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



**NEWS FROM THE PRERANA  
COMMUNITY**



### *Sr Tureeya writes.....*

This year I continued teaching the *Pre-Candidates* scripture, and supervising their reading practice. I simplify what I teach, so that the matter in printed form is before them. This diminishes the anxiety of having to write notes, and helps to focus more on content, with meanings and general knowledge. Often related questions arise. We also speak about these, for a wider understanding of our Christian faith. Happily, the group shows a lot of interest, even though they need time to absorb and fully understand on their own, what they receive in the English language.

I am also involved with the garden, which is a vast area. Our *Pre-Candidates* help with, roughly, an hours' garden work, thrice a week. During the monsoon months, we have had as in the previous years, flowers, some vegetables, like gourds and drumsticks, as well as fruits: custard apples, a few papayas and bananas. For water, we depend on water tankers, and a gardener who comes twice a week for a limited time. So, maintaining a real garden with good soil and proper care may be a future dream!

I devote times of solitude to reflection and writing on some themes for our laity. This time it was: "*Eucharist - Celebration of the New Covenant*". Reflecting and writing brings me a freshness of mind and a growing awareness of Jesus. It also gives me the opportunity to discuss these themes with like-minded people.

Just before the Pune CRI "*Jubilee Year*" celebration started this year, I began to be involved with the CRI; the local CRI leaders worked hard to ensure that the celebration was well attended. We gathered at the PG Block of *Jnana Deep* with Fr. Peter Ignatius, SJ, the Registrar, who shared his understanding of *Religious Life* with the group. This was followed by a procession to the *Papal Seminary Chapel* with banners, and prayers, where we ended with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Roque Alphonso.

The next CRI function was the celebration of Christmas. The meeting started with a talk on *Mental Health*, by Rev. Dr. Singarayar, SVD, followed by interaction in small groups. This topic was suggested by the *Western Region CRI*, since *Mental Health* care has emerged as an urgent need among religious who seem to be under much stress today. Fun activities, quizzes, and games followed, concluding with lunch. The theme for the last meeting this year focussed on *Consecrated Life*. A panel of religious shared their understanding of religious consecration in today's world. The meeting ended with Holy Mass, followed by a get-together and lunch.

Many religious have been questioning what the function of the CRI as an official body, both at the national and local levels, should be. Most say they come for the fellowship, but perhaps something more relevant for our present day lives as religious is needed. Let us ask the Spirit for greater clarity regarding the function of this body, especially in our context today.

### ***Tanmaya Sadhana: The Courage to Look Within***

***Tanmaya Sadhana*** in Lonavala was more than just a course. It was a quiet and sacred time to pause and look honestly at my life. It helped me see how childhood experiences, expectations and the need to always do well had shaped me over the years.

We were 29 participants, both religious men and women from different congregations. Journeying together, sharing our stories and listening to one another created a spirit of trust, understanding and support.

Through silence, prayer, group sharing and personal reflection, I began to understand myself better. I saw how perfectionism, emotional distance and fear of showing weakness had affected my relationships and ministry. Slowly, I learnt to remove the roles I carried and meet myself simply as a human person.

The programme also included sessions on *Human Sexuality and Affectivity, Psycho-Spiritual Maturity, Journaling and Communication Skills*. These sessions helped me grow in self-awareness and build healthier and more meaningful relationships. One important lesson I learnt was that forgiveness must include truth. Ignoring pain does not heal it. When I began to name my wounds, healing slowly began. I learnt that reconciliation does not always happen through big conversations, but often through quiet changes in the heart.



I also learnt the value of *letting go*. Not everything that is broken needs to be fixed. Sometimes we need to release expectations, relationships and responsibilities that are rooted in fear or obligation. Acceptance is not giving up; it is wisdom.

I am deeply grateful to Fr. Joe Parakat my spiritual guide, who gently helped me touch the hidden wounds of my childhood. With his guidance, I was able to move towards healing, accepting myself as I am, and growing in inner freedom. *Tanmaya* did not make me someone new, it helped me become more truly myself – softer, more honest, braver. I return with a peaceful heart, believing that owning one's story is the beginning of freedom.

*Fatima Azavedo, rscj*

### *A Moment of Grace in Pune*

The solemn *Episcopal Ordination and Installation* of our new Bishop, Simon Almeida, took place on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The ceremony was presided over by *Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão*, who served as the Principal Consecrator. Archbishops John Rodrigues and Elias Gonsalves were the Co-consecrators.

This *Episcopal Ordination* was deeply significant for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pune, but beyond its historical importance, it became for me a moment of personal grace and spiritual renewal. For us, the Prerana community, it offered a moment of profound spiritual bonding.

As I sat among the faithful, I felt deeply touched by the holiness and significance of the liturgy. When the bishop lay prostrate before the altar during the *Litany of the Saints*, I was moved to the depths of my being. That silent surrender spoke to my own heart, reminding me that true discipleship begins in humility before God.

The *laying on of hands* by the bishops was another powerful moment for me. It felt as though I was witnessing the living continuity of the Church, a sacred tradition passed down through generations. In that gesture, I sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit working quietly yet powerfully. It strengthened my faith and reminded me that God continues to call and guide His people in every age.

The hymns, prayers, and solemn blessing filled the cathedral with an atmosphere of reverence and joy. I experienced a deep interior peace, as if the Lord were inviting me personally to renew my commitment to

Him. Being surrounded by so many believers strengthened my sense of belonging to the universal Church. I realised that faith is not meant to be lived in isolation, but in communion with others.

The *Episcopal Ordination* was more than just a ceremony; it marked a profound turning point in my spiritual journey. It inspired me to examine my own life: *Am I serving others with love? Am I responding generously to God's call?* I left the cathedral with a renewed desire to grow in prayer, humility, and service.

Bishop Almeida's ministry now stands for me as a living reminder that true priesthood is rooted in surrender and service. The words of Scripture echoed in my heart: "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark: 10, 45) That evening in Pune was not only an historic event for the Church, but also, for me, a personal encounter with grace.

*Kiran Kumrawat, rscj*

## Sharing by our Pre-Candidates

### My first experience of a "FIRST PROFESSION" ceremony! - Kusum Barla

During our home-visit to Torpa, we had the opportunity of attending the ceremony of *First Profession* of our Srs. Kumudini and Victoria. For me, it was a joyful and grace-filled moment to witness, first-hand, the joy in commitment and dedication to God; and I feel so happy to be able to share with you some aspects of what this beautiful experience meant for me.



A day before the ceremony, we helped in decorating the altar and arranging the flowers. It gave me great joy to serve in this small way. While arranging the altar, I felt that I was preparing not just the place, but also my own heart to witness something sacred and special. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Sr. Kumudini and Sr. Victoria professed their First Vows. They chose their motto from the Gospel of St. John (15,16): "*You did not choose me, but I chose you.*" This verse deeply touched my heart. I felt that just as God chose them, He has also chosen me and brought me to this Society with a purpose — to serve Him, to serve His people, and to follow Him faithfully.

The ceremony began with the Holy Mass, which was very solemn and prayerful. When our sisters surrendered themselves to the Provincial, I could see their joy and deep love for God and the Society. They professed the three vows — obedience, poverty, and chastity — confidently, joyfully, and willingly. Watching their courage and commitment strengthened my own vocation. In that moment, I felt that God has His own loving plan for my life. I experienced peace in my heart.

After the Mass, Sr. Kumudini and Sr. Victoria spoke to us about their *FORMATION* journey. As I listened to them, I reflected on my own *Formation*. I realised that *Formation* is a time of growth, purification, and deepening one's love for Jesus. The journey may not always be easy, but their inspiring sharing and example encouraged me to trust God more.

Personally, this experience helped me to question myself:

- Am I ready to respond generously to God's call?
- Do I trust Him completely?
- Am I growing in love, simplicity, and obedience each day?

Truly, this ceremony of *First Vows* was not only a special day for our Srs. Kumudini and Victoria, but also a moment of renewal for me. It inspired me to say "YES" to God every day, even in small things. I am truly grateful for the grace of having been present to witness this commitment ceremony of *First Profession* in our Society.

### My Experience of Being with Special Women - Rohini Kasbe

I felt truly blessed when I was given an opportunity to spend fifteen days in **Mother Teresa's Home**, serving the *Special Women* there. It is one of the very powerful and unforgettable experiences in my life.

At first, I felt scared. When I met them on my first day, I did not know how to react. I was nervous and unsure. But the way they approached me touched my heart deeply. They welcomed me as if they had known me for a long time. Their simple smiles and warm gestures removed my fear. Slowly, I began to feel comfortable and happy among them.

During those days, I fed them, played with them, danced with them, and spent time enjoying their company. I had gone there thinking that I would serve and help them, but, in reality, they gave me so much more than I could ever imagine. I received so much love, joy, and peace.

This experience helped me realise that I am one of God's chosen, called to do something special in life. Through these women, I experienced God's unconditional love and learned to find joy in small things. I went there thinking that I would *give myself*, but I returned with joyful memories, valuable lessons, and a deep experience of God. It reminded me that even small acts of love can make a big difference.

I also learned that *in Disability, there is Ability*. They taught me courage, patience, and strength. Through their lives I felt that Jesus was reminding me: *"I am with you always. Nothing is impossible."* I felt that Jesus has given me everything I need and has chosen me to share His love with others. This experience will always remain in my heart. I thank God for this beautiful opportunity and for teaching me how to love more deeply and serve more generously.



## My Experience of "Acting as Sophie"

- Sanjna Kumari



Today, I would like to share with you my unique experience of acting in a play, in which I was asked to play the part of *Our Mother Sophie*. So far, we have participated in various skits, enacted during the birthday celebrations of our sisters in *Pragnyalay*. We have acted as *Sophie*, *Philippine Duchesne*, and also as characters in the drama, *Wake Up, the Harvest is Ready*.

We are very grateful to Sr. Marie, who teaches us English and prepares us with the poems and dialogues; and, also, to Sr. Charu, who guides us in our drama practice.

Every Wednesday, I feel so full of joy, when we go to *Pragnyalay* to visit our older sisters to celebrate birthdays, or other events, through dance and drama. However, my recent role, acting as our *Holy Mother, Sophie* helped me understand how deeply she loved everyone. Her heart was always ready to help others. As I performed, I tried to feel what she might have felt — compassion, warmth, and joy in serving.

Thus, when I acted as Sophie, I felt very close to her life. Through my dialogues with Mother Barat, I understood her patience, wisdom, and deep trust in God. Despite many struggles, she remained faithful to her mission and believed that education can transform hearts and society. Her life reminds me that *even small acts done with love can bring about great change*.

Sophie touched every heart with her wisdom, love, and bright smile. When I dressed like her and spoke her words, I felt inspired to reflect on my own response to God's call. I thank God for this opportunity, as it became not just a drama performance but a moment of grace and inspiration in my vocation journey.

May our Holy Mother, Sophie, bless me as I become part of the Society she loved and founded.