leading with Srs. Felicitas and Damascena our Nonagenarians. At the Diocesan Confirmation Day, the ADLOP concluded with a Solemn High Mass after which the Bumper Quiz winners were awarded—Sr. Grace bagged the 1st Prize and received a cash award of Rs. 3,000/-. Srs. Marion and Christina won the consolation Prizes of Rs. 500/ each. Well done, Qizzers! Arch Bp. Raphy Manjaly paid a special visit to the aged and the ailing sisters of our community and prayed for them individually before he left for Agra.

It was an honour for us to host a farewell dinner for the Bishop Elect Fr. Wilfred Moras. Fr. M Sebastian and Bro. Oswald accompanied him. A memorable day for us, 'coz we had been shaping many a Bishops in the past. How could we overlook our Parish Priest and his Assistant when they too are transferred and would be moving out from here? It was their turn next and they were more than happy by this simple gesture of ours. Praise the Lord!

The Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. With the flame of the Sacred Heart, the Mercury shot up to 45 Celsius. The 4 sisters on transfer were accorded a royal farewell during recreation. They were escorted to the recreation hall under colourful umbrellas with police Band marching with the rhythm of a 'vidayi' tune. What followed afterwards is left to everyone's imagination.

The seminary gave a special dinner to the community in honour of all those who received higher calling. On 3rd June started the Exodus, Sr. Surabhi being the first to move out. Sr. Christina expressed her desire to take a break from her confinement in the room for more than

two solid years. It was granted and she went with those who reached Sr. Surabhi, for a Varanasi 'Darshan'.

A special privilege and blessing! Fr. Sinto MCBS from Kapurtala, Punjab, his team, Mr. Joseph and Mr. K. V. Lalson with Bl. Sacrament exposed in a Motor vehicle travelling to different dioceses and Parishes came to us too and had adoration in our chapel. Thereafter the Bl. Sacrament was taken to the rooms of the ailing sisters and to the entire campus blessing every nook and corner of it.



4th June, a historic day! The results of the Lok Sabha elections! Our prayers were partially granted, reminding us that we need to intensify our prayers for a stable Government. Srs. Deepika, Lucy and Gladys from Mauranipur paid us a visit on their way to Shanti Sadan for the annual retreat. Farewell dinner was hosted by our community at Rajapur in honour of our sisters who were moving out to their new mission fields. Srs. Delphine and Vincy are back from their home leave. Welcome back, sisters! We missed you much.

Students from the school did a good job by winning accolades at the state level Hand Ball tournament. Team under seventeen won the Gold medal while Under 14 and Under 19 won the silver medal. A number of players from our school are selected to the national team.



A feather in the cap of the Diocese! The long cherished dream of St. Mary's Taraon was realized at last! Congratulations to Bishop Louis Mascarenhas for his committed endeavors, Fr. George and the CJ sisters for their relentless work! St. Mary's Taraon is affiliated to the CBSE Board. The whole month of June went in reaching, fetching, missioning etc. on 17th Sr. Janet to Lucknow, on 27th, Sr. Marion to Kanpur and on 29th, Sr. Tara, to Lucknow. Srs. Josita and Namita have joined us making the number - 20. Hearty welcome, dear sisters!

On 28th, Sr. Shweta reached Sr. Christina back from Kanudih after her pilgrimage completed. She was given a warm welcome by the community, as she entered her room, she felt like "New Heavens and New Earth" repaired and renewed newness everywhere. "Going out is good, but coming back home is better." was Sr. Christina's sincere feelings.

With Sr. Vinaya's arrival the community is complete. A heartfelt "Thank You" to all those who have moved out to take up new responsibilities, for their generous contributions to the growth of our community. May you continue to do better, where you are planted.



An Orientation Programme for the teachers on the topic "Handling 21st Century Learners" was conducted on 29th June before the school reopened. Ms. Ashoo Kalra from Varanasi was the resource person.

"Take care of yourself, not so much of the outside, but of the most precious part of you, your soul and heart. Listen to your soul in silence and speak to God, following the rhythm of your heart" **Pope Francis**

July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ. Happy New Month.

SMC -32 Community

MARY WARD BHAWAN, RAJAPUR

We thank God for the wonderful support we have received from Him last 3 months. We experienced God's powerful protection during this summer when our house was saved a possible fire when a stabilizer caught fire. No other damage happened due to God's providence.

On 4th April Sr. Joselette returned to the community after her operation from St. Mary's 32 where she was recuperating after the operation. She is grateful to all our sisters in SMC 32 and 21 who took care of her during her operation and recovery period. Srs. Sumita, Felicitas and Janet reached her to Mary Ward Bhawan.

Month of May is the month of rosary so we had every day rosary in the evening. Because of the transfers we had the 3 days recollection on 6,7 & 8th May. We spend our three days in prayer and reflection on different topics. 1st day's topic was, 'We have the power to change our circumstances'. On the 2nd day, 'Religious Vows' and on the 3rd day, 'Living a focused life'. Our three days of recollection ended with confession and holy Eucharist. After the mass Fr. Ronald joined us for the dinner.

Sr. Joselette took the initiative to conduct summer classes for our neighbouring children from 20th May to 15th June. There were 20 children attending the classes and we were able to teach them more than 1000 English words. It was so saddening that students studying in class 8 even do not know simple English words and its meaning.



This year the month of June was extremely hot so we had to close all our non-formal education centres for a month. Month of June kept us very busy with many get together. We were happy to welcome all the fathers from the seminary for a dinner in honour of Fr. Wilfred Mores, the bishop elect. It was the first time Fr. Wilfred visited our community. It Was a happy and memorable day for us.



Transfer is part of all our religious life. In order to express our gratitude to Sr. Salesia for her loving presence in Mary Ward Bhawan Community last 5 years a farewell dinner was organized in which our Sisters from SMC32 joined. She was a great support to social apostolate. Even though she was not directly involved in the field but her great concern and prayer made a great difference. On 12th evening Fr. Ronald offered a farewell mass for Sr. Salesia asking God to bless her and her new mission. After the holy mass Fr. Ronald joined us for the dinner. On 14th Srs. Lissy and Joselette reached Sr. Salesia to her new community and on 15th we welcomed Sr. Christeen to our community.

On 23rd June was the farewell of our parish priest and assistant parish priest. Sr Joselette Being the youth animator, helped the cathedral youth to give a meaningful farewell to Fr. Anil.



May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope and journey forward in our life.

Mary Ward Bhawan, Rajapur