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



**NEWS FROM THE TORPA  
COMMUNITY**

## **“We want to draw our strength directly from the Heart of Jesus, who calls us to be happy RSCJ in our mission.”**

*(Community Goal, Torpa Community)*

Looking back, the year 2025 has been a journey of *'returning to the source'* – to our roots – to rediscover our sister and saint, Madeleine Sophie, and to find in her life of prayer the courage to address the complexities in our day-to-day life. Together, we found a strong desire to live out our mission with the same fire that moved our Holy Mother.

St. Madeleine Sophie always desired her daughters to grow as RSCJ educators — *'saintes savantes'*— women who blend spiritual depth with the practical wisdom needed to cope with the unique challenges of our time.

This is our continued call: - to transform, and to be transformed in, our relationship with God and with others. This renewed energy guides our footsteps every day. It is tangibly felt in the classrooms of the *Children of the New Dawn School* (789 students), in our collaborative efforts in the *Education* project (with 32 single-teacher schools), the *Bal Niketan Nursery* (376 children) and in the resilience of the 2200 households of the *Livelihood* projects (in 60 villages of the Khunti Diocese of Jharkhand).

Our community goal keeps us focused. We have experienced that our shared values—mutual trust, openness, and a sense of *'at-homeness'*— are not mere ideals, but are woven into our very lifestyle. By living with generosity and care for the ecosystem, we fulfil our sole purpose: *“to discover and make known the love of the Heart of Jesus.”*

*Sr. Mariaelena Figueredo rscj*

### **St. Madeleine Sophie – Guiding Hearts, Inspiring Minds**

In 2025, the International Society commemorated the centenary of St. Madeleine Sophie’s canonisation. At *Children of the New Dawn* school, we joined wholeheartedly on December 12th. Staff and students worked together to prepare, research and make the day truly special for everyone.

The school sparkled with decorations — notice boards, halls, and, even, the assembly ground were filled with excitement. We began with a special blessing and installation of St. Madeleine Sophie’s statue by Fr. Sunil Kandulna. His stories of growing up in the Gangutoli parish, dedicated to Sophie, inspired all of us to make a difference, just as she did. His heartfelt insights added warmth and joy to our celebration.



The day buzzed with friendly competitions that nurtured joyful learning, talent, and creativity. Students in classes 1 and 2 stole the show in the fancy dress contest—girls became little Sophies, while boys transformed into her brother Louis Barat. Classes 3 and 4 created beautiful handmade drawings of St. Madeleine Sophie. Classes 5 and 6 recited poems that truly captured her spirit. Classes 7 and 8 painted the Society’s logo by hand on white T-shirts. Classes 9 to 11 wowed us with *PowerPoint* presentations and videos about how Sophie’s legacy continues to shape our school life. Each creation was wonderful.

Sr. Neelam Hemrom surprised the staff with a *FUN* challenge. In just 30 minutes, teams dressed a colleague as St. Madeleine Sophie and shared a meaningful message for the students. The children cheered as their teachers showcased creativity and teamwork. Winners took home prizes, and everyone left with mementos of St. Madeleine Sophie — keychains, bookmarks, and stickers. It was a truly memorable day for all!

I strongly believe that the spirit of St. Madeleine Sophie will continue to guide and bless our *Children of the New Dawn School*.

*Sr. Sushma Topno rscj*

## **Hearts United in Prayer: Reflections from Kolkata**

In August 2025, the catholic students of *Children of the New Dawn School* went on a pilgrimage to Kolkata—a special opportunity to pray together and experience God’s blessings. Everyone was excited, preparing their hearts to receive grace. When we arrived at the shrine of Our Lady of Bandel, we prayed and recited the rosary together. I was moved by the students’ prayer intentions and their simple desire to be close to Jesus.



The next day, we visited the tomb and museum of St. Mother Teresa. The students were deeply touched by her simple, humble life—many had not known her story before. This visit opened their hearts to serving others. Every place we visited helped us feel more connected to the Lord and inspired us to live with greater generosity and compassion.

I felt blessed to accompany the children, along with other teachers. These visits reminded us how important it is to nurture an environment where children can grow in a faith-filled life — and then trust

that the hand of God will do the rest.

Even after returning, the children continue to deepen their relationship with God, who has become their strength. I am confident they will keep growing in faith and witnessing the wonders of His abundant grace and blessings.

*Sr. Neelam Hemrom rscj*

## **Celebrating Learning**

The teachers at *Bal Niketan* organised an environment-themed exhibition on December 3rd, 2025. Each class contributed something unique to the exhibition. The Nursery class of three-year-olds explored fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Each child became a different fruit and joyfully shared its benefits in their own words. The L.K.G. class of four-year-olds focused on saving water, planting trees, and learning about the *parts of plants*. The U.K.G. class of five-year-olds spoke about the water cycle, the harmful effects of plastic, and personal hygiene. The children were



delighted to take part in this fun-filled learning experience.

The teachers displayed their creative teaching methods, toolkits, and handbooks, making learning visible and engaging. The hall was beautifully decorated with the children's art and craftwork, adding a festive touch. It was a delight to witness the U.K.G. children practising vegetable block printing, building with blocks, and recognising colours – showcasing their growing cognitive skills.



The village animators and education team also displayed artwork by children from the government school, as well as teaching materials, and fascinating exhibits of wild edibles – mushrooms, roots, fish, crab, snails – celebrating indigenous food systems and their health benefits.

Altogether, it was a wonderful learning experience – deepening traditional ecological knowledge, fostering cultural pride, and embracing the wisdom of the tribal community.

*Sr. Lily Kullu rscj*

## **A Heart Full of Gratitude: My First Vows**

With a heart full of gratitude, I share some aspects of this most sacred moment which deepened my commitment to God and our mission. I am especially thankful to the Torpa community, whose loving efforts made this day possible and truly memorable. It was an added joy to have with us some priests and religious from the Khunti diocese, Sr. Marie Gisele (Vietnam), Sr. Netris Jolemat (Indonesia), as well as Srs. Daphne Sequeira, Rita Pinto, Charusheela Gaikwad, Prisca Tirkey, Kiran Kumrawat and Divya Kerketta from our own province. I am also grateful that the entire celebration was streamed online, enabling several RSCJ to join us virtually.



On November 14, as I prayed before the crucifix, I felt Jesus' immense love for me. When I asked, "How much do you love me?" I sensed Him stretching out His arms and saying, "This much," giving His life for me. I realised that Jesus loves me far more than I can ever love Him. That deep love, peace, and joy filled my heart. Years of formation, prayer, and gentle guidance led me to this sacred "yes", - a promise I renew daily, trusting in God's faithfulness. I am grateful for every blessing and for God's patient love that lifts me in weakness and strengthens me in hope. The words of the main celebrant, Bishop Binay Kandulna, have remained with me – "Keep the oil in your lamp burning, stay connected to the Lord, and bear fruit".

Receiving the *Cross* and the *Constitutions* from Sr. Daphne Sequeira, our Provincial, was a very significant moment for me, followed by many warm hugs from my sisters, which made me feel that I truly belong to the Society. I am deeply grateful to my formators and all the sisters for welcoming me, shaping me, and encouraging me. My family and friends, through their prayers, have been a constant source of courage. To all who have prayed for me – thank you for your quiet support.



This first profession of vows is a new beginning: a commitment to grow daily in love, to serve generously, and to live my vows with joy. I entrust my future to God, knowing that He will bring to fulfilment the good work He has begun in me. May my life reflect, in some small way, God’s love in the world.

***Sr. Kumudini Tirkey rscj***

### **Grateful Steps: My Vocation Journey in Torpa**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, I arrived in India to begin my vocation journey in the Society of the Sacred Heart. Immersed in India’s rich diversity, I found that each day offered new lessons and glimpses of God’s beauty.

During my month in the Torpa community, I was warmly welcomed by the sisters and found strength in our shared times of prayer, especially Mass each morning with the sisters and hostel children. Witnessing the first profession ceremony of Srs. Kumudini and Victoria were deeply moving – a reminder that every vocation is rooted in God’s infinite love. The bishop’s words, “You are precious,” echoed in my heart and brought back memories of my own first profession.



The collaboration and dedication of the community inspired me, and I was grateful for the opportunity to visit the *Livelihood* and *Education* projects as well as the *Bal Niketan Nursery*. At *Children of the New Dawn School*, the children’s curiosity about Indonesia and their kindness stayed with me. The eagerness of the children to teach me *Hindi* helped me appreciate even more the beauty of cultural exchange.

My time in Torpa has brought me deep joy, strengthened my faith, and enriched my vocation. I leave Torpa grateful for the subtle, but real, ways God works in our lives, and I feel energised to keep walking in His love.

***Sr. Netris Jolemat rscj***

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