

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART PROVINCE OF INDIA NEWSLETTER



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NEWS FROM THE MALVAN COMMUNITY

Ashadeep Nursery JOYS!!!

After twenty years I have come back to the Malvan community this year. I see that many things have changed. I don't mean the people, but their life-style has changed. I think education has made them better off in their life. I have also changed. After many years of teaching children of the 3rd and 4th standards, teaching nursery children is a challenge for me. In the beginning I found it difficult to handle the children, but now I am enjoying teaching them and being with them.

This year we celebrated grandparents' day. It was heartwarming to see each child do the aarti to her/his grandmother/grandfather and to see them bending down to touch their feet for a blessing. I hope this beautiful cultural custom remains forever and children learn to respect their elders always.



The Covid pandemic has changed the life of children besides affecting the educational system. Electronic gadgets, such as the mobile phone, have had an impact on their minds. Children don't want to read or write. It challenges me to give an all-round education for the development of the children placed in my care. I am upgrading myself and keeping myself informed of all that is necessary for the formation of these children today.

In community, family or work place we find it difficult to relate when we have misunderstandings but for children it is not the same. They are clean of heart. They fight and forget and make friends. They are very energetic, loving, caring and vulnerable. They are incredible children. That is why Jesus said, "IN TRUTH I TELL YOU; UNLESS YOU CHANGE AND BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" MT 18:3.

Above all, I am getting full support from the parents of the nursery children for different celebrations such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Children's Day and Christmas, to name just a few. I feel grateful to God for all these beautiful experiences of this past year.

Valeria Kerketta rscj

Call to Hope

Hope is a virtue that we reflect on in the season of advent especially. The world situation just does not present a scenario that encourages us to think about it.

As I have time on my hands which I use in reading, reflecting and of course using the media to keep in touch with events in the world, the strong call I received is that of Hope.

I have felt close to the people suffering in Ukraine, victims of the power play of the great nations.

Nearer home there are our helpers who are going through difficult times: no jobs, family disunity etc. I have given them a listening ear and instilled a spirit of hope and courage in them. They stand in need of support and concern which I feel called to give.



A few days ago we visited Abeline, our helper, to see her first grandchild and the proud mother Carmeline, Abeline's eldest. As I held the baby in my arms and cuddled her I could enter into her feelings and that of Simeon who had the joy of holding baby Jesus as he prophesized about him. During the Christmas season this event became so alive for me as I pondered on this glorious event and reflected on the mystery with awe in order to grasp more fully the meaning of Christ's birth.

“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” One thing this tells me is that even Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, needed time to ponder, reflect and savour this most

holy mystery. She never doubted, but her faith continually deepened, and her heart pondered the unfathomable and incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation. At this time of my life I feel called to unite myself with the world of children and to ponder and wonder at the beauty and gift of life and to give hope to all whom I encounter.

Archana Pinto rscj

The ACS (Association of Christian Students) Camp of Sophia College students at Malvan

Thirteen students accompanied by Srs. Patricia and Deodita arrived in Malvan on 20th October. We were happy to have this opportunity to share our community life and to



interact with the campers. They followed a schedule each day like morning prayer, arranging the table with the prepared food, helping with cleaning of the plates and cups and cooking utensils after meals, cutting vegetables, peeling onions and potatoes, garlic etc. thereby understanding ground realities and to adjust to limited facilities by which they realized the



grassroots' level problems. When they were assigned tasks which involved physical work they realized it is not as easy as it appears. The idea behind this was to promote the dignity of labour and to give them the experience of living and working as a team.

Besides their camp schedule, every evening the students were happy to participate in the novena in preparation for the feast of our parish – Our Lady of the Rosary – which was celebrated on 26th October. The students were happy to be present at the solemn feast day mass which was followed by

a little funfair which they thoroughly enjoyed. On 23rd October the whole group along with the community members went to Deobagh to witness the baptism ceremony of Inacin's first baby (Inacin was our teacher in the Ashadeep Nursery and is the wife of Ronny, brother of Sr. Deodita). It was a good opportunity for the students to experience the culture of the people and to meet the simple but faith-filled people of Deobagh.

On 22nd, 24th and 25th October the students of Rosary English School were fortunate to take part in the camp conducted by the ACS student that consisted of role plays, games and action songs. The students learnt much through the games that were thoughtfully planned and organised by the campers. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves during the few days they attended the camp. On the last night of the camp, the ACS students danced and sang songs to their hearts content. We too joined them and enjoyed this relaxation and entertainment that we rarely have in our place. It made the camp a memorable one for all. The students made a lot of friends through staying together for 7 days, working as a team. I'm sure they became aware of their own gifts and potential for leadership.



There were at least one or two among the ACS campers who seemed to be searching for a meaningful life and who asked questions about our life and ministry. We pray that the Spirit may lead and guide them in their choice of life.

Rita Pinto rscj

Pastoral Work

This year as we all know is the 75th year of our Indian Independence. We the SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) members of our parish visited the



adivasis, a tribal group, who live on the banks of a river called Poip 22 kms away from Malvan. There are about 30 families who live on the margins, and who have to earn their living by collecting and selling firewood from the jungles around them. Originally forest dwellers, they face the risk of increasingly getting marginalised as they grapple with landlessness, lack of connectivity, water and electricity. There are over a dozen dogs who guard them and who are their security besides their children. None of the little ones go to

school. A few of the older children go to a government boarding school. The little children were the centre of our visit and were happy to cut a cake and eat it too. There was an air of joy and excitement as they received a piece of the cake, some sweets and biscuits and toilet articles. We also distributed rice which was collected by the SVP members from the parishioners. One of the mothers remarked, "No one has ever come to visit us like this. The government officials have never come to see us nor are they concerned about us". The visit was an eye opener for many of the SVP members to the plight of these people and the need to reach out them.

One of the great privileges here in Malvan is to be able to take the Body of Christ to those ill or infirm members of the parish



who are unable to come to Mass and who are still part of our Eucharistic community. On the First Friday of every month I have had the joy of visiting the sick and the housebound in our three wados assigned to us: Dandi , Baazar and Chivla wados. I give Holy Communion to 25 persons each time. It is a very moving and grace-filled experience for me. I feel inspired to see each one waiting patiently and eagerly to receive the Lord.

On 30th October I was called to Chivla to give Holy Communion to Eliza as she was quite critical. This was a sensitive and special time not only for Eliza but also for her family and friends and for all of us who were gathered around her. Eliza was breathing very hard. The members of the St Vincent de Paul Society were also present and we all prayed together and then Eliza received the Lord. Eliza calmed down after receiving the Lord, her breathing slowed down and in a short time she slipped away. Though it was a sad moment for the family members to see their mother pass away, Eliza was relieved from all the suffering she had endured for the past 15 years ever since she had a paralytic stroke. I saw her lie peaceful in the embrace of her God to whom she was united to forever in Heaven.

Rita Pinto rscj

Climate Action Programmes

UNICEF Mumbai & CEE Pune jointly hosted the Maha Youth for Climate Action (MYCA) initiative in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, in partnership with the State Department of Environment and Climate Change to encourage and help the youth in their drive for climate action.



MYCA had their level 2 workshop organised in B. N. PAI Sevangan on the 26th November 2022. The members of the UNICEF and the Environmental Education Centre organized this one-day event in which the youth who participated were enlightened on the topic of climate change and how it affects the air, water, other natural components and our health.



Special discussions took place on the topics of the solid waste management system of Malvan, how the education system has failed us and what new changes can help the children and youth to be aware of the worst impacts of climate change and to be ready for adaptation and mitigation aspects.

I was inspired at the Maha Youth for Climate Action workshop at SEVANGAN, Malvan, held on 26th November by the youth who shared the initiatives they have taken, the challenges they have felt and their concerns and actions. I was happy to hear the youth share their thoughts and action programmes and shining through various challenges to become a Climate Champion. Megal from Malvan, being a girl, shared how she felt excluded in her fight against climate change. Today and every day, we need to stand by them in their tireless efforts to make the planet livable.



Children and young people around the world are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation. They are our greatest hope. On 26th November 2022 the "Daksh Yuvak Bharat Organization" had organized a programme to celebrate the 'Indian Constitution Day'. It was an open public programme held near the S.T. Stand, Malvan. The programme began with reading



aloud the "Preamble" of the Indian Constitution. The chief guest, Adv. Sayali Achrekar, gave a brief introduction about the constitution and its need to be known to the youth of today. She also guided us about our Fundamental Rights and

Duties. After that we had Adv. Omkar Keni guiding those present on the environmental issues faced in Sindhudurg district and our fundamental duties as well. The programme ended with a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries by the founder of the organization.

The Organization will continue to conduct such programmes until the 26th of January 2023, i.e. the Republic Day of India, and in future as well.

Tarun Bharat, a daily Marathi newspaper, organises a felicitation programme every year for the people who make a unique contribution for the betterment of society and the environment. Megal D'Souza was chosen among the 11 persons for our contribution in the field of climate change awareness and education by conducting surveys and beach clean-up drives.



On 30th November on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of "TARUN BHARAT", these 11 people of Sindhudurg district were felicitated at a function held at Sawantwadi its headquarters.



The whole team "Youth Beats for Climate" was present to show their support, oneness and solidarity in this very challenging work for which the group was honoured.

Rita Pinto rscj