

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART
PROVINCE OF INDIA
NEWSLETTER



12th March 2020

NEWSLETTER FROM THE HAREGAON COMMUNITY

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me – to proclaim the Good News to the Poor

While I am involved in a variety of apostolates in our parish at Haregaon, it was during Lent last year that I experienced the call of the Holy Spirit through the Lay Missionaries who invited me to collaborate in their Mission – to go out into the villages, to meet the poor and simple village people, to prepare their minds and hearts, to benefit from the Lenten practices – Prayer and Fasting – the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I was accustomed to preparing the village people for Christmas as we take our hostelites to the villages for carol singing. But preparing the people to celebrate Lent and Easter was a new Spirit-filled experience for me. It is always a great joy for me to meet the meet the village women, but this time I had come to them on a mission of Reconciliation. Daily I would go to the villages from 5.00 p.m. till 10.00 p.m. While the Lay Missionaries would give the people talks on the meaning and importance of the Lenten season, I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of Reconciliation and Peace to the village people.

The month of October was announced as “A Special Missionary Month”. Once again, the Spirit inspired me to visit the villages – to proclaim with joy and gratitude the great work of the German missionaries in Haregaon and to encourage our people to become missionaries of today – to renew our own Christian Faith and to proclaim the Good News to others. During the month of October, I proclaimed the Good News about Mary, the mother of Jesus, inspiring people to imitate Mary in offering Jesus to the world. The feedback from Community members – Srs. Shalini, Valeria and Divya – was very encouraging.

The Spirit of the Lord is still upon me – sending me forth again during this season of Lent, to build up Faith in Jesus Christ among the simple villagers through simple words and examples. I have come to realize that in giving, I myself do receive. I experience a renewal in my own Faith and abundant grace and energy, not only to fulfill my mission of education but to excel in my mission of proclamation – going forth into the whole world to proclaim the Good News.

Sr. Jyoti Gajbhiv, RSCJ

Mahila Din – Women’s Day – 8th March 2020

The Women’s Day programme this year was very special in our parish; it was prepared by the Lay Missionaries and celebrated after the Sunday Mass on the 8th of March, with Sr. Prisca as the Chief Guest and Sr. Jyoti as the Adhyaksh (Guest of Honour). A welcome song

by the women inaugurated the programme. A Bible Quiz was conducted and this was followed by some games, like musical chairs.



Sr. Prisca spoke on the importance of Family Life and Education. She encouraged the women to be more loving and caring and sociable. Every woman is primarily a mother, said Sr. Jyoti, every woman has the vocation to be a kind, gentle and hardworking mother, called to go out of her home to work for the welfare of children and the welfare of society.

The prize distribution was followed by a good breakfast and tea. The Parish Priest made all the women happy by giving each one of them a nice sari. They went home thanking the priests and the sisters, proud to be women on Women's Day.

Sr. Shalini Salve, RSCJ

Teaching the Values of the Gospel

This Lent, I have made a special effort to teach the children of my class some good values from the life of Jesus. In the process, I myself have come to know and love Jesus more – the Jesus who suffered and gave His life for me. As I struggle to take the classes, as I suffer a little while imposing discipline on the students, as I sometimes feel frustrated and am tempted to give up, I remember St. Madeleine Sophie, who suffered but did not give up. I am inspired to take up my cross and follow Jesus.



This Lent, I have taken up the challenge to spend some more time to convey good values to the children – which will remain with them throughout their lives. I guide them to pray and to maintain silence – even though this is difficult for children. I try to make them understand the meaning of Lent and I encourage them when they answer rightly. I explain to them meaningful ways of fasting – to talk softly, to stop troubling others, to stop complaining, to stop gossiping, to stop criticizing others, and so on. Fasting from bad habits, I tell them, is more meaningful than fasting from food. By practicing what I preach to the children, I hope to see changes in their behaviour and their personality that they may all become good human beings.

Teaching from the Text Book is not enough, I must teach children from the Book of Life so that their lives are changed and they may grow to be wise and loving children. In this mighty task of changing the world, I can start by changing my life and the lives of my children – doing small things with great love, as St. Mother Teresa used to say. May the good Lord Jesus accept my small effort and join it with His own to make this world a better place to live in – for all God's children.

Sr. Divya Kerketta, RSCJ

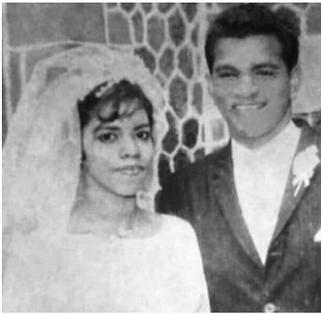
In God We Trust

I consider it a great privilege to give Holy Communion in their homes to the sick and aged people of our parish of Haregaon after the Sunday Mass. I have made it an effort to learn the Marathi prayers and to communicate with the people in my simple language.

It is my experience that, on Sunday, the sick people eagerly wait to receive Jesus into their hearts. However, I noticed that the aged people miss the presence and loving care of their children. In one house, after prayer and communion, the elderly wife was crying. While trying to console her, I realized that in spite of having three sons and three daughters, not a single child was present in the home, and the old wife takes care of her old husband. They do not get sufficient financial support. They trust that God is taking care of them. I admire their strong Faith in Jesus! I sometimes wonder – Why are children, these days, so ungrateful to their aged parents? Don't they realize that one day they too will grow old? Where is this world going? However, I realize that I cannot do much for them, except visiting them sometimes and praying for them at all times.

Sr. Valeria Kerketta, RSCJ

My Mother and Father are now United in God



God united my father (John) and my mother (Evelyn) in Holy Matrimony while they were both working at the Taj Hotel in Mumbai. Their parents having died earlier, their marriage was celebrated by relatives, friends and well-wishers. John and Evelyn together faced all the several challenges in their life bravely and with deep faith in God. We their six children grew in Faith as we witnessed our parents live their Christian Faith – in prayer and in action. My father was extremely generous in sharing everything with the poor and the needy. He assisted those less privileged with a kind and loving heart. My mother would spend much of her free time in silent prayer – with a special devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. She had tears of joy when God, through Mary, granted her prayer and enabled her to purchase a home of her own in Mahim. Many relatives and friends would drop in to visit us on Wednesdays after attending the Novena at St. Michael's Church, Mahim.

As we grew up, my three elder brothers and one sister got married and shifted out to homes of their own. I joined religious life and grew in the warmth of my new religious family. My youngest brother, who is working in the Taj Hotel, remained to take care of our father and mother in their old age. Family reunions were frequent in our Mahim home – for we all loved our father and mother – and they loved to meet us and to play with their grandchildren. My father went to God on 19th May 2005. On 7th February 2020, my mother was called to God. Both my father and mother had their Funeral Mass and burial at St. Michael's Church, Mahim. On both occasions, I experienced the consolation and prayerful support of my RSCJ sisters. I am grateful that God, through the intercession of Mary, has now united my mother and father to live happily forever in their eternal Home. My parents remain an inspiration to me to renew my consecration to the Lord – in the service of all God's people.

Sr. Anita Nazareth, RSCJ