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>>> NEWSLETTER <<<  
SOCIETY OF THE SACRED  
HEART  
PROVINCE OF INDIA

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NEWS FROM THE PRERANA  
COMMUNITY

## ➤➤➤ Beginning the Spiritual Journey

This year 2024 opened for me with nearly two weeks of ‘waiting’ and I was happy to have this time to begin the “Spiritual Journey” proposed to each of us in preparation for the General Chapter later this year. As I spent a few days with each of my two sisters I had the time and the quiet to begin with the first theme proposed to us in the Spiritual Journey ‘Born of the open side of Christ’ taking up the theme of the First Week of the Ignatian Exercises. I was most responsive to the invitation “to evoke moments in my life in which I have felt in my place.....breathed the profound peace of encountering the best of myself.....of coinciding with God’s dream for my life.....with the most authentic thing in me....which makes me a unique irreplaceable woman.”



As I got in touch with my heart and recalled the echo of the verbs “shine forth, send, set free, make new, gather” what stirred within me was the joy and challenge of having worked with nearly fifty teachers, young men and women, teaching in the complex of eleven schools dotted over the Talasari taluka, within a radius of ten kilometers. These teachers, from the different mission centres of the Gnanmata mission, had studied in these same schools and then gone on to do their teacher training in the Jesuit D.Ed. College in Vasai. It meant awakening the teachers to discover their own innate knowledge and skills and the power and impact of their teaching, in shaping a whole generation of boys and girls to take responsibility for the transformation and upliftment of their people. We were a good team of three, Jesuits and rscj and we had that stretch of time needed to have some far reaching impact on this complex of schools in this mission.



As a Team we each had three or four schools that we visited every week. Sitting in on the classes, one becomes aware of the other end of the teaching process and so could offer guidelines to the teachers. At the end of the year, once the exams were over and the children stopped attending classes, the teachers were free to come to the Gnanmata Centre. Together we worked on locating best practices and accordingly preparing methodology and teaching aids for the following year. What more could ‘the heart of an educator’ want than interacting with adults, rooted in their culture that is so rich in life experiences and practical knowledge, learning and exploring together ways to bring light and life into the minds and hearts of over a thousand students studying in the Gnanmata School complex.

I had the time to savor those eight years of my ministry in the community in Kazli. I would like to add that because of the Reach Out Trust, started in Dolarpada, a village in Talasari, by Adolf Tragler, the husband of my sister Ancilla, I have been in touch with the Talasari mission over the last twenty-five years since leaving Kazli. Ancilla and the Trustees have continued their presence

and work in Dolarpada even after Adolf passed away and, I have been visiting the area at least once or twice a year. I have continued to animate the students studying in the vocational classes conducted by the Reach Out Trust. With the last meeting of the old Trustees on January 10<sup>th</sup> this year, the Trust has passed into the hands of the Gnanmata Mission, Talasari.

**Marie Noronha rscj**

## **>>> An eventful academic year 2023-24 at Prerana Nursery School**

In the academic year 2023-24 we had many activities besides the regular curriculum. I would like to share about some of these activities with you. We had the young athletes program in the month of September 2023 arranged by Sr. Pratibha who introduced to us Rajashree, a teacher in Sadhana School, who is a trained sports trainer at the National level. She shared her expertise and spent the day with our tiny tots guiding us with different gross motor skills which were very useful for our students aged between 2 to 5 years.



Coming up next was the Diwali Dhamaka in the month of November at which the Parents and the Teachers teamed up together to put up a variety of games and food stalls. We invited NGOs like Snehalaya and Maher to spread the awareness about their good work. This fete was a great success as the children and adults all enjoyed themselves as this was open to all in our neighbourhood and not only limited to our school children. This program helped the mothers especially to bond with each other

Next was the Annual Programme graced by our Chief Guest Mr. Jeet Singh, a Bollywood choreographer, and my school classmate. In his heart-warming speech he highlighted the journey of our spiritual life and our contribution towards society. This year in our Annual



Programme we included our Ex-students from different batches who performed the welcome dance. Our school children were at their best with their mesmerising performances full of joy and energy. We also organised an Ex-students Reunion Party. All the ex-students from the past batches were invited. This gave us an

opportunity to reconnect with them and to know how well they are doing in their respective schools. We organised different games which they enjoyed and we ended the event with music and snacks.



A Family Day was also organised in order to get the family together to have a delightful evening and celebrate Valentine's Day. We had games for each category such as Mother/Father, Mother/Child, Father/Child and a game for the family as whole. We had with music, entertainment and snacks.



The last upcoming event for the academic year 2023-24 is the Graduation Day for our Upper KG children, who will be the centre of attraction. We will be wishing them 'All the best' for their future endeavours as they move out from our school to another school. This will be a small program where only the parents of the Upper KG children will be invited. The Lower KG children will give a farewell to the Upper KG students by performing for them. As we will cherish these beautiful memories we are looking forward to begin our new academic year 2024-25 with the same zeal and enthusiasm in April 2024.

*Fatima Azavedo rscj*

## ➤➤➤ **Jasinta Horo - My Home Visit**

We went for our home visit on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2024. We went by train, but the train that was supposed to leave at 10.45 am only came at 2.45 in the afternoon. We reached Hatia the next night at 11.45 pm. My father and uncle came to pick me up, but we did not go home and stayed at my uncle's house. The next morning when I reached home, all were very happy to meet me. During my stay, my brother came to see me from the minor seminary where he is studying. My elder sister and my two nephews too came to meet me. I was very happy to be at home with my family for those three weeks. We sat together and talked for a long time. I played with my nephews and had fun with them. We went to the field and ate green peas that we have planted there. On Sunday we went for the village mass. My sister read the first reading and I read the second reading. I was happy to meet all the people once again.

One day we went to Khunti to buy my trousseau. I also attended my cousin sister's wedding. There I met all my relatives and we shared news. The wedding was in the morning and the reception and dinner were in the evening. We decorated a basket and filled it with chivda. We gave the basket and a big pot of ladoos to the bride when she went to her new home that evening. Soon it was time to return. I felt sorry to say good bye to my mother because she has not been well for the last two months. But I made this sacrifice because I wanted to come back and continue my formation in the Society.

## ➤➤➤ **Susheela Topno - My Home Visit**

We went home on January 14<sup>th</sup> and reached Hatia on the 15<sup>th</sup> night. My sister had come to meet me and we went home later in the morning. My family saw me and was very happy. They had

not finished the ragi harvest so I helped in the field for two days. I went to visit my maternal grandfather and my uncles. I was happy to meet them and my aunts and we talked for a long time. My brother from the minor seminary came to meet me and give me all his news.

On Sunday the Bishop came to bless the new parish house, as this village of Ukrimari will be a new parish soon. We had a High Mass and the young girls danced for the entrance procession. Then soon it was time to pack up and return to Prerana. My younger sister came with me to Torpa and the sisters arranged to take me and Lakshya, the new seeker, to Ranchi to catch the train to Pune. On the way we picked up Jasinta at Khunti. We had a good journey. Sr. Venizia met us at Pune station with the new province van. So we reached Prerana very comfortably.

## **>>> Nilima shares about the Pune Darshan**

We three Seekers, Manjusha, Asha Birang and I arrived, in Pune on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2023. The next day we went for the Pune Darshan along with teacher Sethand and her husband. Fr. George Beck SJ accompanied us. First we went to the Aga Khan Palace which is now a Gandhi Museum. There we saw many photos and statues of Mahatma Gandhi. We saw the Mahatma with the charka, sitting and reading, leading the Quit India Movement and starting the “Do or Die” andolan. There were many books and letters written by the Mahatma and many newspapers of those days. From there we moved on to the Snake Park. We saw a cobra and a python and many other different kinds of snakes. As we moved further we saw a peacock near a dry river. Then we saw some deer, a tiger, two elephants and a lion.

After a picnic lunch we drove to the Shaniwar Vada, a fort of the Maratha kings. We climbed the walls of the fort and looked down. There were many people visiting the fort. Thus on the very first day we saw so much of the city of Pune. When we returned to Prerana we thanked Fr. George for coming with us and being our guide.



**Shaniwar wada, Pune**

*Nilima Hemrom*

## **>>> Our visit to Gramin Sanskruti Sangrahalay, Pashan**

The Prerana School picnic was planned for 25<sup>th</sup> January. We Seekers went for the picnic along with the children. We left by a big bus at 9:30 in the morning. We, Seekers helped the children carry their bags into the bus. We sat in the bus and as we went along we ate some snacks on the

way. Teacher Nita played songs and the children sang. So our ride was soon over and we reached Pashan where we went to visit the Gramin Sanskriti Sangrahalay. We saw different village scenes with life sized statues of different people. There was a farmer pushing his plough in a field, then there was a village doctor treating a sick man. Men, women and children were grazing goats on a hillside, there was a stable with life sized cows and buffaloes and many other scenes. There were men selling vegetables, potatoes, onions, carrots, cabbages. They looked so real. There were many other scenes which the children were very excited to see. The children were happy and enjoyed themselves. They were interested and asked many questions. Then we came out and sat on the grass for lunch. After lunch we had ice-cream. On the way back the children slept and I too slept in the bus, Kuber from the Play Group, slept on my lap. We came back at 5:00 o'clock, tired but very HAPPY.



Gramin Sanskruti Sangrahalay Pashan

*Asha(Birang) Barla*

## **>>> The feast of St. Francis de Sales, the Patron of our Parish**

This year we celebrated the feast of Saint Francis de Sales on 26<sup>th</sup> January. We went for the novena on the last day. The theme for the day was the virtue of Prudence. Fr. Mathew gave us a good sermon on this virtue and how necessary it is for our daily life. When the Mass ended we came out of the church and we took the palki of Saint Francis de Sales' statue in a procession around the church. On the next day, the feast day, we went for the feast Mass. The seekers of the Dominican congregation danced in the entrance procession before the Mass. Many msfs priests, religious and parishioners attended the Mass. The choir sang many hymns beautifully. All the people joined in the Gloria. When the mass ended we came out of the church and went to the Fete. All the SCC communities of the Parish were asked to put up stalls. They had opened stalls and were selling different kinds of food and snacks. Some communities had opened games stalls. There was a swimming pool and many children were enjoying themselves in small boats. We went around the fete with Sr. Fatima's sister, Maria, and her family. We ate some panipuri and we enjoyed ourselves playing games. We even won some prizes and I got a big bumper prize. We were very happy to meet many people as the parish courtyard and basketball court



were full of people. We met many friends and had good fun. Then we joined the fathers and sisters for a good dinner. We were happy to know about Saint Francis de Sales. We will never forget this feast and the celebration that we enjoyed.

*Nilima Hemron*

## **>>> Our newest Seeker introduces herself**

My name is Lakshya Hemrom. The name of my village is Latauli Kutibera. We are a big family: my parents and one brother, my grandfather and two grandmothers. We have two unmarried aunts and one adopted uncle. I went to the mission school in Kamda and stayed with relatives. I studied there from Std 1 to Std 10. Then I went to Ranchi where I studied Commerce in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Stds. I stayed in St. Anne's Girls' Hostel, Ranchi. Then I entered the Society of the Sacred Heart, Torpa, as a seeker. I stayed in the Hostel and went to help in the nursery in Bal Niketan for four hours every day. I helped the teachers and children with different activities. I played with the children and helped them with their tiffin boxes. Later, I went to the Children of the New Dawn School for computer classes. Here too I spent a few hours with the children. I enjoyed being with them and I learnt many things on the computer. I will miss the children of Bal Niketan and New Dawn school. Now I have come to Pune for the next stage of my formation and I am happy here.



## **>>> I joined Prerana Community in June of 2023**

My ministry has been to help the seekers to gradually deepen their understanding of English, through general knowledge presented visually and explained in English. This is being done with the hope, that in growing more comfortable with English words, understanding in English would improve, so also the ability to express themselves, in simple interactions, according to the level each would reach. I started classes with Jasinta and Susheela.

As a contribution to the Parish and contact with lay people, on my request, the Parish Priest suggested that I help with the regularization of interfaith marriages and instruct the couples in the basics of our faith. Each couple was to meet me at Prerana, at a time that was mutually convenient. I prepared one couple. After this, I discontinued the involvement, as I could not find a suitable place for such meetings in our house.

I put my whole attention into teaching our seekers. As the first classes progressed, I realised that it was not enough to introduce them to different and interesting aspects of life and the world, which we all enjoyed. It became obvious to me, that each of them was at a different level of retention and expression and the limited one hour could not meet the real needs of each, as they were being taught together. I expressed the need to take them separately. However, this suggestion was not accepted. Consequently, I had to find ways to be attentive to each within the limitations; obviously it was not the best solution. Even so, both progressed along their separate paths and this was something to be grateful for.

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I also saw the need to help them gain confidence in reading. So, I volunteered to prepare them to read the Gospel passage for evening prayer. Explaining the passage and the words made a difference. I saw their eagerness in wanting to be helped, they would never miss the short time we had every evening. In fact, the one who was weaker in the English class, proved better in expression and pronunciation in this class!

I have been very happy to make a small contribution towards our young sisters, who are the future of our Province and the Society.

***Thelma Gonsalves rscj***