

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

PROVINCE OF INDIA

NEWSLETTER



July 2018

The Malwani Community shares...

On July 3rd, 2018, as we reflected together about the content of our newsletter to the province, we realised that it was the 30th anniversary of Philippine's canonization. Thirty years ago, on July 3rd, 1988, no one could have dreamed that the three of us would be celebrating the bicentenary of Philippine's "Rebecca Moment" together, after a General Chapter challenging us to go to "existential peripheries" and set sail to "new frontiers". So, we decided to share with you, our sisters, new calls experienced within our ministries, which led us to fresh insights.

Daphne Viveka: Attended a workshop on "Integration of Spirituality, Inter-Religious sensitivity and Ecology", organised by the Bombay Jesuits, where the context was COSMIC.

From Rene Descartes': "**I think, therefore I am**" ... to the Selfies: "**I click, therefore I am**", we have slowly come to be the most connected, but the most isolated generation. We can re-gain the ground by reading the scriptures from Earth's point of view.

Today, the cry must be connectedness: "**We Care, therefore We are**"

And a Compassionate Contemplative in Action looks like this: ~~this: Batman / Batgirl~~

Why a bat? Bats have a unique sensing apparatus of "Echolocation" which refers to communication based on ultrasonic vibration inaudible to the human ear. If we could hear these vibrations, the sound of one bat would be greater than that of a rock concert!



Bats can map their environment by the responses they receive as echoes to the vibrations they emit. Thus they know which plants they have to pollinate and in which direction their prey lies. This is such a good model for inner discernment from the heart ... sensing **where** we are called, **who** needs us, **what** is being yearned for, **why** we are where we are, and **how** we are to respond. No noise, no fuss, no conflict - the environment guides us!

We begin this vibration as disciples on our knees in "petitionary" mode, with one ear pressed to the heart of Jesus and the other open to the cry of the cosmos. Slowly evolve to vibrations which respond to the groaning of creation, the cries of the poor and the graces present in other religions. Just what our Sophie in her wisdom would encourage us to do today.

Manisha: was invited to a "Workshop for building up Regional Resource Teams" for SCCs held in Nagpur at the National Centre for SCCs. Though the Mumbai duo was able to attend only part of this workshop due to other commitments, the diverse exchange of ideas and experiences of truly committed people from different places of India was very enriching.



“The highlight for me was a whole day spent interacting with Dr. Ram Puniyani (seated). He covered burning issues like the threats to India as a Democratic Republic, busting several hearsay myths we all entertain, and awakening in us a **new zest** to join hands with all our citizens in upholding and promoting basic human rights. We were urged to seek practical ways - small or big - to **nurture the seeds of unity and destroy all that divides**.

So, my new project in this context is to create ‘A Mini-India Parliament’ in our neighbourhood bringing together CHILDREN of all faiths, and hailing from different parts of India. Ten creative ‘cabinets’ are envisaged, where democratic ideals will be presented “by the children for the children” to be translated into concrete action plans each month.

We will inaugurate this ‘Parliament’ on August 15th, when our Nazarene Society meets for the hoisting of the flag. “Wake up: Know your rights and duties - Know the sublime values of our Indian Constitution”. My hope is to educate the future generation to wholesome, universal values from a tender age so that they carry them into later life. Children and youth are truly the leaven for a new civilization in the Church, in our country and in our world.

On another level, June is always a busy month for us as we help out at the crowded services of the novena to St. Anthony. This year, the first day of the Novena coincided with the Feast of the Sacred Heart - and we renewed our vows in the presence of the whole parish gathered together. Our Associates [Friends In the Sacred Heart] later joined us in fellowship. Daphne presented to them the essence of Sr. Barbara Dawson’s letter for our Feast, also integrating the calls of our Chapter 2016, against the backdrop of the ‘U’ process.

At the end of this meeting which concluded with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, they requested that we have more of these “spiritual” sessions during this thirteenth year of our existence. We hope to take this up more often now.

Finally,

“From blackboards to green boards, to white boards, to smart boards ... St. Anthony’s Junior School has come a long way and is entering into a new era of teaching and learning”.

Albina: comments that this year the school has incorporated smart boards in all classes and the Management had arranged two-day training programmes for all teachers.

“Unfortunately I was not able to attend the session. So, I had to face new challenges, when I went to the school on 15th of June. Knowing computers was not a help at all, but some practical work, which is provided by the trainers on a daily basis is very supportive. As of now, new techniques of teaching and learning are useful as children can have visual education and it has become more interesting in teaching as well as learning.



But more than these mechanical gadgets what is helping me to grow are the 69 children in my class. Sometimes they test my patience and sometimes make me feel that their company is the best source of joy and satisfaction. Recently I had scolded a girl for not paying attention during the first period of the class, I felt bad about my impatient behaviour, but I kept quiet. Something surprised me, when the school left. She came to me with an innocent smile and bright eyes. (picture shows salad-making activity).

This is what Jesus says “be like a child.” Live in the present.