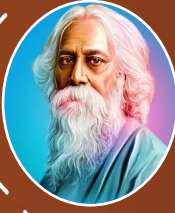


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Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time.

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE

"Education is the manifestation of perfection present already in man. Divinity is the manifestation of the religion already in man".

- SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



A person who is happy is not because everything is right in his life, He is happy because his attitude towards everything in his life is right.

- SUNDAR PICHAI

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

- B.R. AMBEDKAR



"Don't stop chasing dreams, because dreams do come true".

- SACHIN TENDULKAR



Editorial Board

Sr Malar Joseph

Sr Lalitha Thomas

Sr Sylvia Christie

From the Editor's Desk . . .

“God will carry you through the storm” - Isaiah 43:2

“Covid 19” – the word that will never be forgotten as it rings into our ears everyday with shocking incidences all around i.e. cry of the people, hunt for beds in hospitals, struggle to get oxygen cylinders, agony of the dear ones who were unable to be present for the one last time before the burial, queued up bodies in crematorium, floating bodies in the river that were thrown, blame games of the politicians etc etc... Indeed, the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic had given devastating experience in all of us as those persons who were familiar to us yesterday have disappeared forever to just remain in our memories.

At this scenario, being in a state of confusion I was pondering over the verse from the book of Revelation Chapter 21:4 “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes...” and my phone showed the pop up chat from one of the former student’s mother who is a covid volunteer. Her message read “I have been a volunteer for a year now. Speaking to dying patients families, I tried my best to revive their hopes but many a time ended up in tears. I had a Delhi patient who called the helpline only because he just wanted not to be alone when he dies. And he begged me not to disconnect the call. I just froze and listened silently as he kept gasping until the phone went silent. This has taken a big toll on my mental health but I thank the Almighty for giving me a chance to serve.” Tears stormed down my cheeks and I sighed and prayed “Oh God! Stay with us when we are alone”.

The news of death and despair poured in like the waves constantly hitting the shore one after another. Waking up suddenly with the messages of passing away of familiar ones had given most of us sleepless nights. It was almost too much to take as fear gripped and the house was at its darkest as silence seemed to scream the loudest. The siren of ambulance sent shock waves to cripple the spirit of joy, peace and the routine.

Death has visited the rich and the poor, sick and healthy, young and old as no one is exempted... yet it is only God can provides answer to death. Life is tough but God never fails to provide assistance to see us through the most painful moments. Indeed, God will bring us through these passing moments. For the will of God will never take us to where the grace of God cannot protect us.

“Try God” – a thought to ponder

When troubles are deep and your world is dark,
don't give up hope, “TRY GOD”...

When life turns sour and you've lost your way,
don't give up hope, “TRY GOD”...

When fears stack up and you're sure no one cares,
don't give up hope, “TRY GOD”...

When temptation comes knocking and you struggle with it so,
don't give up hope, “TRY GOD”...

ROAD LESS TRAVELLED BY

My anniversary journey to Congo began in 2008, during the General Chapter. I participated in the chapter and seeing our senior sisters in Cantaoús and their longing to have sisters there. I could not but opt for Cantaoús. For that I opted to be out of school and the responsibilities associated with it. Before leaving for India from France, Sr. Mercy asked me if I can be part of the team of sisters going to begin Congo Mission and I accepted it.

After two years, in 2010, Angel Mercy and I set out for France for the preparation to enter Congo and to learn French. It was decided that we will be part of the community of 'La Residence' with sisters Marie France, Monegina and Marie St. Jean, and Monigua as our French teacher. Being close to the sanctuary of Lourdes was a very special grace for me. This being my first break from school, I took this year as a God given opportunity for my personal renewal.

Being part of the Mother House was indeed a rich experience. The spirit of our Foundation still 'hover' over and around Cantaoús. One can easily feel it through their enthusiasm (which is special!), openness, generosity and commitment to everything around there, no matter how small it is and how old they are for it! I was enthused to represent each of our sisters there and go to Congo in their place, and pass on the treasure I received from them to our young Congolais sisters.

Life has been rather hard in Congo, compared to what we live in India and France. We lived just for the day as we were constantly affected by the epidemics of malaria and typhoid, and attacked from political rebels, military and police. We always lived with the minimum, including medical facilities, which was a cause of great concern for us and when any of us had major health problems. We remained always alert to this with fear.

Living in insecurity was part of our life in Congo. But to my great surprise, all fears used to vanish in two or three days, even forget the details and lived as if nothing happened. This is the part played by God and He being with us constantly, He even cancelled off our fears be it small or big, that we could continue with our daily duties. Even our people suffered a lot. They even suffer hunger, which we did not have to suffer. But I

must confess that the only two shocks that linger and surface often is seeing the rebels with weapons, even ready to kill us, the military and police robbery of our house. We lost many of our valuables and cash but were saved with minor problems. Surely it was a miracle that they left us alive.



Sr. Rita Thomas

Everything became possible without much of our own efforts, with a very simple and open community. We were together in everything and always alert to protect the other even at the cost of our own safety. God took charge of us.

When a community is called for a challenging mission God steps in there nothing else matters except the mission entrusted to us. Everything becomes easy to handle as God deals with the burdens, is a part of it and we just go ahead with our daily life. We found joy in doing small and insignificant acts at times.

Call to the missions is a special one. It is not so much of my like or dislike but "mission takes hold of you" and I can't but follow the whisperings of my being. Again, thoughts of mission lingers in my being and I am prepared to take another missionary journey again ! I conclude

Two roads diverged into the wood, and
I took the one less travelled by
And that made all the difference.
Robert frost.

Sr. Rita Thomas

St. Joseph's Convent Dicarpale - Goa

Mercies of God experienced during quarantine and illness of COVID 19

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; (Lam 3: 22 – 23b)

It is indeed true that the MERCIES of God have been unceasing and new every morning. All the more vivid for us, with the onslaught of this lethal virus CORONA and the consequences.

Amidst uncertainties, anxieties and devastating moments that alarmed us about taking the necessary precautions, to do away with the consequences of the pandemic COVID 19, least did we realize that we will fall a prey to this deadly virus.

On 20th April 2021, I was down with severe symptoms of the virus and got isolated immediately. Next morning tested for RTPCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) and reported POSITIVE, the same evening. Along with me our sisters Lucy Pinto, Lalitha and Elizabeth C.S were also tested positive and all four of us were quarantined for the next 14 days.

As for me, these were crucial days that were physically and mentally traumatizing with warnings of this deadly disease through agonizing bodily aches and pains, rise in the temperature, nausea, headache, restlessness and to top it all total loss of smell and taste. At times, a sense of loneliness, anxiety and the news featuring people battling for life, haunted me and brought before me the imminent reality of mortality. But in all such moments, I want to claim that the MERCIES and COMPASSION of GOD were the abiding, reassuring source of my strength and continues to be so.

God's mercies were quite tangible in the way, our sisters in the JNC community looked after us to get us back to life in the way I am today. They were so attentive, caring, selfless, daring to risk even their own health at times when they found me struggling.

On 27th April I took very ill, with fever, severe nausea and an upset stomach. All I could experience was the feeling of deterioration, exhaustion and depletion of energy from me and a recurring thought that the 27th of April was going to be my last day on this earth.



Sr. Louiza Sebastian

I did make an act of surrender to the LORD saying continuously LORD LET YOUR WILL BE DONE IN MY LIFE. But the Lord came so powerfully, overwhelming with His mercies to visit me continuously through my sisters of the community, province and the congregation through their incessant prayers, adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of Rosary, and Divine Mercy Chaplet imploring the Lord and enabling me to receive healing day by day. Besides all of my sisters, the family members, friends, well-wishers and staff backed me with their prayers. And above all the doctors who gave me adequate online consultations were frequently checking on my progress.

It is my deep conviction and experience that this is the doing of the Lord in His MERCY and COMPASSION.

Each time I recall the days spent in quarantine and illness, tears gush forth in gratitude to the Lord our God and the words of Psalmist echoes through me as reflected in Psalm 103: 1 – 4

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

And all that is within me bless His holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities,

Who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

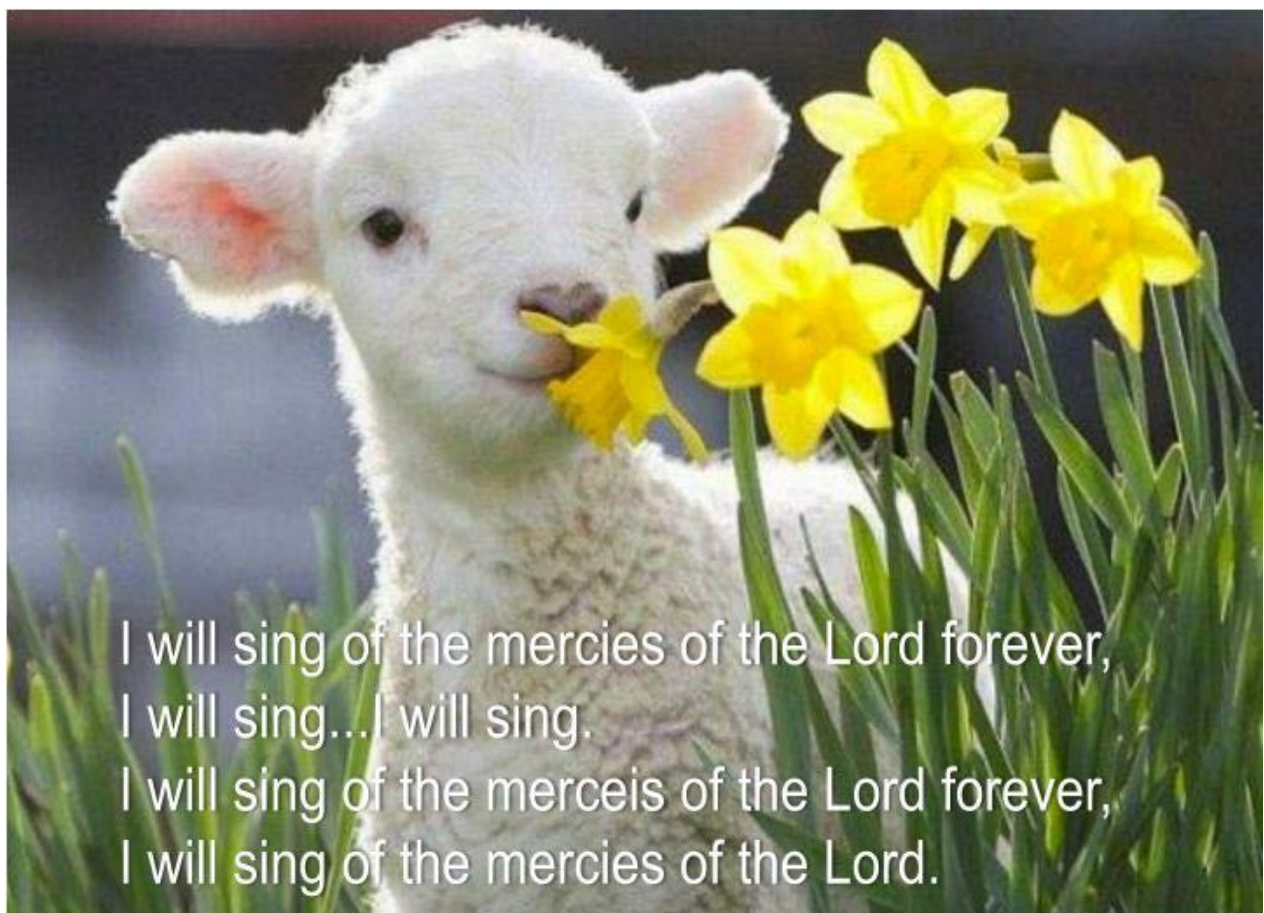
Getting back to health, post COVID is another opportunity for me to testify the new lease of life God has blessed me with. Though I find it difficult at times to come to terms with the demise of, four of our sisters, I ask no questions, for it is beyond my fathom but humbly surrender seeking God's blessings to remain in fidelity to the gift of consecration bestowed upon me in this family of Sisters of St Joseph of Tarbes.

Apart from being a cancer survivor, I am also a COVID survivor and this is possible solely because - HIS MERCIES TOWARDS ME ARE CONSTANT AND STEADFAST.

I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Mercy Jacob Our Superior General and Sr. Fatima Felix General Secretary for enquiring about the progress literally every day and for the assurance of prayers. I am indebted to each one of you my dear sisters for accompanying me with your share of prayers, good wishes and blessings. No words can express the profound gratitude I owe to all my sisters in the JNC community.

The absence of Sr. Lucy looms large in my mind and presses my heart from time to time. But I am just a mortal who cannot unravel the ways of the Almighty and I remind myself persistently to plead for His grace to remain anchored in this life with the mercies and compassion of the Lord.

Sr. Louiza Sebastian



I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing...I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

**We are because of Him (Jesus), who has called us in LOVE
To love, care, heal, bless.....I live because He lives.....**

I join with the Psalmist and praise God because for I know that the world is in His powerful hands. For God declares, "When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm" (Ps 75:3). This is what is happening today, come what may God is in control and helping us to experience His presence and depend on Him totally. Even though the world may look chaotic, God has it in His control. One hymn that expresses this truth well is "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

The months - April and May 2021, has been a month of illness and pain, death and suffering. Day and night I received message of illness, death either about our sisters or about our family members or about our staff or students. Though it was a very difficult and a hard time that we passed through, Jesus the caring Good Shepherd was beside us, with us in our moments of sorrow and grief. Every day I would cry out on my knees 'Lord be merciful, have mercy on us and on the whole world'. In my illness I began to experience like St. Paul, 'it is not I who live but Christ who lives in me'. God has given me a new life and each new day, as I wake up from sleep there runs in me, an awe and wonder! I am alive and a deep sense of gratitude for the gift of life.

Although I was in quarantine the Lord blessed me with His strength, though unable to get out, reach out as I wished and would have but I could only reach out through the phone and be connected with everyone. I thank God for this means of communication and connectivity. I thank God for the gift of my sisters and for their generous service in this time of pandemic.

Humanly speaking the most difficult time to experience the mercy of God was the departure of our four sisters to His heavenly abode. Yes, as He promises there are many mansions in heaven than here in the hospitals. What a time we are in to be on queue to get a bed in the hospital. Psalm 23 gave me comfort and courage very specially the verse 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me'. Ps.23:4.

However, helplessness in the face of death and sickness surmounted me for a while but soon the

peace of Christ reigned over me. In this entire journey God stood by us, covering us with His mercy and love. Comforting us as a mother would and is our tower of strength helping us as a loving father. The LORD is gracious and merciful, compassionate to all who call on Him, slow to anger and abounding in love. Ps. 103:8



Sr. Lalitha Thomas

The Hope that we place on God is a hope based on someone who has never ever failed and knows what is best for us. We don't always understand why God does and for what He does. But one thing I am sure that God wants to draw us closer to Him, to tell Him, lament to Him, and be comforted. He wants us to be honest. He can handle it. We just have to surrender allowing Him to reveal to us His plan and purpose in His time.

At this time of our life the Lord desires that we live by His standard. His standards are perfect. His standards are loving, kind and full of mercy and understanding. God wants us to be: vibrant and blooming wherever He has planted us, no matter what the season is. It means we go out each day with a smile on our face and a spring in our step trusting that God is working behind the scenes of our lives and for our good. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Rom: 8:28 God has blessed us to be a blessing to everyone – to love, care, heal and bless in our words and gesture in this time of social distance. As we spend time with Him, He will renew our spirit and restore our peace. This is our hope and prayer.

*We are under the wings of God Himself. Ps: 91:4
We will not fear, for God is in control. Most Holy
Trinity, we trust you.*

Love you my dear sisters Sr. Lalitha

By His wounds, we are healed - Isaiah 53 :5

God has healed us by His wounds. Praise the Lord!

I personally believe that Corona Virus is one of the divine and beautiful revelations that the Lord has given to us. About the harm done to His creation; and He in His magnanimity is healing it, by limiting the movement of man, proving his helplessness against the power of nature. But at the same time, God in His goodness and providence has not abandoned man; rather chose to shed His precious blood for each one of us. The innovation of vaccine is a pure sign of God's mercy. He is making sure that we respond to nature with responsibility; and at the same time, He is here to protect us by Vaccine, through **His Merciful Blood from His wounds**.

I am one of the luckiest persons to be healed by His Blood from His wounds. Again it is my personal experience that

Covishield vaccine is safe and highly effective in preventing severe forms of covid 19. I was vaccinated on 26th April and on the same night I had severe headache, body pain, running



nose and throat pain. I have heard many say that vaccines have adverse effects; especially the elders. Therefore, many opt not to take the vaccine in fact, this is bound to happen, if our body is in good condition. Actually, the vaccine fights with our body and the virus is being inserted into our immunity system. It is during this time, our body reacts because it is an additional booster to the already positioned immunity power. Therefore, we don't have to be worried about it. In my case, I isolated myself; because in my community most of our sisters are elderly.

I had been to Bijapur along with our sisters for the blessing of the new church, to be on the safer side, the following day after my return to Bangalore,

I went for a Covid test; also started to take antibiotics and symptomatic tablets. After 3 days, the test confirmed that I was positive for covid. Immediately, I quarantined myself. I was taken care by my community sisters. I am grateful to them.



Sr. Rita Francis

Jesus, my master, the divine healer, healed me. With the prayers of my sisters, friends and my family I recovered very soon.

What I strongly believe is, that the vaccine is 'a divine element' that has helped me not to get into complications.



I am grateful to God first of all. Then am obliged to my nation for the vaccine. I have heard from the expert doctors, that vaccination is the only Divine Blood, that can save our nation and mankind. One thing we

need to understand is that if we are vaccinated it does not mean that we will not get infected with covid in future; but the complications could be avoided.

Therefore, as children of our all-benevolent God, let us all thank Him for the vaccines and let us encourage each other, to take the vaccine. Let us save humanity, keeping in mind that human beings are only a part of His creation and not the owners to destroy it.

Sr. Rita Francis

His Grace is Sufficient for Me

“Everything works unto good for those who love God.” - Romans 8:28. Yes! These words proved true in my life as God had a special plan in revealing His love and mercy towards me. My life was moving smoothly in full swing, only concentrating on my studies and other usual activities of the community. Then, I felt all the symptoms of Covid-19. Initially it was just a viral fever, never have I thought that I would be infected with Covid-19? But when the test report showed positive, naturally I was down in spirit. Then I realized the providence of God. I did not have much infection as it was detected early. Though I went through immense fear & anxiety from within and all around me, I could place my trust in the Lord and take courage, as the days gradually went by. During these days of quarantine, it was a time of grace to introspect my life, to be in touch with myself. Spending more time with God in prayer, in silence and in solitude. I did experience God’s presence close to me, His immense love and infinite mercy accompanying me each moment. I used to pray Psalm 91 which really helped me to experience God’s protection in the most difficult times. It was very painful to know that other sisters too were tested positive. I felt blessed to be able to pray and make little sacrifices for the healing of our sisters. I express my deepest gratitude to God for over shadowing

me with His merciful love, healing touch, His graciousness, His words of comfort which brought consolation and great hope at the time of sickness and despair. I am ever grateful to Sr. Leela and Sr. Linet for their generosity, their spirit of sacrifice and their commitment towards the healing ministry. I say a very big ‘thank you’ to them for taking care of me with great love and concern. Big ‘thanks’ to each sister of my community for seeing to my every need and providing me with all that I needed to be healed. ‘Bigger thanks’ to my SJT family for their constant prayer and support.



Sr. Saroja Mary

The Lord has His own way of bringing us out through the darkest times and it is my strong conviction that His grace is sufficient for me. He works in ways we cannot see yet we feel His love through the people around us.

Sr. Saroja Mary

All glory and praise and thanksgiving to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for the gift of good health and feeling of well-being.

It all began with a common cold and cough. I was in my relative’s house in Bangalore. Consulted a doctor on-line and took the treatment. It did not help me. Sr. Leela advised me to do a test for Covid –19 and the report came as positive. No sooner got the result I was taken to St. Martha’s Hospital. When I look back into those 10 days before hospitalization and 9 days after hospitalization, was nothing but only the intervention of God on time. The fervent petitions and prayers of all our sisters, relatives and friends have helped me to recover from covid. I was unable to pray all those days, but was affirmed through one phone call or another that prayers are going up to God for me. That gave me courage, strength, hope and confidence that even if I am not able to pray others are interceding for me.

During this time of illness and hospitalization I realized and experienced God’s mercy, love, peace, forgiveness, healing, and protection through prayer. My faith, trust and confidence in God has

been strengthened. In the hospital, the nurses wearing PPE Kit worked like they had many legs and hands to reach out to patients at the same time, without thinking of themselves, their discomfort and suffocation caused by this PPE Kit. They need our prayers and support as well as the patients suffering with the severity of this disease. It is only by God’s grace and through your prayers my dear sisters that I am healed of my sickness. Thank you, sisters, for your powerful prayers for me and for all of us who were sick. I am grateful to God for each one of you. God bless you and keep you in His loving care and protection.



Sr. Alicia

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped”. Psalm- 28:7

I would like to share my experience of God's healing power in my life, when I was tested positive for corona virus. God was my strength in my weakness and a very present help in time of need. I journeyed with the symptoms of body aches and mild fever. 2nd May, I went for a corona test, it was negative and was treated with antibiotics for viral fever. I was fine with the antibiotics but fever persisted and I continued with another course of antibiotics for three days, which did not help. Then a covid test was taken and I was tested positive for corona virus. The fear of corona virus had a more negative impact on me than covid itself. Was started with the covid medication the same evening and all other symptoms slowly added to my fever like loss of appetite, breathlessness, tiredness, body pain, etc. God gave me the strength to accept the sickness, with a positive attitude. My only hope and trust were in the Lord that He will help me in my weakness and heal me.

I say this for the glory of God, that He was mighty to save and heal me from all my pains and sickness.

Whenever I was in pain I would say - **“Lord my God, I am calling on your name for help, Jesus please heal me”**. God did hear my cry. I was much comforted with His presence and healing touch. I spent a lot of time in silence and solitude, talking to Jesus. This kept me alive from the dreadful virus. I felt protected because Jesus was covering me under the shadow of His wings. I began to spend more time with the Lord, asking Him to protect His people from Covid-19 pandemic and people who are going through suffering like me. I was able to overcome my loneliness. I started to recover gradually.

My life in quarantine was a new and miraculous experience. I learnt to live with the virus and fight the virus. This paved the way for me to have a personal encounter with Jesus and I experienced His faithfulness and love for me. This kept me in a positive state of mind. It is not easy to get a positive attitude when we are low in our spirit but with God, it is possible to have such an attitude and can overcome all impossibilities and uncertainties.



Sr. Anthony Rani

The love, care and concern of the sisters of my community gave me the strength to recover from covid, very fast. I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Euphrasia who took the trouble to call me every day to enquire about my health and giving the medicine for my cough and cold. I thank Sr.

Rose Coutinho who took care of all my physical needs- bringing food, spending time with me, etc. I thank our front-line warriors, sister nurses: - Sr. Leela, Sr. Linet and Sr. Savariammal, who were like guardian angels, being with me till I could recover from covid. I thank all the prayer warriors- the sisters of our province for upholding me with their constant prayers and support. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the religious and lay people for praying for my speedy recovery. **“Faith moves the Hand of God”**

With Showers of God's of blessings.....

Sr. Antony Rani

The Lord is my strength and my shield
in him my heart trusts and I am helped
with my song I give thanks
to him. Psalm 28:7

I will sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever

We live in difficult and trying times; thousands of lives are being lost every day. For many their hopes, dreams and plans are shuttered. We don't see any end to this pandemic in the near future. But we believe in "there is a silver lining in every dark cloud".

The second wave of the pandemic had already hit us in the month of March. But we took it lightly and we were careless in observing the norms of pandemic. We at St. Joseph's convent, Frazer town, were not spared, when one by one was tested positive, we woke up to the reality of covid 19 and began to take precautions. Some of the sisters had already taken the vaccine, there were side effects. We had to go through a lot of discomfort and some symptoms were that of covid 19.

Our visitors rooms were turned into mini hospital. It was efficiently managed by Sr. Leela and assisted by Srs. Linet and Savari. Sr. Catherine was a great support to them during these moments of crisis. Our young sisters were available to serve the sick with love. "When I was sick you took care of me, now enter the kingdom of my Father". We do admire and appreciate the courage of our dear sisters, the "covid warriors" to risk their lives in order to stand by our sisters to offer them comfort and consolation in the hospital and in the convent. We are grateful to you dear sisters for your spirit of generosity and commitment.

In our helplessness we cried to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness by intensifying our prayer and spent quality time with the Lord for the speedy recovery of our sisters. Some of them experienced the warmth of God's healing love and returned home. We were happy to have them back in the convent.

We were saddened at the loss of our dear sisters, Josephine Hoover, Josephine Lobo, Jessy and Lucy Pinto. Losing them one by one was very painful. We mourned their death silently, experiencing helplessness and deep sorrow. Dear sisters we feel your absence in and around the convent. May your souls rest in peace.

Life has it's moments and each moment is precious in it's own unique way. It will give us a lesson and would teach us something or the other. This

lesson we will preserve for the rest of our life.

At this juncture we gratefully remember the covid warriors, the doctors, nurses, health workers, ambulance drivers and all other volunteers who offered timely help to the covid patients and to their families.

"Love much. There is no waste in freely giving.

More blessed is it, even, than to receive.

He, who loves much, alone finds life worth living

Love on, through doubt and darkness and believe.

There is no thing which love may not achieve".

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

A meaningful life is not being rich, being popular, being highly educated or being perfect. It is being humble, being sensitive to the needs of others and being able to share our lives to the point of being able to touch the lives of others.

It is good to ask ourselves:

- * What kind of life I have lived so far?
- * What legacy am I going to leave behind?
- * How do I want to be remembered by future generation?

Brandan Lee says "immortality is to live your life doing good things and leaving your mark behind".

God speaks to me through people, events and situations and I on my part need to reach out to others with love.

Thank you

Sr Louisa Matthias



Sr. Louisa Matthias

The Greatness and Mercy of God

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Ps.9:1

Dear God,

Thank you for your amazing power and work in my life, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over me. Thank you that you are able to bring hope, through the toughest of times and strengthened me for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you that you are always with me and will never leave me.

My Experience

I used to see in the news, the struggles of the people who were moving from one hospital to another to get admission for covid patients. The same experience I went through when sisters took me from hospital to hospital and I was refused everywhere. The grace of God worked through Sr Leela and Susureh our Computer service person to get a bed in Jalappa Medical hospital, Kolar. In those moments of crisis and desperate situations, my only strength was Jesus. **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."** Phil 4:6, the word of God that helped me to surrender myself to His will. My prayer was 'Jesus give me life I want to serve you.' He did hear my cry and the cry of my Sisters.

In my ward we were seventeen of us. It was a great blessing for me to render my little service to the needy patients. I was also able to vibrate God's healing touch towards them. I learnt from them to accept joyfully all the discomforts. I did not feel alone in the hospital. I was very peaceful in the company of other patients. I began to spend more time in being with the Lord and praying for the suffering people in the world.

My Sincere Gratitude

Words seem inadequate to express my gratitude to our dear sisters Sonia Pinto, Hrudaya Mary and Vinitha. They have taken every trouble and risk in saving my life. I experienced God's grace through

them. Thank you, dear sisters for your selfless service, towards me.

My sincere gratitude to our dear Sisters in Tarbes, St. Joseph Covent and all the communities of our Province, you have constantly supported me through your prayers and also encouraged me through your kind words, which strengthened my hope in God. I thank each one of you dear sisters.



Sr. Jaya

I am deeply touched by our Sisters of other Provinces and Regions, I saw in the video that my name was written and placed before the altar and prayed for me. I felt the power of their prayer and I experienced the healing hand of God. Thank you, dear sisters, through your prayers you have helped me to deepen my relationship with God and strengthen my faith in Him.

I thank my companions, who constantly kept in touch with me and encouraged me with their inspiring messages which gave courage to accept in joy all my discomforts. Thank you my dear companions.

My humble Prayer for my Sisters

God of goodness, I place all of my sisters in your care and protection. Bless them with good health and strength and keep them Dear Lord ever closer to you.

Sr. Jaya

Significance of Covid Warrior

- C - stands for Consecrated life
- O - stands for Others' centeredness
- V - stands for vocation
- I - stands for Integration
- D - stands for Dedicated life
- W - stands for Walk with God
- A - stands for Accept reality
- R - stands for Rely on God
- R - stands for Respect other lives
- I - stands for Imbibe the values and healing ministry of Christ
- O - stands for Open to God, to oneself and to the needy
- R - stands for Respond, do not React

2 Corinthians 12:9 “....My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.....”

Though I am weak, the grace of God strengthens me to become a COVID WARRIOR and to integrate the above values. I depend on the Power and Mercy of God as I journey my life in faith each day. With my little mind, I am unable to understand the misery of the suffering humanity.

But I willingly reach out to render my services, accompanying my sisters to the hospital and visiting them without any fear.

I do take care of myself with covid precautions. I completely rely on God's mercy and compassion. Prayer is my only weapon and strong hold, to overcome all the impossibilities and uncertainties that mankind is facing today.



Sr. Savariammal

Grace is when God gives us
Good things, that we don't deserve
Mercy is when He spares us from bad things, we deserve
Blessings are when He is generous with both.
Trust the past to God's mercy
Present to God's love and the Future to God's providence.



“No greater love a person can have than to lay down his/her life for others.” (Jn15:13)

This was the passage that motivated me and enabled me to go out of myself fearlessly, risking my own life. When the world shudders with fear and runs away from a person, who is tested positive for covid 19, God gave me the love and courage to reach out to our sisters. When we have love in our hearts, we are filled with a supernatural grace, energy and strength to give ourselves fearlessly and tirelessly in the service of others, especially those who suffer.

At the wake of this current covid 19 the entire nation was shaken because it was unprepared to face the rapid spreading pandemic. With the upcoming of the second phase everything turned upside down, for the whole nation was gasping for breath. ...

With the outbreak and spread of the virus, the lack of resources, health care, infrastructure and many other facilities, increased the fear and anxiety in the hearts and minds of the people. Shortage of support system and lifesaving equipments, continuous death of patients in ICUs, hospitals, frequent loss of health care personnel, long hours of duty in the hazy PPE without food and water, fear of carrying the killer virus home and infecting the entire family and reasons much more created panic, frustration, stress, fear and anxiety among the Frontliners. Doctors, Nurses, paramedical staff and volunteers were on their feet round the clock, (like soldiers ready to be martyred in a war), to save the lives of their patients, risking their own safety.

It is at this juncture we too had to face the challenge of caring for our sisters who were infected, with the virus getting harder and painful, with each passing day. As a nurse I know that appropriate donning and doffing of PPE is the only key protection for us while we take care of the infected patients. Yet when I saw our sisters struggling to get up, unable to take a glass of water, to eat the food kept on table, falling down- not able to help themselves, I could no longer think of my self-protection rather reach out to them with love, compassion, understanding and to do the necessary needful to ease their pain, discomfort, loneliness and helplessness. Be it day or night we

had to plead for hours together looking for a bed in the hospitals, ambulance assistance, long hours of waiting in the emergency for registration and admission. There were days and nights when we had to witness the agony of our sisters and others suffering in the ICU. Anxiety, fear, disappointments, stress, frustration,

fatigue were inevitable. Reaching back after a horrifying experience of the night amidst all the covid positive cases, we get another painful news about someone passing away. Immediately rush to that hospital to do all the formalities which take several hours and then follow our sisters during their last journey. This really required courage, commitment, generosity and selflessness. This was possible only with the Divine power and strength lavished on us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I owe my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Linet who was with me and it is together that we faced all these challenges totally trusting in the Lord and Him Alone.

While at the Hospital we encountered patients and their relatives who have extremely suffered grief and pain due to the illness or the death of their loved ones. It was really heartbreaking to see people gasping for breath, waiting in a long queue for oxygen, some of them coming all alone-none to accompany, some collapse and drop down, and some others carrying the dead body of their near and dear ones. Each time I witnessed all this my heart was filled with gratitude to the Creator-God, for the precious Gift of Life, His incredible GIFT - the free air that we breathe, the breath that we take every moment. This also led to a thought, how the goodness of God was/is taken for granted by humanity.

These forty days have been an experience of prayerful journey for me where I had to discover and bow down to the infinite plan of God and experience His boundless love and mercy for me and for my sisters. A constant attitude of surrender and a discernment for His will became a daily way of life for me. Every moment that I spent before the Lord turned to be a source of Divine



Sr. Leela Pamplany

strength, power, courage and wisdom to accept His will. The ever willing, generous, cheerful and tireless services of my sisters especially Linet and Savari, always geared me with more enthusiasm and creativity to take care of our sisters in the Hospital and on quarantine. I must mention the valuable contribution and support of an UNSEEN WARRIOR – Sr. Catherine Charles, with all her sisterly guidance, wisdom and care followed us like a shadow in making all the arrangements gently and quietly during this testing time.

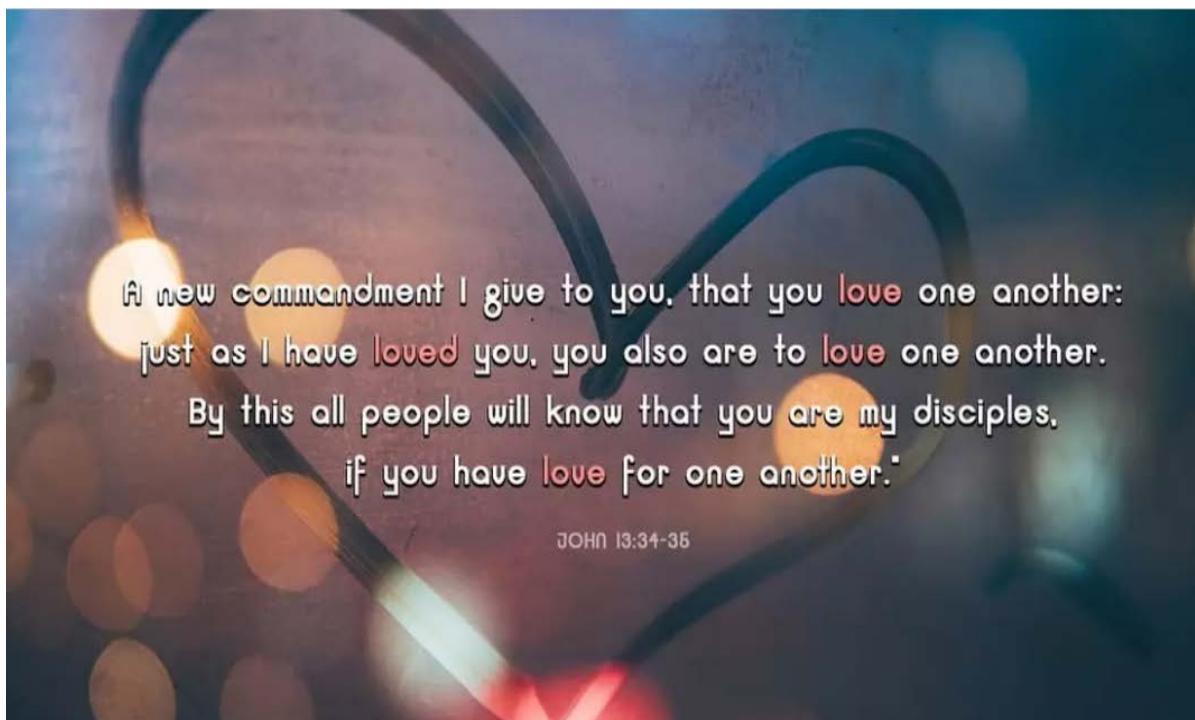
My special gratitude to Sr. Mercy Jacob our Superior General who was in constant touch with me, several times a day, to enquire about the health condition of our sisters and expressed her deep concern. Sr. Fathima Felix used to wait for us to reach back to the convent, late nights, to ensure our safety. I am truly moved by your gestures of love and concern dear sisters. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Dear sister Nalini, for being a pillar of strength to us. You went that extra mile to be with us sister, risking your own life, several times. The prayerful and loving support of my sisters and their concern certainly was a great source of strength for me. These were the moments I experienced the Gift of our Charism of Communion alive in our midst. Tears of gratitude overwhelm me as I

pen these few lines ...“for God has been our shield and protection. Our God is an awesome God who walks with us and takes care of our every need. When you walk through the waters I will be with you, you will not be drowned; when you walk through fire, you will not be burned. For I am with you” (Isaiah 43:1–5). Truly a living experience of His Unconditional love, goodness and mercy. I thank God and marvel at His wondrous works—the way He brought healing to our sisters. May God grant eternal rest to our sisters who have reached their heavenly abode.

Dear friends, let us not turn away from our brothers and sisters who are suffering but take an extra step to reach out to them like the good Samaritan. Let us give hope to the despair, comfort for the sorrowing, assurance for the doubting, reconciliation for the divided, freedom for the oppressed, and friend for the forgotten, gentleness to the annoyed, wholeness to the broken, peace to the disturbed, and may we be like the sanctuary lamp drawing everyone to the heart of God.

Sr. Leela Pamplany



“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

St. Teresa of Avila says “Christ has no body, but yours: No hands, no feet but yours: Yours are the eyes with which he looks.”

With deep sense of joy and gratitude in my heart I am happy to share my little experience of taking care and assisting our dear Sisters as we were heavily shaken by Covid –19 pandemic. Tossed between fear, anxiety and uncertainties within and around, I was able to take this daring step to become a ray of hope, love and support. It was indeed frightening and a difficult task to be in the hospitals most of the days and nights in accompanying, admitting and in reaching out to our sisters who were victims of this virus. I was able to feel the mighty power of God leading me, giving me the courage and physical strength to handle the situations with Him who strengthens me. I was able to be at the service of our sisters without thinking of myself and my safety, trusting in God’s care and protection. There was an experience of inner joy and satisfaction above all the experience of God’s mercy.

I did feel the power of the prayers, care, concern and support of all our sisters.

There were times of regrets and helplessness when we were unable to be with the sisters when they were hospitalized, suffering, were in need of someone to be with them to utter a word of comfort and consolation even at their death bed. At the end of each day, I grew into an attitude of surrender to the Divine Plan of God to be fulfilled in the life of our sisters and in the world at large though it was not easy.

I got ample of opportunities to be in touch with the suffering humanity.... the anxiety.... utter helplessness... rush in the emergencies.... constant struggle to get a bed.... which were heart breaking to witness. The selfless service and dedication of the doctors, nurses, health workers and the volunteers did reveal the Divine Touch of the LORD. God’s love and mercy was experienced by us every moment as He kept us safe and sound in His loving palm.



Sr. Linette



I express my sincere gratitude to Sr. Leela who had been our guiding force and who acted promptly in every situation in spite of all the risk factors involved. She was indeed a good coordinator between

doctors, sisters in authority and other communities by getting the daily updates, even the news of the demise of our very dear Sisters, which was not so easy to accept. She has gone through the pain much more than us.

As I recall and relive this little experience of mine, I experience the power and grace of the Lord daily telling me, “My grace is sufficient for you.” Let us continue to become the body, the hands, the feet and the eyes of the LORD IN THE WORLD TODAY AND ALWAYS....

Sr. Linette

Here is a small write up given by the Sisters of Jyothi Nivas Community:

It is a great privilege to be called and sent by the Lord on a mission.

By His grace Sr. Josephine Hoover generously responded to His call. We the sisters at Jyoti Nivas College community had the privilege of living with Sr. Josephine Hoover for 9 years and 3 months as our animator. In these precious years we had the glimpse of our dear Sr. Josephine Hoover's glory on this earth.

We are indeed grateful to God for her presence in the community as an animator, when many refused, she bravely accepted depending on God's power and strength. She remained faithful to her precious call to a consecrated life in the family of sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes and allowed God to act through her. She was faithful to all the spiritual exercises and was very efficient in animating the community. Sister made enormous effort to make each one of us feel being loved, cared, was sensitive to our needs and provided them accordingly. God had blessed her with immense patience and she gave her best in the community and in the college. Sister maintained a cordial relationship with the staff, students and all those who came to our campus and built a community of love. For the first time she represented vibrantly the JNC community at the parish level. She faithfully attended parish council meetings and small Christian community prayer meetings, visited homes and was very enthusiastic carrying out the Parish activities like Mission Sunday stalls and collections.

Sister celebrated life with a hot cup of coffee and Burger wah! She would relish it. It was easy to make her happy and make peace with her. She was a courageous and forthright person. At many occasions she spoke her thought that was worth while. During important college functions, sister would be there with a smile and eyes lit up to receive people. She would grace the celebrations with her presence till the end of the programme thus honouring every event.

While at JNC, sister began to draw more closer to her beloved Lord, by saying 'yes' to His will. She chose to walk the narrow path, most of the time it was difficult and not so easy to tread on. One could trust her and confide with her, she was

always there for us. Often she was like a pillar of strength with her real and neutral presence. I felt understood, appreciated and loved by her in all these years living in communion. I am glad that in my last phone call (i.e., the day before she was admitted to Martha's hospital) I told her that I love her and she needs to inhale-steam and eat well, because that would help her maintain the immunity levels and it was very important for her health at that time. She was delighted to meet me and doubly happy to receive a phone call or a message from me. And I would be receiving a warm reply message immediately. After leaving JNC, a little goodies would make her a world of difference. She enjoyed good food. She was also a very good cook and would come up with new recipes and prepare delicious food for us. Sister would bake cake for all our birthdays. Her pork roast, chicken pepper fry, steamed fish, mutton biryani, adrasam, murukku, etc., we enjoyed them all.



Sr. Josephine Hoover

Sr. Josephine Hoover lived her religious life joyfully and was humble enough to acknowledge that 'I am now living more fully of my religious life'. She would say 'The light of my Lord is growing around me and making this moment immortal. I am blessed and fortunate, Thank you for each moment, for the past years, the unexpected growing, and for the truth expanding in me, I remain grateful to you O God'.

Thank you my dear Sr. Josephine Hoover, 'Deep at the center of your being was an infinite well of love – all these years you have so generously allowed this love to flow to the surface'. Now we pray that **only goodness and kindness follow you all the days of your life; and you shall dwell in the house of the LORD.**

Now as you are in the heavenly abode we are sure you will intercede for us, support and strengthen us with your prayers.

Thank you for being a loving and wonderful sister. We love you and we miss you sister.

Lovingly Sr. Lalitha

Eulogy of Rev. Sr. Josephine Lobo

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; one who believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26)

God of Life adorned the heaven by calling Rev. Sr. Josephine Lobo to paradise. She was a perfectionist to the core. Many sisters admired her neatness, promptness, accuracy, straightforwardness, spirit of obedience, punctuality, simplicity and willingness to work hard. She also did a lot of vocation promotions, she used to share about the sisters she had recruited and who are living an exemplary religious life in the Institute. For us it is painful to realize she is no more. Memories of her goodness prevail in our hearts and sister continues to live in our hearts.

Rev. Sr. Josephine Lobo was the 3rd child of Mr. Lawrence Lobo and Mrs. Mary Lobo, born in the year 1947, in Coorg, Karnataka. A decade ago, she had lost her elder brother and sister. She has 3 younger sisters who loved her dearly. She had special concern for them and their families.

She had joined the convent in the year 1966, made her first profession in 1969 and final commitment in the year 1975. She would always speak about Chithradurga, her first community where she had stayed less than a year. Because her service was required in St. Joseph's Convent, Frazer Town, rendered service from 1970 to 1975. She had a lot to share about her experiences with our sisters, helpers, about the bakery and cows. In 1975 sister was transferred to Chickmangalore, and taught in nursery school. She also managed CCF, and boarding. In the year 1981 sister was transferred to Chickballapure, taught in primary school, managed CCF and boarding. Sister loved the boarding children, was very understanding and kind to them. In 1985 she was transferred to Holy Angel's School rendered service as a teacher for five years. Then sister continued her service as a teacher in Whitefield for two years and was transferred to Chitradurga. In Chitradurga sister was both

teaching and taking care of the boarding. From 1995 to 1997, sister continued to teach in Holy Angel's and then again, she was transferred to Whitefield where she taught for two years. From 1998 to 2006 she rendered her service in Chickballapure.

Then she was transferred to Whitefield where she taught in the school, as well as did the bursar's work in the convent. Sister served in the capacity of Headmistress of English medium school from 2008 to 2014.

Then she was happy to be in Whitefield, as bursar of St. Joseph's convent from 2014 to 2020, Sister rendered her effective service to the sisters at Divya Jyothi community her last place upon this world before she returned to her heavenly abode.

We miss your presence here upon the earth dear Rev. Sr. Josephine Lobo, and pray to the Lord to grant you the heavenly bliss.

Pray for us your sisters and send us blessings from the Lord and vocations for our dear institute. Thank you for all that you have been to us and the entire institute.



Sr. Josephine Lobo

Sr. Euphrasia and Sisters

Divya Jyothi Community

Frazer Town

Fondest Memories of Rev. Sr. Jessie S.A.

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever”. (Psalm 73:26)

It is with deep sorrow that we heard the sad demise of Sr. Jessie S.A. on 9th May 2021, around 9.30 a.m. suffering from a massive heart attack. Sister was hospitalized in St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore. She was diagnosed with Covid positive and was receiving treatment for it in the same hospital. The news of her death came as a great shock to us as we never expected her end would come so soon. We were helpless and surrendered ourselves to God's holy will.

Sr. Jessie was born on 20th July 1944. Her parents were Late Mr. Anthony Dass and Mrs. Antoniamma at KGF, Marikuppam, St. Paul's Parish, Bangalore Diocese, Karnataka.

Sr. Jessie S.A. joined the institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes in 1963, initiated into Novitiate on 9th January 1964 and made her 1st Profession on 9th January 1966. Sister's perpetual profession was on 29th May 1972. She rendered her service in different Communities such as Bowring hospital, Coromandel, Chitradurga, Chickmangalore, Robertsonpet, Champion reefs, Amalaham and Bangalore as a teacher and a social worker (prison ministry).

Much of the 77 years of her life sparkled with enduring activities and selfless service to society. As a teacher and headmistress, she was a mother figure to several children teaching and mentoring them to a virtuous life, especially the poor children.

As a responsible citizen, she stood and fought for social issues such as justice to the oppressed at any given opportunity.

The WhatsApp group formed by the beneficiaries, well wishers and her friends, as soon as they came to know about the sudden demise of sister, all of them remembered

her gratefully and paid their respectful homage to her. They also expressed that “Perhaps god's providence to end her fruitful life on Mother's Day was no coincidence. It turned out to be symbolic of the fact that she had been a mother figure to the many she had



Sr. Jessie

reached out to in love and service. She will forever be remembered for leaving behind a blueprint for all posterity on how to be a woman of substance through her life”.

Sister has given her life on the Mother's day. She has been a mother to many poor people and had a good relationship with priests and the lay faithful.

We thank God for you dear Sr. Jessie and for all the services to the poor.

“ LOVE AND DEATH ARE THE TWO GREAT HINGES ON WHICH ALL HUMAN SYMPATHIES TURN”.

– **B.R HAYDEN**

Sr. Roseline Mary

Romans 14:8 “For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

“Hear my word oh Lord; Listen to my sigh. Hear my cry for help, My King and my God.” (Ps.5:1-3) Could this have been the prayer and cry of Sr. Lucy, as she went through treatment for nearly a month in the hospital, before Jesus called her home to be with Him on 17th May 2021?

“Lives are like rivers: eventually they go where they must. Not where we want them to.” (Richard Russo) All of us prayed with deep faith and hope that Sr. Lucy will be back with us, but God willed that she be with her beloved in her eternal home, so we surrender and say “Thy will be done”.

Sr Lucy Pinto was born on 28th May 1956 to Antony B. Pinto and Piad Pinto, in Bantwal, the 5th in the family of 6 siblings Sylvia Pinto the elder sister of Sr. Lucy was already a member of the SJT Institute. Sr. Lucy entered Postulancy in the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Tarbes on 2nd February 1982 and the Novitiate on 30th November 1982. She made her first profession on 8th December, 1984 and final profession on 26th May 1991.

She lived such a dedicated, authentic, and exemplary life which left a profound impact on the sisters of the community and the people of the locality in which she lived. She was truly a missionary, filled with passion for Christ and His people. Sr Lucy in her various capacities as a teacher, formator, vocation promoter and animator served the Church, the SJT Institute and the society with an ardent love and commitment.

Her first appointment was in Mayapur, in the State of Bihar. She rendered her services in this Mission from 1985 – 86, and in Bundu from 1986 to 87. From 1987 to 88 she was teaching at St Joseph’s Convent, Mumbai and from 1988 - 89 was engaged in teaching and pastoral work

in Pirna, Goa. After her final profession in 1991, she was given the responsibility of vocation promotion. Her ability, commitment and sense of responsibility was clearly seen during these years. She manifested a child-like simplicity and a joyful attitude.



Sr. Lucy Pinto

Her mission of formation began in 1992. She was in charge of Pre-Postulants from 1992-95 and Mistress of Postulants from 1997 – 99 and Novice Mistress from 2001 – 2010. Her commitment to whatever mission entrusted to her was of high quality. She did not compromise on quality.

Right from the beginning of her religious life even as a postulant Sr. Lucy showed signs of spiritual depth which was manifested in her hidden life, self-giving, hard work, humility and prayerfulness. These qualities deepened over the years and enabled her to be effective in her mission of formation. As a formator at different levels, she gave of her best to the formees; be it in teaching, personal accompaniment, spiritual guidance or skills for manual work. There was no half measure. She herself never shied away from hard work, this way she passed on an outstanding feature of our dear patron St. Joseph the worker, and our Holy Foundresses. Some of her novices who are sisters today, say; that she lived an exemplary life and taught them to live an evangelical life by giving more by her personal witness than class room teaching. She was a born formator. As a councillor in charge of formation, she actively participated in the mission of formation even until recently.

Her contribution as a member of the Spiritual Exercises team can never be forgotten. From 2010 to 2013, she was in charge of the Preparatory Section at St Francis Xavier Girls’ High School. As a wonderful and efficient teacher, she was very systematic and methodical in her teaching.

Sr Lucy not only imparted knowledge to her students but also taught Gospel values of sharing, caring, and living together...

She was kind, yet firm in her dealings with the staff and the children. Her selfless and loving services at any time was remarkable.

In 2013 she was appointed Animator of the community of Prem Nivas (Novitiate) for another term. She carried out her responsibilities as an Animator of the community with utmost care and commitment. Ever ready for any service, be it in the kitchen, garden, a needy neighbour or in the parish. She always sought to serve and was available to others. She was very kind and loving towards the helpers and reached out to help them in their need. She possessed childlike wonder and transparency. She would often break into spontaneous exclamations of admiration about anything from the beauties of the nature; the flowers, fruits

The people who came for Mass at Prem Nivas have remarked that she took time to listen to their woes with a compassionate heart. She always had a smile for all. In times of difficulties and challenges, she never complained but endured humbly and silently. She had a heart full of compassion for the poor and the needy. She reached out to anyone in need irrespective of caste or creed. No one was excluded from her love and care.

She was elected to the Provincial Council in 2019 and was appointed Animator of the community of Jyoti Nivas. She was a wonderful human being, a gentle soul with a delicate conscience. We remember her as an active, joyful and amiable person.

This simple statement is a beautiful summary of her whole life: A rich life of 64 years, lived with Jesus. She was a person steeped in love for Christ, to whom her entire being- everything she was and did was directed. Her favourite prayer to Jesus: all for you was a continual offering of herself to Him. She loved to spend her time with her beloved, immersing herself in prayer.

Sr. Lucy loved her SJT vocation with every fiber of her being; she called it **the precious gift** God gave her. What a wonderful gift God gave us in Sr Lucy! May she now enjoy a reward well-deserved: the fullness of her consecration in heaven, one with her Divine spouse in eternal joy. And may she closely accompany each one of us on this journey of fidelity and love. We will miss you, dearest Sr. Lucy: your peaceful, prayerful presence, your gracious smile!

Thucydides, a classical author says, **“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others”** Dear Sr. Lucy your life with us has touched us, your presence has left an imprint of your foot prints on our hearts. You are ever part of our lives, and from our hearts we say: Thank you. Thank you, Thank you!

Rest in the Lord's embrace.

“God looked around his garden and found an empty place

He then looked down upon the Earth and saw your tired face

He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest

With the help of his angels, they flew you to your heavenly place

God's garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best.

He knew you were suffering; he knew you were in pain

He closed your weary eyelids and whispered “Peace be Thine”

It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone

For part of us went with you the day God called you home.”

~ Prem Nivas

Eulogy of Sr. Elizabeth

The 22nd of June 2021 was a sad day that sent shock waves across the family of the sisters of St Joseph of Tarbes, the entire staff and student community, parents, friends, well-wishers, benefactors and Alumni of Jyoti Nivas College, and in particular to every member of C R Chowrappa's loving family who are indeed deeply pained and shattered by this harsh reality about our dear sister Elizabeth.

Ever since May 3rd 2021 till yesterday the 22nd of June the 50 days of Medical interventions in Sakra hospital enabled us to realize that she did fight a good fight with the strength of the Lord against all the challenges that COVID 19 posed on her health. Sr Elizabeth withstood all the trials only to prove at the end that all her strivings were meant to make that complete surrender to the Lord to fulfil His will for her.

Indeed, just as our Lord Jesus Christ said "The one who believes in me will live even though they die." It is with the strength of His words that we are able to gain courage even in this hour of pain and utter despair that is heart breaking. Everything seems so surreal that we are just not able to come to terms with the reality that our dearest sister Elizabeth has left us drowning in deep sorrow.

Sr. Elizabeth our Eliz as some of us called her was a brilliant lamp that has been snuffed out too early. She was born on 28th September 1963 in a large and lovely Family along with three brothers and six sisters to Mr. Chowrappa and Mrs. Theresamma, who belonged to St. Francis Xavier Parish Chikballapur. This is a lively, spiritual, united above all a devout Catholic family which has offered two religious sisters to the church. Sr Prasana who is present here with us now and Sr Elizabeth.

Sr. Elizabeth joined us the Society of Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes at a tender age after her SSLC. Her first profession of Religious vows was in 1983 and her perpetual profession in 1990. From 1983 to 1986 she served in the Bowring hospital.

This blazingly gifted sister nurtured by our Congregation completed her under graduation in Jyoti Nivas College and post graduation and doctoral research in Bangalore University.



She began her ministry of Education at Jyoti Nivas in the year

Sr. Elizabeth Chowrappa

1992. The Congregation entrusted her with the responsibility of the Principalship in the year 2000. She was the First Principal of the bifurcated Jyoti Nivas Pre University College which functioned as one unit until 2000. In 2005 she moved to the Jyoti Nivas Degree College. And from 2010 till now 2021 she was the Principal of the Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous. Additionally she has served us as the Provincial Councilor and was elected as a delegate for the General Chapter, France for which she was preparing herself meticulously to the extent of learning the language.

No one who knows Sr. Elizabeth can deny the fact that she had an outstanding personality and was extra ordinarily talented. Her radiant smile, charm and humor dispelled all the dullness and brought about joy and laughter wherever she was present.

She had a beautiful voice and could sing divinely in any and many languages.

Unmatched eloquent speaker, prolific writer whose book was published very recently in April and some more books to be released in the pipeline.

Sr. Elizabeth accomplished things which were unreachable for most. Very able administrator, she had changed the face of Jyoti Nivas. The elegant modern campus with a variety of facilities for the students is the result of her vision and it is her brain child. Her vivid creative streak and compassion conceived many innovative outreach

programs. During Christmas time she brought the underprivileged to the campus.

A lot of programs began by her, have become traditions in Jyoti Nivas Campus. Sr. Elizabeth created History. She took personal interest in every program that happened on the campus, organized meticulously, and made everything unique, unforgettable and successful. No one could compete with her. She has made significant contributions to the Catholic Community of India as an office bearer in AIACHE (The All India Association for Higher Education), Xavier Board, CCCK (The Conference of Catholic Colleges of Karnataka), and CCPI (Conference Of Catholic Psychologists of India).

She played an important part in the vertical growth of Jyoti Nivas. The Institution has scaled great heights and her role in it is undeniably big which can never ever be forgotten.

A short time isn't enough to enumerate the numerous BEAUTIFUL attributes of Sr. Elizabeth and her multidimensional achievements.

She was a rare and perfect combination of talents, Smartness and goodness with a passion for Excellence. She has indeed inspired, motivated and touched countless hearts along her illustrious journey on earth. She dreamed big, pioneered change, saw ways into the future.

A true visionary who showed us the way.

Awarded multiple times by distinguished bodies and forums as best principal and best administrator, she was our pride, our star, whom we are going to miss terribly.

In Addition to All the talents the good Lord had also blessed her with goodness of heart. The warmth she exuded, the kindness she possessed, the compassion she had, her bountiful generous nature, uninhibited compliments, the transparency of her feelings for others, the sweet ways in which she expressed gratitude even for the little things she received and a lot, lot more which we have experienced and enjoyed will be deeply cherished by us her sisters, and every member of her family present here.

She, our dearest Sr Elizabeth was a special one. While thanking the Lord for what we received through her, we realise her deep faith and trust in the Lord THAT accompanied her in all her endeavours. We cry out in pain at this sudden departure and bereavement But His ways are unfathomable and we surrender to His will. The Lord alone can comfort us during this grieving.

Beloved Sr. Elizabeth, surely you can see our weeping hearts. How can we ever get over the big void you have left behind, your voice, your sweet singing, your mirthful laughter, your mischievous smile and chatter, your warm touch above all your endearing presence. Every nook and corner of Jyoti Nivas will constantly remind us of your missing presence.

We feel like asking why did you not give us a chance to say good bye.

Why did you leave us so suddenly?

But Sr. Elizabeth, we realize that you have not gone alone, you have taken parts of our hearts with you.

We are reminded of the words of St Paul in Romans chapter 14 verse 8, If we live we live for the Lord and if we die we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die we all belong to the Lord. Thank you for affirming each one of us today with this message.

Though you left us a bit too early we will carry you in our hearts and carry on till the Lord beckons us over to him just as He has beckoned you now. We all love you dearest Sr. Elizabeth. We will always cherish you and miss you. Sweet memories of you will linger on with us forever. You have become one with the Lord on His invitation. He is holding you safe and secure in great peace. Enjoy the Eternal peace with the Lord.

May the Lord bless you and us always through eternity.

Sr Louiza Sebastian

Sr. Elizabeth, in the Eternal Embrace of God

We the family of Jyoti Nivas, the staff, students, parents, government officials, our police force and everyone who is with us virtually, mourn today the departure of our loving Sr. Elizabeth, the dynamic Principal of Jyoti Nivas College.

We live by faith, not by sight. On 24, April Sr. Elizabeth was tested positive and on 3, May she was admitted to Sakra world hospital, Bangalore, Sister suffered a lot, was on ventilator for a long time, 50 days in the hospital. Sr. Elizabeth preferred to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord her groom. She has seen the great light, a luminous light overwhelming her and peacefully, gracefully breathed her last breath on 22, June at 11.55am. Jesus her Lord and Master was so pleased with Sr. Elizabeth that He called her back to Himself saying well done my good and faithful servant, now come and be with me, in my glory.

We both (Srs. Elizabeth and Lalitha) joined the convent in the same year and we also came to this campus in 1991. From 1991 till date we have lived together in this campus and celebrated life. It is very hard to accept her death, we prayed in hope that she will return to the campus but today I am helplessly seeing her lifeless body laid in the coffin. A person so dynamic and active is silent and sleeping in the eternal embrace of God.

God gave us a most precious and priceless gift – Sr. Elizabeth and now we return this precious gift to her creator, the Lord of her life. We the Srs. Louisa, Rosily, Swapna, Nathalia, Sajitha, Selva and myself Lalitha were privileged to live with her and share life in this abode of light and life.

Sr. Elizabeth is blessed to be called by God and sent on a mission. By the loving grace of god, Sr. Elizabeth responded to God's call generously day after day and made a difference with her life on this campus. We love you our dear Sr. Elizabeth, we recall your favorite verse From the book of Is 49:16, See, I will never forget you my people, behold I have carved / engraved you on the palms of my hands. I will protect you. I am with you until the end of time. Thank you Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, shepherding us all our lives, for we remember how you loved us, and comfort us now in this hour of death of our beloved Sr. Elizabeth - 'I will lead you safely to your home, fear no evil ,for I am with you, with my rod and my staff, I comfort you.'

My dear Sr. Elizabeth, at this hour of death we rest secure knowing and praying that - you rest in the arms of the Lord who formed you from the dust of the earth in the image and likeness of His only begotten son Lord Jesus, and you also share in the divine nature of God. Now that you have gone forth from this life may our holy Mary our Mother, our patron dear St. Joseph, the angels and all the saints and all our dear departed sisters, your beloved parents welcome you. May Christ who was crucified for you, bring you freedom and peace. May Christ, the true Shepherd, embrace you the chosen one so very dear to His heart. May Christ who died for you admit you into his garden of paradise. May you see your Redeemer face to face, and enjoy and be enthralled in the vision of God, forever. I can see YOU, Sr. Elizabeth smiling. Amidst clouds of sorrow there is still peace, a peace that passes all our

understanding, we are here to accompany our dear Sr. Elizabeth on her last journey in this earth.

The words of the prophet Isaiah 62:3 was so true for Sr. Elizabeth– yes, she has become a crown of splendor, a beauty in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of her God. The LORD held her in his hand from the time she said yes to His call to be His bride. The Lord chose her and delighted to consecrate her to be for Himself in the year 1983. She willingly and freely, said 'yes' to a life of total dependence on God and to live a life in the family of the sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes with simplicity, audacity, inner dynamism to seek with the heart of poor the will of God in all her lives. The Lord gave her numerous opportunities to grow and to prosper in and through the family of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes. She responded whole heartedly in communion with Jesus, Sr. Elizabeth reflected something of God's glory in everything she did, and to each and everyone. She was a tender, loving sister, compassionate and competent, a great leader, a visionary of our time who manifested greatness in her life and in the lives of others. Although it is very hard to accept her death, in faith we surrender to God's holy will.

We stand before your mortal body looking at you weeping and mourning but you have become immortal in the heavenly kingdom. You belong to the Lord of life who said, I am the resurrection and life. So we believe as you did – that you are alive in Jesus forever and ever. Today this hour Sr. Elizabeth is crowned with glory and splendor in the presence of the Living God where Jesus the Good Shepherd has prepared a table to live a life in all its fullness.

God's greatest gift to Sr. Elizabeth is eternal life. Our tears will weave a long garland to adorn her for all her contributions to the SJT family. We love you and we will miss you in this campus, which was so dear to you from 1992 till date. You are a divine spark – a light that lighted many lives. Truly you are a blessing; thousands of students were blessed with your teaching and message. We do not have sufficient words to express your contribution to Jyoti Nivas College. Thank you for your committed service at this Institute and building it up as a one of the best in the country. Thank you for your love, you had a charm, a grace with which you went about as a principal, a joyful person, jovial and peals of laughter resounded in your presence. Thank you for all that you have been. We love you, we care for you and we will miss you till we meet you in heaven. Here again I can see you smiling.

My dear Sr. Elizabeth, in this abode of light, Your light will continue to shine. May you continue to be a blessing to us sisters and to your family members, staff and students of JNC, until we meet you in heaven! God bless us!

We praise You for the times You have provided, even when we lost hope. We worship You for the ways You have sustained us, even when our strength failed. We honor You for the mercies You have granted, even when we didn't want them. Thank you Lord!!!

Affectionately Sr. Lalitha

**The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
can fill our emptiness with His power
and heal our pains with His Divine Love and Mercy**

The month of June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Love flowing to the entire humanity. It is the heart of Jesus that loves us so tenderly. It is the Divine Love of Jesus which is represented by this tangible human symbol, the Heart - the most beautiful sign of his love for the whole humanity.

The Love of the heart of Jesus is manifested in the institution and the celebration of the Eucharist. For us- SJT sisters, the Eucharist is the center of our consecrated life. We draw strength and His true love from the daily participation of the Eucharist. In turn it helps us to share this love with our brethren in and through our ministries. Do we understand the miracle of love which the heart of Jesus works in our lives? By the Eucharist, Jesus multiplies his divine love all over the world for all to receive it. From the tabernacle Jesus calls us: "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart." - Mathew 11:28-30

Humility of Heart is a virtue by which a person forgets himself/herself and seeks only the will of God. So was our Blessed Lord during His earthly life. We admire the submission of Jesus to all kinds of persons. Meekness of Jesus is expressed in all His words and actions. This makes sense to us and inspires us as he says: 'learn from me I am meek and humble of heart.'

We commonly measure the generosity of a person by his/her greatness of the sacrifices he/she makes for others, Jesus sacrificed His entire life and shed his most precious blood to save humanity from sin. We observe and are inspired by the ardent zeal of Jesus. He searched and was totally committed for the least and the lost. His joy was to offer new life to them.



Let our zeal and humble commitment during this pandemic time be, to spare our energy and time to share the love and compassion of Jesus. Jesus is inspiring many persons to support those who are affected by this deadly virus. We have gone through the pain of losing our own sisters. Many families have lost their dear ones. In the midst of all these uncertainties

and pain Jesus gives us the hope and courage. We remember His assurance: 'I am with you always, to the close of the age.' - Mathew 28:20. We recall how our Indian pioneers faced the challenges of epidemics in Bowring Hospital with courage and surrendered to God's will.

Surely, we need to be in constant loving communion with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus especially in and through the Eucharist, the Scriptures and prayers. He will transform our lives by His grace to transcend from within so that each one of us will be a visible sign and instrument of God's love and Mercy.

***Sr Shanthi, Sr Amala, Sr Sharamila
Sr Elsy and Subida (Novice)***

Build Your Emotional Stamina

In our day-to-day life situations, we come across people with different backgrounds, with good and unpleasant feelings/emotions, problems etc. Each one of us have our own history and story to share. History tells us how life has been in the past- like love, unlove, acceptance, rejection and so on. We live our lives from the past storage, in our unconscious. This is to love without a choice or freedom. But we can choose to live not out of unpleasant storage but out of a choice. Because we are disciples of Christ, so like Him we choose to be kind, understanding, loving, forgiving and sacrificing ourselves for others. Our Charism of Communion calls us to this life of freedom and to be another Christ in our communities when we meet people. Also this calls us to a life of continual conversion. You may find the following sharing helpful in this journey of conversion. Welcome!

The Choice is ours: We meet people who have hurt us either by their word or action or omission. We have a choice -to go back to them, not retaliate or behave in a negative way. If we choose to be kind to those who hurt us, we can say that they are offering us opportunities to build our inner stamina positively. Their behaviour in fact has helped us to increase our capacity for tolerance, giving us an inner power to be flexible. This will help us allow the power within us not to make an issue of it but to be in normal terms with the person who hurt us or was rude to us. Our life of meditation and spiritual growth are the only strength to live our day positively and with love.

Choose not to react: In a situation, if we do not react or get angry, it would be because we do not feel insulted or hurt. It may hurt when we approach the person for the first time. But if we choose to humble ourselves and not react, it would become our behaviour, very much our nature. Then we will be able to bring in positive and loving responses in our interaction with people even in adverse situations: For example, if someone cheats on me, if it is a member of my family, I may say, OK it is one episode of my life, I could delete the whole scenario from my mind/heart and move on in life.

But I may have to bend and humble myself each time the situation arises.

Every situation in life is a blessing in disguise: Gratitude reveals to us our inner potentialities. If everyone is nice to us and we are nice to them then our inner power will not increase. In order to radiate blessings to the people who put us down or reject us, we have to become aware of the power operating within us. In fact, we are to be grateful to God for allowing such situations come our way, so that we could better ourselves, increase our inner power and build our emotional stamina.

Ownership of actions: When we are irritated, we need to realize that it is we who are choosing to be irritated unconsciously. Usually we say he/she is irritating us, since we shift the blame on others, we are failing to work on it. But if we choose to work at that irritation, we would be able to relate to that person in a more polite manner. This would strengthen the inner stamina and keep the happiness unaffected with the people whom we live with, come across and work with. And thus breaks the chain of epidemic irritation.

The Right Choice: We are called to be emotionally independent of situations and of persons' behaviour. Let me explain this. If a person is trying to avoid me and passes through another door, what would I choose to do? have a lot of choices, I could ignore/be indifferent or behave negatively towards that person etc. If my choice is -peacefulness, kindness, not to let my emotions be a slave to the other person's action, then my inner stamina is giving me that power to live so. Such good choices, would prevent us from expressing negative emotions towards people for their past behaviour/actions and accumulation of negative emotions which are harmful for our health.

Tips to build emotional stamina:

1. Personal and community prayer
2. Examination of conscience/introspection
3. Physical activities- exercises
4. Eating habits - food, diet

5. Sufficient rest for the body and mind/ recreational activities
6. To train oneself to be courteous, accept people as they are/unconditionally
7. Be positive in our thoughts and words

We are all created by God in His own likeness and image. God has blessed us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit freely and immeasurably. We need to seek the help of the Holy Spirit to discern to use the right gift to the people whom we come across in life. For this, would solve most of our problems in making our life and other people's life better. And we will not suffer the inconsistency

in relating with people/situations with time, rather will be building our emotional stamina.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” - Philippians 4:8. We are sure that if we follow this instruction, we will be able to build our Inner and emotional Stamina.

By - Sisters from the Community of Chingelputt.

When Nature wreaks Havoc!

15th May 2021 did not pass by without perturbing the lives of the people in Goa.

The Indian Meteorological Department had continuously cautioned the people of a cyclonic storm from the 12th of May itself due to depression in the Arabian Sea. The noisy thunderstorm Tauktae with its cyclonic winds and heavy rainfall of 22 cms in the state capital wreaked a havoc amidst the existing Covid 19 pandemic.

The fury of the sea, loss of property, uprooted trees, water logging, and destruction of crops and vegetables, damages to Agro plants and power failure for almost three days put the life of the people in Goa out of gear. The cyclonic loss amounted to almost 40 crores.

Scientists view the Tauktae Cyclonic storm as a fallout of ocean warming and also an indication of future calamities. Indian Ocean Dipole like warming pattern could yield more cyclone in the Arabian Sea in the near future.

Environment is no one's property to destroy, its everyone's responsibility to protect. Let us then shift our attitude of ownership to nature, to relationship with nature. The moment you change, you create a sense of sacredness.

Sr. Crystal Sheril

Sr. Crystal



The Power that Moves the World

During the present situation of Covid-19 Pandemic, when we look around, we see our fellow beings suffering. They are going through social, economical and psychological problems.

“What is the hope for the future, whom to rely on,” perhaps this must be the question that arises in each and every person in the world without any controversy.

As a Christian what should be our attitude when we are placed in a difficult and trying situation as this – a place of severe testing ?

There can be but one attitude! A simple and unwavering trust in God! The only sure way to do this is to live closer to God. The turbo super charger enables an aeroplane to maintain full power at an altitude of thirty thousand feet, when it has lost four – fifth of its power. Similarly, Christians who walk with God, and obey His word, will have the strength to endure the toughest heights of problems or darkest times in life. The fact is that God is stronger than any temptation or danger; and the person who has God in His life and heart is unconquerable.

It is true that God often seems to place His children in positions of profound difficulty, leading them into a tight corner – from which there is no way of escape – contriving a situation where no human judgement or rescue is permitted. At such times, the words quoted above takes on added significance. It should be clearly understood that this kind of faith in God and prayer is the most practical approach to the problems and testing times of life – it is not sense, or sight, or reason, but taking God at His word. Experience reveals that such a faith will not make the sun rise sooner, but it will make the night seem shorter.

The hidden life, a life whose days are spent in communion with God, in trying to reach the source of faith and prayer is the life that moves the world. “Life’s greatest loss is the loss of faith, prayer without faith is but husk; with faith it contains the seed – corn of a million harvests”.

I remember a small story which goes like this; A young man prayed, “Lord, take away from me all my passion”. And he became impassable. He came before an elderly monk and said, “You

see before you a man who is completely at rest and has no more temptation”. The monk said, “Go and pray to the Lord to command some struggle to be stirred up in you, for the soul is matured only in battles”. The youth was made wise by this experience and now prayed, “Lord, give me strength to get through the passion.



Sr. Messiah

“When we depend upon organisation, we get what organization can do, when we depend upon education, we get what education can do; when we depend upon man, we get what man can do; but when we depend upon prayer, we get what God can do!

We acknowledge, even our sisters who were victims of covid-19 and we lost four of our sisters. It is really a painful situation. It is a great loss to us, because they have given their best services to our Congregation.

How precious is the death of the faithful in the sight of God (Psalm 116:15). “Whether we live or die it is for Christ,” we trust that this will be in most of us.

We shall come into His presence, stand face to face and He will rise from His throne, coming forward to receive us, and as we look up into His face, thrones will vanish away and crowns will be nothing, for to see Him in all His beauty and glory is the full reward.

The second wave of COVID is devastating India

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to loom over us, The Government of India has taken a strict combat measure by directing a lockdown of the entire nation.

In a crisis of this magnitude and at this great hour of need, I was struck with the message from the Holy Bible from Sirach.

Sirach 35:

- 2 - He who returns a kindness offers fine flour, and he who gives alms sacrifices a thank offering.
- 4 - Do not appear before the Lord empty-handed,
- 9 - With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness.
- 10 - Give to the Most High as he has given, and as generously as your hand has found.
- 11 - For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold.

True to the above verse from the sacred scripture-it was after much discerned thought that we the sisters here at Chitradurga would not want to miss a chance to make our presence felt at this hour of need. Initially when discussed about it with a few staff from English Medium and with the ICYM members of our Holy Family Church we got

travelling public who are affected as the hotels and other beverages would be closed during lockdown period.

Soon a letter was drafted and got the permission on the same day from the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, once the permission was granted, we also got permission to go ahead from our dear Sr Lalitha-Assistant Provincial.

Wisdom 14:3 but it is thy providence, O Father, that steers its course, because thou hast given it a path in the sea, and a safe way through the waves.....

It was as if the Lord set its course paving a path for it to happen. The divine providence did provide us, as in the life of our beloved foundresses, the little contributions from the staff, just 3 of the generous souls that put in what they had to begin. Oh, then what joy to depend on and see the divine providence, every day the required ration came in abundance.



a positive response to initiate and make further plans.

As a joint venture involving the youth and the School Staff, a meeting was held. A lot of suggestions were put forward and finally unanimously all agreed upon free food supply from 21st May 2021 to 31st May 2021 for the



People from our locality, the school parents and well-wishers supported our noble cause. By adhering to all safety and hygiene measures, we began our relief service. Plunging into action our team identified and contacted those who would help. The staff, parents, former students and parishioners joined hands with us. In ways beyond measure, God met our every need through the generosity of each single individual. It came in different forms-grocery like rice sacks, oil cans or cash to buy vegetables for the day. From our community 50 kgs of rice and one tin of oil was used for the purpose. Our Parish Council member Mr. Prasad and Kannada medium PE master Mr. Dixit willingly provided their vehicles for the transport and distribution of food packets. It was a long way to carry forward for 11 days, the food

packets on the first day was 170 and gradually reached around 350 to 450. Nearly 4000 food packets have been distributed.

It wasn't easy, yet not impossible. Thanks to the collective effort and dedicated service of the team. Their hard work, promptness and enthusiasm kept us active to get along with undeterred spirit."

'World Hunger Day' is observed across the globe on 28th May

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." Mathew 25:35 . Share a meal and care for the living

One of the greatest feelings in the world is knowing that we as individuals can make a difference. And yes we did. "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Mother Teresa at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in." –Mother Teresa.

It was so edifying to see the senior most sister of our community Sr Linus who didn't mind reaching out to the people, and Sr Glory and Sisters along with our team were out on the cross roads, highways and byways of Chitradurga to distribute the food packets and drinking water to meet the needs of the people. After completing the 11 days of our mission, some ration and cash was left with us. With that we were able to prepare about 70 ration kits and distributed it to our needy staff, students and deserving families of our parish. Each ration kit contained 5 kgs of rice, toor dal 1 kg, cooking oil 1 kg, ragi flour 1

kg, wheat flour 1 kg, sugar 1 kg, avalaki 1 ½ kg, rock salt 1 kg, table salt 1 kg, detergent soap 2 and bath soap 2.

It was a tremendous joy even though tedious and tiresome. The real beauty was that the Lord led us through it all without encountering any hindrance in any form. No harm befell anyone, rather there was extraordinary joy and satisfaction of having rendered this kind of service at this hour of need. At the end of it all everyone wanted to do more and continue the noble work. We were happy to have journeyed with, the pains of our people, during this COVID -19, lockdown. It was the daily prayer together and timely evaluation, sharing, consulting and discussions that made way for the smooth finishing of this great endeavor. All felt good to be a part of this noble cause. We the sisters were quite aware of the difficult times that we as a province were facing, that some of our sisters

were affected by corona virus. It was an opportunity to offer this our humble service to the Lord pleading for His mercy and compassion. Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the day of prosperity be happy, But in the day of adversity consider--God has made the one as well as the other so that man may not discover

anything that will be after him. We did pray the divine mercy rosary daily in order to strengthen one another, specially to be united with all the sisters who were sick. Finally dear sister we are indeed happy to share with you all such a beautiful experience From Day 1 to Final Day 11. Kindly follow the link to watch the video of the entire work. It's all compact in the given You Tube link. [<https://youtu.be/jxdmtbOu0EQ>.]

Sisters who can access the YouTube, kindly watch us in action.

By Sr Gloria Dass & Sr Susai Rani

Chitradurga Community





SHANTHISADHANA ASHRAM

**Abode of Peace, Harmony,
Communion**

May/June 2021

We are pleased to share in Aikiyatha something that goes on in the ashram. In the first place I was a bit reluctant to share because people come here for their needs and why to talk about it. Yet to the Glory of God I share this with my community family members. Shantisadhana Ashram serves as a mini retreat centre. The religious, lay persons and foreigners come for retreats, for growth in their spiritual journey, or to sort out certain problems, get help, etc. What people need is someone who can listen to them and whom they feel comfortable to share. They want someone who cares and is interested to help them on their journey. Each one who comes here has his/her own needs; so I sit with them and make them talk even for a long time so that they can feel free to express what is going on deep within them and together, with the help and discernment of the Holy Spirit we discover the journey that the Lord wants to accompany them with. I do not take groups but individuals. As an exception, because of the Pandemic our Bishop Neethinathan did not want to send his deacons for a retreat to Kancheepuram, so he asked whether they could have their retreat with Fr. Chinnappan OMI here at this ashram. They came last July (2020) in two groups: 7 to become Deacons and 10 Deacons to be ordained priests. Our dear Sr. Minnal helped a lot to manage the kitchen with helpers and other sisters helped in other possible ways.

Fr. Chinnappan OMI is the President of the Tamil Nadu Ashram Aikiya. He is a regular visitor and also sends persons here for retreat or for other spiritual needs. Recently he came here with his



secretary, Brother Abraham (Brothers of Sacred Heart) to organize our yearly meeting this year, hopefully to be held in July 2021. These are some small initiatives that the Lord provides and I try to be available to the Lord for what he asks of this ashram. Ashram is not a place – it is a “Way of Life” – a call to be an attentive, creative



Sr. Marie Lucy

presence for those who come here with various needs. That is why one of the essential characteristics of ashram is hospitality.

There is a young man called Joe who is now 24 years of age who comes on a regular basis and considers the ashram as his home. So I asked him to write as to what makes him to come back again and again and why? 10th of April was his birthday; so he came to the ashram last April (2021) to spend time that is worthwhile. I

arranged for Holy Mass and confession – also all that goes with a birthday. He was so moved that he wept. You will understand why when you read his story. His adopted parents were an ex-nun and an ex-brother. I visited them at least three times to

make them accept him but of no avail. One and a half year ago when he was working at a Pizza centre at Tripur he went to deliver Pizzas on a two wheeler because the delivery boy had not turned up;

a man walked across in front of the bike and when Joe turned to the left in order to avoid hurting him, there was a big huge frying pan with boiling oil which came on him and burnt him from neck down. He has recovered but carries the scars... At the end of his narration I will give extracts from a letter he once wrote and left here which remains always near the tabernacle where he put it.

Sr. Marie Lucy

MY LIFE'S STORY

Here myself Joe writing about my life story:

My name is Joe. My native place is Tuticorin. Me and my sister were left alone on the streets when I was a very small child holding the hands of my sister. Then from St Joseph's Charitable Trust the nuns took us from the road side, to their ashram and we were both living our life.

And one fine day we heard about happy news that we are going to get parents and we are going to get adopted and we were adopted and we got new parents for our life. Both my parents were school teachers. We were put in English medium though I studied in Tamil medium in the ashram.

We were living in a big house with full of gardens, pets and everything was going fine. One fine day I ran away from my home. I wanted to go back to the ashram since I didn't know the way, I remember we came by train. I was caught and handed over to the railway police when I was studying 5th std. My father used to beat me like anything. I was afraid of him and many times I ran away from this home. Though I had everything provided good food, shelter, a private room I was so depressed I knew they are not my parents but sometimes I used to ask God what really happened to my father and mother – I wanted to be with them – why they left us alone on the road side. Many questions were coming to my mind for many of the days in my life. One day my sister left the house married an orphan boy and she started living her life on her own. Myself I left the home after one year because I was going through much depression, crying not able to forget anything from my life. I started hating myself and I thought everything is over; let me end up with this life and I started to think of suicide to hang myself. I spent many days like this. I was working and staying with a friend but the friend had to leave and I could not pay the rent by myself. So I contacted my parents and said that I was coming to keep the gate open. It was Good Friday about four years ago. The gate was locked and I stood outside the whole night then the next day since

I had the contact of a priest Fr.Chinnappan of Aanmodaya Ashram I called him and said that I was on the road and had nowhere to go. He received me. It was when I was in that ashram I was introduced by Father to Sr.Lucy to talk to me and comfort me and help me in my life. From then on Sr. Lucy loved me a lot and cared for me. She gave me many lessons how to come out of my depression. I used to talk to her in a very happy way. Now I am far better than before. I have been to Shanthi Sadhana Ashram many times and lived each time for a number of days. I used to get help to come out of my depression and uncontrollable anger. Before I used to get very angry and become violent but now I get angry but for some time – after sometime I become normal and am able to speak to the persons concerned. Now I am working in "Cloud Kitchen" in Coimbatore as a Cheff. Once in four or six months I come to sister's ashram. I feel so blessed in this place. I come here to have peace of mind. It is a good place for meditation where we can get rid of all our pains and sorrows from our life and especially the atmosphere of this place is very silent. I like to sit in silence and feel the peace and harmony in this ashram. There are a lot of plants and I myself have brought plenty of plants and planted it there. There is a Dhyana Mandir where we can meditate and where we can come out of all our bad thoughts through meditation. And so this ashram is one of my favorite places where I can heal myself of my pain and to get over my past pains and sufferings. I can assure that this place has changed a lot in my life. Extracts from his letter: "... I am so grateful for you sister because you never left my side when I was going through some emotional issues... I thank God every day that he gave me someone like you – you were always worried about me. I want to thank you for loving me even when I'm most unlovable. I love the way you take care of me and assure me that everything is going to be alright. I know that I can be a little hard to handle, but because of you I'm embracing the gentler and kinder side of myself. I thank you sister for bringing out the best in me. ...Joe.

“All praise, glory and thanks to you Triune GOD for your gift of call and consecration, belongingness to the SJT family”

I have nothing to offer you except the joy of belonging to you. This sentiment of our hearts as we were privileged to renew our vows to the triune God, which gave us inner joy and encouragement.

As we were preparing ourselves for renewal of the vows, we had recollection for two days with the following points given by Sr. Esther and Sr. Vinodha.

- How our core experience of the time spent with the Triune God is expressed through each one of us
- How creatively we get connected with His life -in our everyday life situation
- How to grow in our personal relationship with God, with the community and with people.

This gave us the desire to be connected with Him.

Recollection helped us to prepare ourselves for renewal. It was a great joy to spend time in God's presence, in prayer and to express our gratitude for His faithfulness in our lives,

We the junior sisters of the Bangalore Province come forward willingly and joyfully to renew our 'yes' to God in the presence of all the sisters of the community, in and through the choices we make to live our life as that of Jesus, the poor, chaste and obedient.

The renewal of the vows was conducted through a



meaningful prayer service by the superiors of our community.

Prayer helped us to experience freedom within, to come forward to say yes to God, and to renew and commit, ourselves to the Charism of communion by shredding ourselves of all that does not help in building relationships.

We junior sisters express our gratitude to God for bestowing His bountiful love and blessings upon us and being faithful to us each day of our life, guiding and molding us through our animators and formators.

We thank our Provincial for the constant guidance and assurance, especially for granting permission to renew our vows in the SJT family.

Special thanks to Sr. Lalitha - Assistant Provincial for going that extra mile in guiding us, in spite of her ill health, in the absence of our Provincial-Sr. Benedicta.

We also express our sincere thanks to our formators for taking keen interest in our growth.

We also thank our community members and animators for making our day very memorable and meaningful. Big thanks to all the sisters of the SJT family for their continuous prayers and support.

Thank you

By Junior sisters



SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF BECOMING POOR

COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING
KEEPING TOGETHER IS A PROGRESS
WORKING TOGETHER IS A SUCCESS

Great is the technology because of which all are connected during this pandemic. God invited each one of us through the Commission of Spiritual Animation, to enter into the mid-term assembly which was held on 17th of April 2021. It was a different experience of connecting ourselves with God and one another through online. As a Province we reflected over with the theme of Provincial Chapter 2019 **Gripped by Jesus the Poor, We live the Evangelical Poverty in total self-gift**. Focusing on this theme the Commission of Spiritual Animation of our province has guided us throughout the year, to reflect and evaluate our personal life, community life and apostolate. It enlightened us to live the Evangelical poverty more radically.

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit;
there’s is the kingdom of God”***

Rev. Fr. Trevor D’Souza OFM based his reflection with our theme of our province which challenged us with ground realities of becoming a self-gift and self-offering to God and to His Kingdom. It was a wonderful inspiring session that gripped us to gaze on Christ to live the poverty of Jesus in total self-emptying, by taking the Evangelical vows voluntarily for the sake of His Kingdom. He added that poverty should be embedded in our attitude. And the life of poverty is a challenge to consumerism, materialism and liberation. As Tarbes Sisters the vow of poverty becomes, a credible lived experience in both past and in present. We ought to be accountable in all the given responsibilities. Transparency, basic honesty and public probity must be our attitude towards our vowed life. Above all it helped us to live the life of poverty from theoretical propositions to ground reality.

Dear sisters, all over the world, people are affected with Covid. People are critical and in

desperate condition of both materially and physically. Our own sisters struggled with this pandemic situation to help the poor. Thus we have lost four of our sisters who are a gem to our congregation. The deadly disease forces the family members and relatives to be admitted in ICU



Sr. Reena Merlin

with ventilator. A person who is in ICU is totally isolated from their families and friends. They experience no communication from the external world. All physical activities of the person are completely immobile. Hence, there is a total dependence on doctors, nurses and above all on machines. But deep within the significance of the term ICU is I SEE YOU. In ICU God looks at the patient and the doctor and, the patient and the doctor look at God. That is to say ‘Oh Lord, I want to see you (ICU) face to face.

At this juncture God is inviting us to live our Spiritual and Material poverty. God is the only treasure and wealth of our life. He is the source of our being. God, who called and consecrated us, challenges us to not to be unwise today meaning to focus only on God. If we focus only on God then we will be able to follow the poverty of Jesus more radically with joyful lives.

Finally, thanks to our beloved Provincial and her team for recharging us with spiritual nourishment.

Sr. Reena Merlin

The Journey within.....through personal encounter with the person whom I love.

[Remain in my Love John 15:9]

An eight days' intensive journey was the greatest adventure to the healing process as well as self-discovery. I remain grateful to our Triune God for this golden opportunity, a unique experience of attending the retreat on modern technology [Webinar]. Reformed what is deformed my initial love for Jesus Christ. A time to be spent in silence and solitude to remain in God's love and to ponder His unconditional love and thank Him for his Eternal Love. As the Father has loved me, so I loved you. Now remain in my love [John 15:9] The daily talks by Fr. Subhas allowed my soul to rest and go deeper into my relationship by investing time on personal encounter with the person whom I love.

When we are truly in love with someone, nothing can keep us from them. It sounds like the beginning of a beautiful, romantic love story, doesn't it? Actually, it is a love story' but it's between me and my God.

The religious life includes having a passion to be with Jesus every moment and if I do not have this, somewhere I have drifted away. As I draw nearer to him, he will open my spiritual eyes and allow me to see and know his plans. He prunes me daily and allows me to go through storms in my life. It is hard to grow in His perfect Love.

I love and worship God not because of what he can do or how much he will give, but simply because I am infatuated for, who He is. My joy overflows when I meditate about His love. My broken and contrite heart is healed in His presence, which fills my heart with new songs, as long to worship Him in the beauty of His holiness.

It is with trusting innocence that I can snuggle into the lap of our loving heavenly Father, where I am

content, as He places His arms around me and gently holds me, and gives me His peace that passes all understanding. In the essence of His glory, I become supernaturally entwined with the creator and ruler of the universe who longs to Mold me as a soft clay on the potter's wheel.

This miracle of transformation can happen when I sincerely abandon my old nature and embrace Him as the Lord of my destiny. Only then can my life finally begin its humble descent, so that Christ can increase and be manifested within me.

If I want more of God, I must choose to pursue Him deliberately. Spending time with Him allows me to know Him personally and to learn more about my calling. When I become the focus of my purpose, the awareness of His presence will become as natural as breathing.

To know God is the meaning of my existence — to worship Him is my most precious gift, and to love Him is my greatest privilege.

“Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart” Jeremiah 29:12-13.

Sr. Lavina D'Souza



Sr. Lavina D' Souza

*Remain
IN MY
Love
john 15:9*

Our Patrons Day Celebration and the release of the book 'Echoes: Our Times, Our Responses' authored by Dr.Sr. Elizabeth C S

Our Patrons Day Celebration and the release of the book 'Echoes: Our Times, Our Responses' authored by Dr.Sr. Elizabeth C S

April 8th, 2021 was a red-letter day in the calendar of events in JyotiNivas College Autonomous. This day marked two significant events - Our Patrons Day Celebration and the release of a book authored by Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C S.

As JyotiNivas College Autonomous is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes, it is befitting that we pay homage to our Patron Saint, St. Joseph who exemplified the virtues of service, humility and compassion. Pope Francis wrote in his Apostolic Letter, PatrisCorde (With a Father's Heart), on 8 December 2020, to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. He declared the Year of Joseph to be honored and celebrated from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. In this context, we honored our patron St. Joseph by conducting special prayer service and with a spectacular dance recital by our college dance team.



The second celebration was the release of the book, Echoes: Our Times, Our Responses, written by Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C S, Principal, JyotiNivas College Autonomous. The book launch was a part of the Patron's Day Celebration.

Speaking at the event, Dr. C. N. Ashwathnarayan congratulated Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C S on the endeavor and appreciated her diverse roles as an academic, psychologist, leader and an author. He said, "Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C S has taken a lot of effort to enlighten citizens with her perceptions and thoughts that are based on her many years of learning." He added



that the book is a great achievement and one that would have an impact on generations to come.

Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C S, while elaborating on her journey as an author said, “The book is a humble attempt to leave for posterity, the rich experience that I have gained from life.” She added, “This book is a tribute to learning. Learning that comes from faith, experience and toil.”

‘Echoes: Our Times, Our Responses’, which is published by Claretian Publications is a tribute to learning and reflections on various issues that challenge our times - mental and physical health, faith and contemplation, evolution of society, role of educational institutions, environmental issues and various other ramifications in life. The book tries to look at the various moral, ethical and social aspects of daily life through positive choices, compassion and humanitarianism. This collection of essays offers deep insights for educators, principals and

teachers as they seek to inspire young minds with powerful words and ideas.

Our superior general, Sr. Mercy Jacob from France, Provincial Superior Sr. Benedicta Mary, Bangalore Province and Prior General of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate Fr. Thomas Mathew had sent congratulatory video messages and were virtually present on this occasion. Following this, the editorial team, editor Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, Public Affairs Centre, Bangaluru and the publisher Fr. Manoj, Director, Claretians Publications, Bengaluru, shared their wonderful experiences in collaborating on the book.

There were spectacular performances by our B.Voc students and our dance team – Advaya, which spread the true meaning of oneness of God and also showcased the culture of Karnataka. The day concluded with refreshments for the entire JNC family.



“Be still and know that I am God”

During the second wave of Covid- 19, while we were praying, meditating, reflecting, recollecting, God was assuring us of one thing. That is of His unfailing promises, as written in Psalm 46:10, ‘Be still, and know that I am God’. This verse renewed our strength in times of pain, uncertainties and major outbreak of sicknesses. We felt relieved that God is in control of everything and is very much with us, in our lives –in times of trouble, difficulties etc., We were in much pain and panic when we heard about our sisters being affected by covid. We were further disturbed when sisters were quarantined.

The most terrible thing was the loss of our sisters . When one of our companions was tested positive for covid and separated from us, it was all very difficult to bear with. Our only hope was prayer and we knew that the LORD our GOD will never fail us. It is true that if we believe and have faith, God is always beside us and by us. ‘NOTHING IS OURS, BUT FOR TIME’. Of



course, everything is dependent on time, it is all in our hands as to how carefully, preciously and positively we make use of it. Due to lockdown, we had ample of time and caused a kind of boredom. No college, no seniors, no juniors and missed our companions a lot. During supper time sister was helping us to come out of this feeling. Sister motivated us to be happy and accept reality. We learnt to be faithful to our personal prayers, which gave us the grace to live the day fruitfully. We spent our time in other activities like stitching, knitting, cooking, gardening, typewriting, developing a habit to choose and read books, etc. Sister went that extra mile in training us to be positive, not in Covid test but in attitude, our thinking, talking and behaviour. The classes conducted by sister were really helpful and we are very grateful to sister for the same. “Everything happens for a reason, don’t question it, trust it.” says Buddha.

We are a witness to all that was happening to our sisters. Our sisters and their families were in agony

for the loss of their/our sisters. Let us not doubt but trust in the Lord that everything is for good. Here is the sharing of a quarantined companion. “ I was quarantined for about 15 to 20 days –when I heard that I was tested positive I thought, that was the end of it all, I cried a lot, I felt very lonely but God gave me the strength to accept the reality. It was a horrible experience to be in one place without any activity, anyone or any entertainment. I will never forget this in my life. Actually, when I heard that some of our sisters are under quarantine, I was thinking that they are having a peaceful time. No work, no disturbance

and can rest well. But only when I was quarantined, I understood that it was such a painful experience. I thank God and Sr. Roseline for taking care of me like a mother and bringing me back again to normal life. “

Most of the time our negligence and luke warmth is the cause and reason for our own destruction, be it health, responsibility etc.

When sister told us to drink hot water, kashaya, soups, to gargle, take steam, to consume more of fruits, vegetables, grains, greens and take enough rest, we took it lightly. When the covid cases began to surge, we realized the valuable advice of sister and started to take personal responsibility of ourselves. Now we can proudly say that we know to fight Covid -19. During this lockdown we were taught to train the brain-our mind. Our mind is not to be treated as a dustbin to dump it with anger, hatred, jealousy, but is like a treasure box to safeguard love, happiness, positive thoughts and sweet memories. People say that if you have immunity, you can fight Covid -19, we say, “if you LOVE EVERYONE and HATE NONE;” you will build your immunity. We thank each one of you dear sisters for your prayers and support. We humbly request you to continue your prayers for the perseverance of our vocation. We always remember you in our prayers dear sisters. May God always be with us.

Pre postulants

“Called and chosen for a total self-offering”



“Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.” This sentiments of the Psalmist springs forth from the hearts of us the five junior sisters Mary Leena, Placiya D’ costa, Rebecca, Rex Dalli and Ronika as we found ourselves together at Prem Nivas on 15.06.2021 ,to begin an important year in our Consecrated life : The year to prepare and beautify our whole in all holiness to be offered to the Lord as a pleasing Sacrifice forever. We lift our hearts in gratitude and thanksgiving to God who called, consecrated and accompanied us during these years to follow His Son Jesus radically through the Evangelical Counsels in our Institute with the uniqueness of the Charism of Communion.

15th June was a remarkable day, filled with many surprises and spiritual blessings. We had a similar experience like that of our foundresses, though we had traveled from different communities and places, it was together that we reached Prem Nivas. There was great Joy in meeting one another. We were warmly welcomed to this abode of love by Sr. Rosy the



animator, the sisters, novices and the pre-postulants. We experienced the strong bond of Communion among us. The Sisters meticulously planned in detail

to make our stay safe and comfortable.

“Like the eyes of servants gazing on their master so our eyes are focused on you O Lord”

A meaningful prayer service conducted By Sr.Vinodha the Junior Mistress and Sr. Pramila with the theme “Called and chosen for a total self-offering” to inaugurate the year of Juniorate gave us a right orientation about the objective of this year and exhorted us to be well focused and to take personal responsibility for our formation programme of the year. This also awakened in us a deep longing to commit ourselves to God for ever. The community greeted us with a blessing Song and served a delicious meal which added colour to our celebration. We had a great privilege of being confirmed and accepted into the year of preparation for perpetual Vows by Sr. Benedicta Mary Joseph our Provincial. She challenged us to take our commitment seriously and live the Evangelical Counsels authentically. She led us to delve into the true meaning of “Total Self Offering” with the help of the scripture passage ,Romans 12 :1 “ So then my friends, because of God’s great mercy to us I appeal to

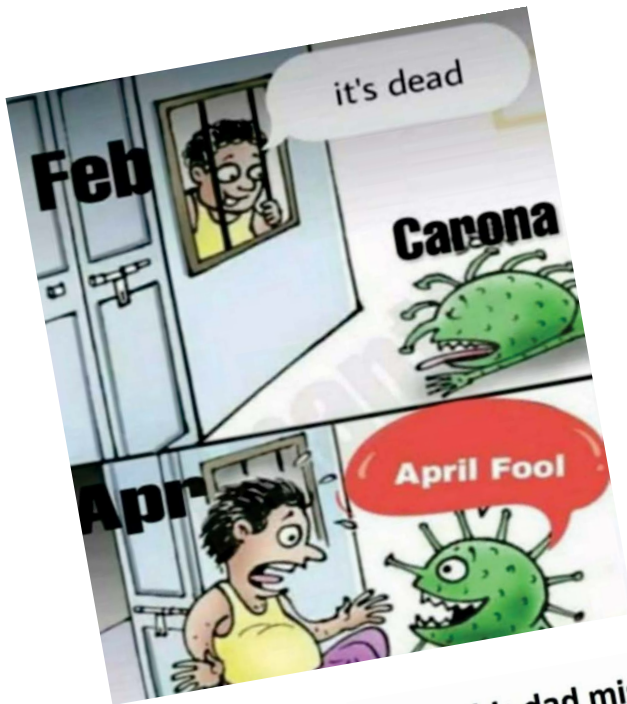
you: offer your selves as living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. This is the true worship that you should offer”. She emphasized on the theme, “ living sacrifice” and urged us to offer ourselves as a total self-gift to God.

Sr. Vinodha our formator enabled us to recall and relive

those grace filled moments of our religious life and remain grateful to God for the spiritual blessings which we received during the past years of our formation. She encouraged us to express our feelings of joy in our perseverance and also planned the classes with Sr. Loretta based on the Formation manual .

In spite of the present crisis and challenges around us due to the pandemic ,Sr. Benedicta Mary Joseph our Provincial, the counselors, Sr. Esther and Sr. Vinodha our formators made it possible for us to come together to begin our intense formation for the year of juniorate. Thank you dear sisters for your support, accompaniment and interest in our progressive growth. We count on your prayers and blessings for the days to come.

Srs MaryLeena, Placiya, Rabeca, Rex Dally and Ronika



when you thought you caught the Corona Virus but the doctor says it's just cancer



This dad missed his International trip & came back from the airport to meet his son & the reason is..



Advertisement in Marriage Bureau

"Vaccinated Youth seeks hand of Vaccinated female"

Reply from Marriage Bureau

"Currently only females above 60yrs are available"

For all those who take pride in saying they allow working from home
#WFH #JobsNoWFH



This 84-year-old man, a Padma Shri awardee, has transformed the lives of thousands of villagers in Jharkhand with his massive tree-planting and water conservation efforts.

This 84-year-old man, a Padma Shri awardee, has transformed the lives of thousands of villagers in Jharkhand with his massive tree-planting and water conservation efforts.

Little has changed in Simon Oraon's daily routine in the last 60 years. At 84, he gets up at 4.30 in the morning, goes to the fields, diligently checks the saplings he has planted around the village, takes a round of the forest he has grown all on his own while facing great odds, and traces his steps back to his house in time for lunch.

Simon Oraon, popularly known as Baba in his area, is also referred to as 'Jharkhand's Waterman,' by the media.

He has changed the lives of thousands of villagers with a massive tree plantation drive and has organised a well and pond digging initiative to store rainwater as well.

Simon Oraon is a resident of Khaksi Toli village, which comes under Bero block, about 35 kms from Ranchi. He has been working in 51 villages of Bero to protect natural flora for decades and was awarded the Padma Shri recently.

Ironic as it may seem, Jharkhand, known for its lush green forests, is reeling under severe water scarcity. Indiscriminate deforestation and erratic weather patterns are playing havoc in the state, causing crop failures. Faced with all these calamitous conditions, Simon is nonetheless undeterred from his mission of water conservation and forest plantation. His earlier efforts are still alive today. The residents of these 51 villages owe him the agricultural prosperity he brought them

through simple water conservation efforts. Today, his village is one of the state's agri-produce hubs, supplying more than 25,000 metric tonnes of vegetables to various districts of Jharkhand and nearby locations.

Simon's journey started in 1961 after he dropped out from school to help his parents in the fields. The monsoon had failed and drought had gripped the hinterland where Simon lived with his family. Water shortage brought desperation and hunger to his land.



The tribals in the area had traditionally always grown a mono crop of paddy (that too with frequent failures) and were oblivious to the harm being done to the environment by the felling of forests.

Every year, after sowing paddy, Simon's father and uncle would leave for the city to look for odd jobs. Simon started taking care of his family, as well as the farming work.

He grew up with the vicious cycle of poverty and saw how, after the crops failed, the old people and infants became victims of hunger. Young Simon saw this cycle of life and death year after year.

When the TBI team reached Simon's village, we found he had left for his routine rounds of the forest. But we met after a few hours and Simon's introductory words touched us: "As a child, I had seen trees in Bero cut and transported in huge trucks. I was even initially fascinated by these huge machines. But I realised after several years, when a severe drought in 1961 caused total crop failure, how much harm this deforestation was

causing. I took the lead, called all the villagers of Khaksi Toli village, and urged them to stand firm against the mindless cutting of trees.”

“We initially started with only our villages. But then word spread and more villages joined in the mission against wood smugglers. It was a tough task but we did it and stopped forest mafias and wood smugglers in our areas. It was all team work with the support of the villagers,” adds Simon.

His efforts took time to show results but paid off finally. In addition to afforestation, Simon has also ensured the year around supply of water to all 51 villages of his block. This magic happened due to his creative ideas.

He did a great job with water conservation, through rainwater harvesting and building dams to check the flow of seasonal rivers.

He constructed the first dam near his village in Narpatna in 1960. The dam, however, was washed away during the next monsoon. In the starting phase, several dams failed to withstand the monsoon water. Then, after the water resource department intervened, the size and width of the dams were increased and the concrete strengthened.

These dams have not faced any cracks since. In addition to constructing dams in Jharia, Narpatna and Kharia, Simon and his team also built dams in Gaighat, Deshbali and a few other locations in nearby villages. All ponds are linked with dams, which act as water reservoirs, ensuring continuous water supply to meet the needs of the villagers.

“We have worked hard to reinstate our forests. It is because of the blessings of the forest gods that more than 1600 families here now reap three crops besides paddy every year, from nearly 2100 acres of land. Migration has declined.

Additionally, we are now supplying vegetables to Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Kolkatta. We are able to do so because of our forest and water conservation steps,” Simon shared with TBI.

When we asked Simon about his selection for the Padma Shri award, he smiled and said: “I had no idea about the award until a friend from the media called up that afternoon to congratulate me. Whatever I have done is due to the support of the community. How can I take the award alone? It’s

a Padma Shri for all those who made my mission succeed.”

Jharkhand’s ‘waterman,’ Simon Oraon, will now be working on creating awareness among the people of his state about

the importance of water harvesting. He will be motivating farmers to work hard to preserve rain water to sustain agricultural activities. The ‘waterman’ has now been appointed brand ambassador of the watershed programme by the Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand.

When asked about his new responsibility as brand ambassador, Simon said: “This is a very big responsibility for me. However, I am elated. The Minister of Rural Development said that I speak well on these issues so I should be invited to meetings and conferences to talk about water-harvesting. I have accepted the offer as it is a chance to work for the state.”

Simple living and high thinking is the best way to explain Simon Oraon’s lifestyle. Nothing has changed in his life. He lives in a small house and continues with his mission to plant 1000 trees every year. “As long as I have the energy to walk and work, I will keep planting trees. These trees give us life and it’s our duty to protect them. We should make trees our partners for a green revolution and development,” he concludes.



Let Us Remember in Our Prayers All Our Dear Departed

Sr Sophie Frank's sister-in-law Mrs Elizabeth, 81 years
Sr Libie's Sister Mrs. Maria Eutemia Imez Fernandes, 60 years
Sr Deepthi's Father's brother Mr. George, 75 years
Sr Lilly Pinto's first cousin Mr. Rozario Pinto, 54 years
Sr Pavitra and Sr Jayasheela's grandfather, 80 years.
Sr Rose Marie Pinto and Sr Clara Pinto's elder Sr Loretta Pinto
Sr Samadhanam's sister- in-law Mrs Saleth Mary, 86 years
Sr Josephine Hoover's cousin, Ms Louisa John, 62 years
Sr Louisa Sebastian's aunt, mother's sister
Sr Arul Lilly's Father Mr Rajarathinam, 91 years
Sr Elsamma Devasia from Kenya lost her elder sister Mrs Rosamma, 73 years
Sr Asha Rani's uncle Mr Rayappa, 68 years
Sr Ezhilarasi lost her cousin Mr. Paul, 43 years
Sr Andrea lost her aunt Mrs Louise Roberts, 107 years
Sr Sophie Frank's cousin, Mr Joseph Prasad, 65 years
Sr Jwana's father and nephew of Sr Juliana and Agnelo, Mr. Clement, 59 years
Sr Sylvia Christie's brother-in-law Mr Udhaya Kumar, 58 years
Sr Catherine's sister-in-law Mrs Susheela Charles, 59 years
Sr Sintea's aunt Caetana Rebello (father's sister), aged 82 years
Sr Ananthi's uncle, Mr. Gnanapragasam, 65 years
Sr Irudaya Rani's uncle Mr Rajendra, 73 years
Sr Leena Pashine Lobo's nephew, 24 years
Sr Alexina's brother-in-law Mr Joseph Stanistaluas, 72 years
Sr Reethamma's brother- in-law, Mr Joseph aged 81 years
Sr Lavina D'souza's brother Mr Simon Dsouza and cousin Mr Anil Dsouza
Sr Amala Regina's nephew Mr Denies Raj, 48 years
Sr Amala Mary's uncle Mr Joseph, 90 years
Sr Sangeeta Priya's father
Sr Stella Marie's cousin Mr Maggie
Sr Josephine Hoover
Sr Sonia Pinto's aunt Mrs Jnannama and uncle Mr Clement Pinto
Sr Susai Rani's cousin Mrs Matilda, 65 years
Sr Geogina and Sr Mary's brother Rev Fr Jacob Ezhanikatt
Sr Susai Rani's uncle Rev. Fr Moses
Sr Abitha's uncle, 74 years
Sr Rashmi Prabhu's mother Mrs Gracy, 68 years
Sr Johani Kerketta's brother-in-law
Sr Amala Jyothi's uncle Mr Susainathan
Sr Catherine K and Sr Assumpta K's brother Manuel, 78 years
Sr Sagayamary and Sr Suma Sanjeevappa's aunt Mrs Mariamma
Sr Vinodha's nephew-in-law, 35 years
Sr Lourdu Mary Vimala's nephew, 5 years

Sr Amala Regina's brother Arul Raj, 62 years
Sr Nakshatra Saleth's father Mr Saleth, 74 years
Sr Anna Xalxo's brother
Sr Esther's sister Rita, 76 years
Sr Diana's brother Mr Alban D'Silva, 56 years
Sr Lilly Pinto's sister Mrs Leena Pinto
Sr Jacintha's brother-in-law Mr. Amalorpavam, 68 years
Sr. Josphine's grandfather MR. Souriraj, 94 years
Sr Mary Mascarinhas cousin Mr Peter Mascarentas, 64 years
Sr Susaimary's cousin daughter
Sr Rebecca's grandmother Mrs Mary Suguna, 82 years
Sr Mariamma S's mother Mrs Arogya Mary, 68 years
Sr Rosily's cousin 28 years
Sr Nirmala's cousin
Sr Agroya Mary and Sr Jayasheela's uncle Mr Lourduswamy, 75 years
Sr Crystal Crasta's uncle Mr Mark Fernandes, 68 years
Sr Celestine, Sr Maragatham, Sr Susai Rani and Sr Christina Mary's cousin Mrs Saragunam
Sr Marie Lucy's sister Mrs Glomia son-in-law Mr Kulandiswamy
Sr Sowjanya's cousin Ms Saranya, 15 years
Sr Rita Anthonappa, 82 years
Sr Susanna' cousin Mrs Lizzy, 60 years
Sr Margaret Mary's nephew-in-law Mr Regan, 38 years
Sr Nirmala Rebello's cousin, 51 years
Sr Jacintha Selvam's cousin Mr Benjamin
Sr Nirmala A's uncle Dorairaj, 85 years
Sr Valencia Fernades's cousin Mr S Fernandes, 42 years
Sr Mercy's mother, Mrs Thersia is Sr Sabina's sister_in_law
Sr Nercy Jacob's mother and sister in law of sabina
Sr. Seema Rani Xess's father Mr. Beatrice Xess, 56 yrs
Srs. Stephani Raju, Pauline and Gloria their aunt Mrs Philomena, 80 years old in KGF



We are grateful to our sisters who have contributed to this issue and made it possible for us to reach you in time.

Looking forward to your contributions for the next issue (25th August 2021)

Communities to contribute are

**KGF Arul Illam
KGF Champion Reefs
KGF Coromandel
KGF Roberstonpet
KGF Suman Niketan**

Please send them by the 25th of August 2021

You can forward your news to
aikyatha20@gmail.com