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>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

PROVINCE OF INDIA



NEWS FROM THE HAREGAON
COMMUNITY

>>> **Cultural Exchange and Feast Day Celebrations**

We were extremely delighted to welcome to our Haregaon school campus, students from Rose Bay School and Stuartholme School (Australia), and from the 91st Street School (USA) in December 2024. This cultural exchange was a learning and heartwarming experience for all of us. We shared our daily routines, participated in collaborative activities and built strong bonds of friendship that transcended boundaries.



During their stay with us, we jointly celebrated the birthday of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat with great devotion and enthusiasm. This included the Eucharistic celebration followed by cultural performances and reflections on the life and legacy of our beloved foundress. The active participation of our international guests made the event even more meaningful and memorable.

This exchange not only deepened our understanding and appreciation of different cultures but also strengthened our shared values as members of the Sacred Heart family.

Some of the students shared their experiences with us.

Jemima: “It is difficult to share with you the joy and appreciation we experienced as we were welcomed at St. Theresa’s, Haregaon. Sr. Jyoti beautifully said that Madeline Sophie would have been very happy to see all her children living together under one roof. It took us a while to understand that ‘Didi’ meant elder sister. We were fortunate to be able to build up a deep and enriching relationship with the girls of Haregaon during the course of our three visits here. It was very hard to bid goodbye to our friends at St Theresa’s. As Sr. Jyoti well expressed our sentiments, saying – at such moments, we could speak to one another only through our hearts.”

Amy: “One of my favourite memories from St. Theresa's is when a Haregaon girl coaxed me and Izzy to join their group and to partake of their own food. This sharing with one another gave all of us great excitement – even though we could not communicate with one another in the same language.

Bec: “One memory that will always abide with me well into the future is the overflowing generosity and warm and loving kindness of the people of Haregaon. Their willingness to share their all with everyone – without expecting anything in return was a beautiful example for us to emulate.”

Ava: “This trip definitely impressed upon me the importance of being open to others and showing kindness in our relationship with others. At Sophia College, the students made us feel at home – creating beautiful henna designs on our hands, preparing a delicious meal for us, proudly showing us around their well-designed classrooms. I will always cherish the loving relationships I developed with the students. The kindness and friendship I experienced inspired me to be gentle and kind and friendly with others.”

Izzy: “I was deeply touched by the revelation of Sr. Jyoti who convinced us that ‘we all speak the same language, the language of the heart’. Every student was impressed by the warm welcome and generous hospitality of Sr. Jyoti and Sr. Prisca. They really made us feel at home here.”

The exchange visit to our school of Students from Australia and the USA was a truly enriching experience for all of us – students and teachers. We all experienced the warmth of bonding as we lived together as a caring and sharing community. Our simple loving hospitality to our guests resulted in a valuable educational and cultural exchange between three Sacred Heart communities – all children of our dear Mother, Madeleine Sophie, who believed that **“For the sake of one child, I would have founded the Society.”**

Jyoti Gajbhiv rscj



The Privilege of Caring for our Elder, Sr. Shalini Salve

Caring for an elder sister is a journey of love, patience, and deep respect. It is a privilege to serve someone who has spent her life in service, and in doing so, to honour the legacy she has built through her kindness and generosity. Our days spent caring for Sr. Shalini have been filled with profound moments – simple yet meaningful interactions that remind me of the beauty in companionship and in giving back to those who have given so much.

Each morning begins with ensuring that she is comfortable, that she has her meals prepared with care, and that all her medical needs are attended to. Along with Sr. Albina and Sr. Divya, we share the responsibility, each of us finding joy in being present for her. But beyond the physical acts of care, it is the conversations, the laughter, and the recollections of days gone by that truly make this experience so fulfilling.



Sitting beside her, I listen eagerly as she recounts her mission experiences – stories of resilience, of faith, of hope. She has met so many people throughout her life, shared in their struggles and joys, and through her service, she has touched countless lives. Every memory she shares is a window into a past filled with purpose, and I feel privileged to witness the richness of her journey through her words.

Her presence is a gift, not only to us but to her family, who frequently come by to visit. Our home is often filled with the warmth of reunion, the joy of reminiscing, and the comfort of knowing that she is surrounded by love.

We extend our hospitality to them, ensuring they feel welcomed, knowing that their presence brings her immeasurable happiness.

One of the most admirable qualities of Sr. Shalini is her unwavering strength in the face of negativity. She never lets others' opinions trouble her heart. I once mentioned to her that someone had spoken ill of her, expecting some form of disappointment or frustration. But without hesitation, she simply replied, *"So what? God will deal with her."* Her words were filled with peace, a quiet confidence that comes from a life anchored in faith. That moment stayed with me – a reminder that true strength is found in letting go, trusting in divine justice, and remaining steadfast in one's purpose.

Caring for her is more than just a duty; it is a lesson in compassion, in patience, and in the power of human connection. Elder care is not just about ensuring comfort and well-being—it is about cherishing the person, valuing her wisdom, and celebrating the life she has lived. In looking after her, we are reminded that aging with dignity is about more than just physical care; it is about creating moments of joy, of reflection, and of love.

There is something truly humbling about being a part of this journey. It has taught us to slow down, to listen deeply, and to appreciate the quiet strength that elders carry within them. Through her grace and wisdom, Sr. Shalini continues to inspire, and in caring for her, I feel that I am giving back in a way that truly honours her legacy.



As the days pass, we find ourselves cherishing the routine – not as tasks, but as opportunities to express gratitude. Whether it is preparing her meals, offering comforting words, or simply sitting in silence beside her, every action carries meaning. In caring for her, we are reminded that love is often found in the simplest of gestures, and that the joy of giving is a reward in itself.

Elder care is a journey – a circle of love, of learning, and of honoring those who have walked before us. And as we continue to walk alongside Sr. Shalini, we are grateful to be part of a beautiful chapter in her life.

Anita Nazareth rscj